
Ryan Barlow, Acting Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETING**

Issued: January 23, 2020

In the Matter of the Applications of Three Waters Wind Farm, LLC for a Certificate of Need and a Site Permit for the 201 MW Three Waters Wind Project in Jackson County, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission Docket Numbers: IP-7002/CN-19-154, IP-7002/WS-19-576

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) will hold a public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the certificate of need and site permit applications of Three Waters Wind Farm, LLC for its proposed 201 megawatt (MW) wind generation project.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project and the state's certificate of need and Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) permitting processes. The meeting is also an opportunity for members of the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental report and the draft site permit by providing comments on the potential human and environmental impacts associated with the project, potential mitigation measures for those impacts, and possible conditions to be placed on the project's construction and operation.

Date: February 13, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: National Guard Armory, 108 County Highway 51, Jackson, MN 56143

Bad Weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc

Note: If the public meeting listed above is cancelled due to inclement weather, the meeting will be held the following week on Thursday, February 20, at this alternate location:

Jackson County Central High School Auditorium, 1128 North Highway, Jackson, MN 56143

Project Description

In July and September, 2019, Three Waters Wind, LLC (Applicant or Three Waters) submitted applications to the Commission to construct and operate a LWECS in Jackson County. In order to construct the Three Waters Wind Project (Project), the applicant must be granted a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission.

The proposed project would entail construction of 71 wind turbines for a combined nameplate capacity of 201 MW. The project also includes a 300 foot 345 kV high voltage transmission line, a collector substation, transformers, collection lines, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building, permanent meteorological tower(s), gravel access roads to each turbine, temporary construction areas, including crane paths, pull sites, access roads, a batch plant, and a laydown yard. The project footprint would occupy approximately 48,087 acres of land southwest of the city of Lakefield, along the Minnesota-Iowa border. The Applicant has also secured 11,000 acres of additional land in Iowa to site turbines, if some of the proposed Minnesota turbine locations are found unfeasible. The project would interconnect with ITC's electric transmission grid.

The Applicant asserts that the Project is intended to assist Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) achieve its internal goal of generating 100 percent of its energy needs from renewable sources.

Meeting Information

- The meeting starts on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- State agency staff members run the meeting.
- Commission and Department staff members, as well as representatives of Three Waters Wind, LLC will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may make verbal comments, submit written comments, or both into the record.
- The Department will use comments received at the meeting and during the comment period to develop the scope of the environmental report and develop a preliminary draft site permit for this project.

Submit Comments

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

1. What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be assessed in the environmental report and addressed in the preliminary draft site permit prepared for this project?
2. What are the possible methods to address (avoid, minimize, or mitigate) the potential impacts of the proposed project?
3. Are there other ways to meet the stated need for the project, instead of the proposed wind farm? If so, what alternatives to the project should be assessed in the environmental report?

4. Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
5. Are there any items missing or mischaracterized in the certificate of need or site permit applications?
6. Are there other project related issues or concerns?

Comment Period: Comments accepted through **Friday, February 28, 2020**
Please include the PUC Docket Number(s) (19-154 and/or 19-576) in all communications.

Online: mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment

Email: richard.davis@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Richard Davis, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101

Fax: 651-539-0109

Important: Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Process Information

The Commission accepted Three Waters' certificate of need and site permit applications as complete in October 2019. This means the company submitted the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about 12 months from the time the application was submitted.

Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff will prepare an environmental report on the project for the Commission. The environmental report analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address or mitigate potential impacts. The Commission will also issue a draft site permit for the project. A draft site permit does not authorize the applicant to begin construction and the Commission may change a draft site permit before the final permit is issued, or the Commission may deny the final permit. The site permit application is available for review at the Jackson County Public Library and the draft site permit is available online through the Commission's eDocket system.

After the environmental report is issued, and after the Commission issues a draft site permit, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will hold a public hearing in the project area. You may speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit written comments about the project.

After the public hearing, the ALJ will prepare and submit a report and recommendation to the Commission on whether to issue a site permit. After the ALJ submits the report and recommendation, the Commission will review all the information in the record, including written comments and comments received at the public hearing. The Commission's final decisions on the certificate of need and site permit for this project are expected by Fall 2020.

This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243 (CN) and Chapter 216F (Site Permit) and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849 and 7854 respectively. All Minnesota laws and rules are available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13761/>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate. Contact Leesa Norton at docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2246 with the docket number (19-154 and/or 19-576), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website: mn.gov/puc, and select *eDockets*, enter the year (19) and the docket number (154 for the certificate of need, 576 for the site permit), select *Search*.

Subscribe: Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, or click [HERE](#) and follow the prompts.

Community Locations: The certificate of need and site permit applications are available at these locations:

- Jackson County Public Library, 311 3rd Street, Jackson, MN 56143

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Charley Bruce, charles.bruce@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Permitting Planner

Cezar Panait – Staff Analyst: cezar.panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Managers

Richard Davis – richard.davis@state.mn.us or 651-539-1846

Three Waters Wind Farm, LLC Project Contact

Mark Wengierski – Project Manager, mark@scoutcleanenergy.com or 720-592-0512

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