

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: *September 5, 2018*

In the Matter of Lake Benton Power Partners II, LLC for a Site Permit Amendment for the 100.2 MW Lake Benton II Wind Repowering Project and Associated Facilities in Pipestone County, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission Docket Numbers: IP-6903/WS-18-179
(Former Docket Number) IP-6903/WS-13-205

Date: September 27, 2018
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Pipestone County Emergency Services Building
811 5th St. SE
Pipestone, MN 56164

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

Comment Period

Comment Period: Initial comments accepted through Monday **October 22, 2018 at 4:30pm**.
Reply comments accepted through Monday **November 5, 2018 at 4:30pm**.

Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics for Public Comment:

- *What potential human and environmental impacts, if any, should the Commission consider when deciding whether to authorize the decommissioning, removal and construction of the proposed facility upgrades?*
- *What specific details/conditions should be included in a decommissioning plan required for the existing Lake Benton II Wind Project, before the repowering project could be constructed?*

- *Should the Commission approve the requested amendments to the Lake Benton II LWECs site permit?*
- *Should the Public Utilities Commission issue a site permit amendment for the project?*
- *How should the Environmental and human impacts be addressed in the site permit amendment?*

Public Meeting Information

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the proposed project, the state's review process, and to accept verbal or written comments. Staff from the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Commerce and representatives for Lake Benton II will be available at the meeting to answer questions.

Project Description

Lake Benton Power Partners II, LLC (the Applicant) plans to repower the existing Lake Benton II project in Pipestone County. The existing Lake Benton II Project is located southwest of the city of Ruthton and north of the city of Holland, Minnesota. The proposed site permit amendment requests authorization to decommission and remove the existing 137 wind turbines and construct and install 44 larger wind turbines at different locations within the existing project footprint. The existing project was issued a permit on May 21, 1998. The repowering project proposal includes 48 proposed turbine locations (44 turbines, including 4 alternative turbine locations) of two types: 39 GE 2.3 MW wind turbines and 5 GE 2.1 MW wind turbines for a total project capacity of 100.2 MW. The Project would also consist of the following: gravel access roads, collector substations, collector lines, meteorological towers, a temporary concrete batch plant for construction, a temporary laydown/staging construction area, and an operations and maintenance facility. The estimated size of the Project Area is 25,597 acres of mostly agricultural land, of which 9,600 acres are currently leased for the existing project.

Lake Benton Power Partners II, LLC is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NEER). The Applicant will develop and construct the proposed repowered Lake Benton II Project, which is a build and transfer project, and, accordingly, the Site Permit will be transferred to Northern States Power Company on the commercial operation date. The applicant intends to interconnect the project with Xcel Energy's system at the existing POI collector substations, currently used by the Lake Benton Project.

Process Information

Before the project can be built, the Commission must approve a site permit amendment. Lake Benton II's site permit amendment application was accepted as complete on August 22, 2018. This means the company submitted the information required to begin the review process. A draft site permit, as amended, was also issued on August 22, 2018. A draft site permit does not allow

for construction to commence and the Commission may change a permit before final issuance or deny it. The Commission is expected to make a final decision in Q1 2019.

How to Submit Comments

- Online** Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.
- Email** Comments can be emailed to publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us
- U.S. Mail** Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E, Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147
- eFiling** Visit mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.
- Important** Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13331/>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (18-179 or 13-205), 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, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (18) and the docket number (179) or enter the year (13) and the docket number (205).

Subscribe to the Docket: To receive email notification when new documents are filed, go to the Commission's website, mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

*Note- subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Project Contacts

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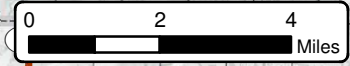
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To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

Pipestone County, Minnesota



- Counties

SOURCE: USGS TOPOGRAPHIC
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