



Energy Environmental Review and Analysis  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198  
ph 651.539.1885 | fx 651.539.0109  
mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

September 15, 2014

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
127 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Exceptions to Administrative Law Judge's Report  
Odell Wind Farm, LLC - Odell Wind HVTL Project  
**Docket No. IP-6914/TL-13-591**  
**OAH 48-2500-31501**

Dear Dr. Haar:

In accordance with the Office of Administrative Hearing's Order on May 27, 2014, the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is providing the Commission with EERA's exceptions to the Administrative Law Judge's Report filed on August 25, 2014.

EERA staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Davis".

Richard Davis  
EERA Staff

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BEFORE THE  
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Beverly Jones Heydinger  
David C. Boyd  
Nancy Lange  
Dan Lipschultz  
Betsy Wergin

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of Odell Wind Farm, LLC's  
Route Permit Application for the Proposed  
115 kV Transmission Line and Associated  
Facilities in Cottonwood, Jackson and  
Martin Counties, Minnesota

PUC IP-6914/WS-13-591  
OAH 48-2500-31501

**DOC EERA'S EXCEPTIONS TO  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW  
JUDGE'S REPORT**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA), respectfully submits the following exceptions to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Recommendation (Report) issued by Administrative Law Judge Steve M. Mihalchick (ALJ) for the proposed Odell Wind Farm, LLC (Applicant) new 9.5 mile 115 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) in Cottonwood, Jackson and Martin counties (Project). Overall, the 23-page report provides a comprehensive analysis of the record evidence. EERA supports the ALJ's recommendation to issue a Route Permit to Odell Wind Farm, LLC (Applicant).

Specifically, EERA recommends that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issue a Route Permit to Odell Wind Farm, LLC for the new 9.5 mile 115 kV HVTL extending

from the proposed Odell Wind Farm Substation to the proposed Woad Hill Substation incorporating the recommendations provided below.

## **II. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO ALJ REPORT**

EERA respectfully suggests the following changes to the ALJ's report, as identified by the Applicant in their September 4, 2014 Exceptions to the ALJ's Finding of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendations.

EERA agrees with the Applicant's proposed corrections with respect to location of the Woad Hill Substation, which includes corrections to Findings of Fact 3, 4, and 54 and Recommendation 2 in the ALJ's Report.

EERA staff appreciates the opportunity to submit these exceptions.

In conclusion EERA recommends issuance of a Route Permit to Odell Wind Farm, LLC utilizing the ALJ's Report Conclusions of Law and Recommendations, with the Applicant's correction to 2.

Dated: September 15, 2014

Respectfully submitted,



Richard I. Davis  
Environmental Review Manager

ph: (651) 539-1846 fx: (651) 539-0109  
Email: richard.davis@state.mn.us  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Sharon Ferguson, hereby certify that I have this day, served copies of the following document on the attached list of persons by electronic filing, certified mail, e-mail, or by depositing a true and correct copy thereof properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Exceptions to ALJ's Report**

**Docket No. IP6914/TL-13-591**

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2014

**/s/Sharon Ferguson**

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Julia	Anderson	Julia.Anderson@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	1800 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012134	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List
Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron	200 S 6th St Ste 4000  Minneapolis, MN 554021425	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List
Jeremy	Duehr	jduehr@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.	200 South Sixth Street Suite 4000  Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-1125	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 500  Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List
Burl W.	Haar	burl.haar@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 7th Place East St. Paul, MN 551012147	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List
Michael	Kaluzniak	mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	Suite 350 121 Seventh Place East St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List
John	Lindell	agorud.ecf@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012130	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List
Steve	Mihalchick	steve.mihalchick@state.mn.us	Office of Administrative Hearings	PO Box 64620  St. Paul, MN 551640620	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List
Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	Ste 122 9100 W Bloomington Frwy Bloomington, MN 55431	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List
Patrick	Smith	patrick@geronimowind.com	Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC	7650 Edinborough Way, Ste 725  Edina, MN 55435	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_13-591_Official CC Service List