

Appendix E
Data Requests and Responses

Energy Environmental Review And Analysis
Questions for Development of Environmental Review

In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Walleye Wind Project
and Associated Facilities in Rock County

PUC Docket No.	IP7026/CN-20-269	Directed To:	Brian Murphy
EERA Question No.	1	Please Respond By:	March 3, 2021

Note: Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff intends to use information provided in this response to develop an environmental review document and is a public document. Responses to these questions will be considered to be public information unless otherwise designated by the respondent as “nonpublic information” pursuant to Minnesota Stat. § 13.02, subd. 12.

Question(s):

Project Size

Please clarify the installed capacity of the project for which Walleye Wind is requesting an LWECS site permit. Walleye initially proposed (in July 2020) to construct a 110.8 MW LWECS. After some revisions Walleye currently proposes to construct 36 GE 2.82 MW turbines and 4 GE 2.32 MW turbines for an installed capacity of 110.8. MW. With the existing plan to operate up to six of the turbines at Noise Reduced Operation (NRO), Walleye anticipates a rated capacity of 109.2, MW, possibly 109.7 MW if NRO is not used.

Suzanne Steinhauer

February 25, 2021

Environmental Review Manager

Date

MN Department of Commerce

Energy Environmental Review And Analysis
Questions for Development of Environmental Review

In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Walleye Wind Project
and Associated Facilities in Rock County

PUC Docket No.	IP7026/CN-20-269	Directed To:	Brian Murphy
EERA Question No.	2	Please Respond By:	March 10, 2021

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Question(s):

O&M Facility

- a. Are the substation and O&M facility within the same fenced area?
- b. What is the anticipated domestic water needs in gallons/day?
- c. Does Walleye Wind anticipate installing an ISTS at the O&M building?

Suzanne Steinhauer

February 25, 2021

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Energy Environmental Review And Analysis

Questions for Development of Environmental Review

In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Walleye Wind Project
and Associated Facilities in Rock County

PUC Docket No.	IP7026/CN-20-269	Directed To:	Brian Murphy
EERA Question No.	3	Please Respond By:	March 10, 2021

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Question(s):

Noise

- a. The application (at p. 34) states that 665 receptors within 1 mile of the project were included in modeling,, but Tables C-1 and C-2 in Sound Level Assessment Report lists 787 receptors (1-752, A-L, N1, N7-N11, N16, N18-N28, N30-N33, and N39) – a total of 787 receptors. Please explain the discrepancy and whether there is an easy way to correlate 665 receptors with the 787 identified in these tables.
- b. It is unclear what level the NRO will be operating. at – it says six will run at NRO Mode 1, while p. 35 indicates that turbine#5 (renumbered 4 in January 29, 2021 information filing) will operate at NRO Mode 2 instead of NRO Mode 3 if turbine 4 (renumbered Alt 7 in January 29, 2021 information filing) is not constructed.
- c. Please discuss any changes to the modeled post-construction sound (both total and turbine-only) related to the layout described in Walleye Wind’s January 29, 2021 informational filing. These changes include the removal of Turbine 2 and the clarification of proposed and alternate turbines.

Suzanne Steinhauer

February 25, 2021

Environmental Review Manager

Date

MN Department of Commerce

Energy Environmental Review And Analysis

Questions for Development of Environmental Review

In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Walleye Wind Project
and Associated Facilities in Rock County

PUC Docket No.	IP7026/CN-20-269	Directed To:	Brian Murphy
EERA Question No.	4	Please Respond By:	March 17, 2021

Note: Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff intends to use information provided in this response to develop an environmental review document and is a public document. Responses to these questions will be considered to be public information unless otherwise designated by the respondent as “nonpublic information” pursuant to Minnesota Stat. § 13.02, subd. 12.

Question(s):

Vegetation Impacts

Please review the permanent and temporary impact calculations shown in Tables 41 and 42 of the November 4, 2020 *Revised Site Permit Application* to see if any revisions are necessary to address changes in layout (the removal of Turbine 2) and clarification of primary and alternate turbines (January 29, 2021 informational filing) from the layout shown in the November 4, 2020 *Revised Site Permit Application*.

Suzanne Steinhauer

March 10, 2021

Environmental Review Manager

Date

MN Department of Commerce

Energy Environmental Review And Analysis
Questions for Development of Environmental Review

In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Walleye Wind Project
and Associated Facilities in Rock County

PUC Docket No.	IP7026/CN-20-269	Directed To:	Brian Murphy
EERA Question No.	5	Please Respond By:	March 17, 2021

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Question(s):

Wetland Impacts

The November 4, 2020 *Revised Site Permit Application* states, at p. 93, that wetland delineations began in 2019 and are scheduled to be completed during the 2020 growing season. Please provide an update on the status of wetland delineations at this time and discuss whether Walleye Wind anticipates whether additional wetland delineation work in 2021 will be necessary to inform project design and permitting.

Suzanne Steinhauer

March 10, 2021

Environmental Review Manager

Date

MN Department of Commerce

Energy Environmental Review And Analysis
Questions for Development of Environmental Review

In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Walleye Wind Project
and Associated Facilities in Rock County

PUC Docket No.	IP7026/CN-20-269	Directed To:	Brian Murphy
EERA Question No.	6	Please Respond By:	March 26, 2021

Note: Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff intends to use information provided in this response to develop an environmental review document and is a public document. Responses to these questions will be considered to be public information unless otherwise designated by the respondent as “nonpublic information” pursuant to Minnesota Stat. § 13.02, subd. 12.

Question(s):

Land Rights

Please provide Walleye Wind’s current land rights status updating Walleye Wind’s December 21, 2020, letter summarizing interconnection and land rights status.

Suzanne Steinhauer

March 19, 2021

Environmental Review Manager

Date

MN Department of Commerce

Energy Environmental Review And Analysis

Questions for Development of Environmental Review

In the Matter of the Application of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Walleye Wind Project
and Associated Facilities in Rock County

PUC Docket No.	IP7026/CN-20-269	Directed To:	Brian Murphy
EERA Question No.	7	Please Respond By:	March 26, 2021

Note: Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff intends to use information provided in this response to develop an environmental review document and is a public document. Responses to these questions will be considered to be public information unless otherwise designated by the respondent as “nonpublic information” pursuant to Minnesota Stat. § 13.02, subd. 12.

Question(s):

Project Costs

Section 10.7 of the *Revised Site Permit Application* identifies an estimated capital cost of \$150 million for development, design, and construction of the permit.

- a. Please identify any updates to the project’s construction or operations and maintenance costs.
- b. Please provide an approximate capital cost breakdown by category (e.g. labor, material, permitting and land acquisition).

Suzanne Steinhauer

March 19, 2021

Environmental Review Manager

Date

MN Department of Commerce

EERA Question No. 1

Project Size

- a. Please clarify the installed capacity of the project for which Walleye Wind is requesting an LWECs site permit. Walleye initially proposed (in July 2020) to construct a 110.8 MW LWECs. After some revisions Walleye currently proposes to construct 36 GE 2.82 MW turbines and 4 GE 2.32 MW turbines for an installed capacity of 110.8. MW. With the existing plan to operate up to six of the turbines at Noise Reduced Operation (NRO), Walleye anticipates a rated capacity of 109.2, MW, possibly 109.7 MW if NRO is not used.

Response:

- a. Walleye Wind is requesting a LWECs site permit for up to 109.7 MW. Walleye Wind plans to use noise reduced operation (NRO) which has four modes. Walleye Wind will use Modes 1, 2 and 3 at the following four primary turbine locations: Turbines 4 (Mode 2), 30 (Mode 1), 31 (Mode 3), and 32 (Mode 2),¹ which are all primary turbines for purposes of constructing the 40 turbines for the Project. If the planned 40 primary turbines for construction are constructed, the project capacity will be 109.7 MWs. Also, if one or more primary turbines are not constructed and any alternative turbine, other than alternative turbine 7, is constructed the capacity would be 109.7 MW. In the event turbine location Alternative 7 is constructed, turbine location Turbine 4 will then need to operate under NRO Mode 3, instead of NRO Mode 2, and Turbine 5 will operate under NRO Mode 1 instead of normal operation. In this scenario, the Project capacity decreases by 0.5 MW to 109.2 MWs, because of Turbine 4 operating with more NRO at the NRO Mode 3 and Turbine 5 operating in NRO Mode 1.

EERA Question No. 2

O&M Facility

- a. Are the substation and O&M facility within the same fenced area?
- b. What is the anticipated domestic water needs in gallons/day?
- c. Does Walleye Wind anticipate installing an ISTS at the O&M building?

Response:

- a. No. The Walleye Wind substation and O&M building will be located within the same parcel, but each will be fenced separately.
- b. Walleye Wind estimates the domestic water needs will be in the range of 100 gallons per day.
- c. Walleye Wind anticipates an Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS)/septic system will be required at the O&M building.

¹ The turbine numbering used in responses 1-3 is the turbine number in Walleye Wind's January 29, 2021 informational filing, column three "Turbine Array January 2021," which is the numbering that will be used for the remainder of the proceeding. While there were four NRO modes mentioned in the Amended Application, the project will only use NRO modes 1-3. Also, although the Amended Application indicated that six wind turbines would use NRO, only four wind turbines will use NRO if only the primary turbines are constructed. If Alternative 7 and Alternative 8 are constructed, two additional turbines will operate under NRO.

EERA Question No. 3

Noise

- a. The application (at p. 34) states that 665 receptors within 1 mile of the project were included in modeling, but Tables C-1 and C-2 in Sound Level Assessment Report lists 787 receptors (1-752, A-L, N1, N7-N11, N16, N18-N28, N30-N33, and N39) – a total of 787 receptors. Please explain the discrepancy and whether there is an easy way to correlate 665 receptors with the 787 identified in these tables.
- b. It is unclear what level the NRO will be operating at – it says six will run at NRO Mode 1, while p. 35 indicates that turbine #5 (renumbered 4 in January 29, 2021 information filing) will operate at NRO Mode 2 instead of NRO Mode 3 if turbine 4 (renumbered Alt 7 in January 29, 2021 information filing) is not constructed.
- c. Please discuss any changes to the modeled post-construction sound (both total and turbine-only) related to the layout described in Walleye Wind's January 29, 2021 informational filing. These changes include the removal of Turbine 2 and the clarification of proposed and alternate turbines.

Response:

- a. Tables C-1 and C-2 in the Sound Level Assessment Report list all 665 receptors that were modeled, 443 in Minnesota and 222 in South Dakota. The tables show 787 receptors, but not all receptor IDs are sequential, for example, there are no receptors in the tables with receptor IDs between 485 and 600. The dataset used was refined to include only NAC 1 receptors, as required for the analysis. Structures that were not NAC 1 locations or were outside of study area were removed.
- b. See response to Information Request No. 1.
- c. The Sound Level Assessment Report dated November 3, 2020, does not reflect the removal of Alternative 3 (as numbered in the January 29, 2021 informational filing). The removal of Alternative 3 is the only variable that would impact the Sound Level Assessment Report. The removal of Alternative 3 does not impact the turbines which would need to operate in NRO model, and, therefore, there is no impact on the ability of Walleye Wind to achieve sound level compliance due to the removal of Alternative 3.

**EERA Question No. 4
Vegetation Impacts**

Please review the permanent and temporary impact calculations shown in Tables 41 and 42 of the November 4, 2020 *Revised Site Permit Application* to see if any revisions are necessary to address changes in layout (the removal of Turbine 2) and clarification of primary and alternate turbines (January 29, 2021 informational filing) from the layout shown in the November 4, 2020 *Revised Site Permit Application*.

Response:

Permanent and temporary impact calculations are revised to reflect the January 29, 2021 informational filing, which included removal of one turbine and clarification of primary and alternative turbines. The revised calculation also includes expansion of the laydown yard, inclusion of temporary intersection improvements, relocation of an access road as requested by Minnesota Department of Transportation, rerouting collection lines through Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to minimize impacts to wetlands and streams as requested by Rock County, the Local Government Unit and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and rerouting collection lines through HDD to avoid impacts to native prairie.

Walleye Wind has further reduced limits of disturbance to avoid permanent and temporary impacts to vegetation through refinement of construction corridors. Revised Tables 41 and 42 are provided below. The current Project Site Plan reduces the permanent impacts to vegetation by 2 acres and now totals approximately 47 acres. Temporary impacts to vegetation are reduced by 49 acres and now total approximately 813 acres.

Table 41: Summary of Estimated Permanent Impacts to Vegetation (Acres)

Land Cover Type	Turbines	Alt. Turbines	Access Roads*	Alt. Access Roads	O&M Facility/ Substation	MET &ADLS Towers	Total*
Cultivated Crops	9.99	1.25	23.25	2.88	7.54	0.20	45.11
Developed, Open Space	-	-	0.74	0.07	0.13	-	0.94
Developed, Low Intensity	-	-	0.04	0.01	-	-	0.05

Grassland/ Herbaceous	-	-	-	0.01	-	-	0.01
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	-	-	-	0.04	-	-	0.04
Deciduous Forest	-	-	0.01	-	-	-	0.01
Hay/Pasture	-	-	0.60	-	-	-	0.60
Sites of Biodiversity (Below)	-	-	0.20	-	-	-	0.20
Sites of Biodiversity (Moderate)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Total	9.99	1.25	24.64	3.01	7.67	0.20	46.76*

*The total acreage of estimated temporary impacts does not reflect the calculations for Sites of Biodiversity (Below and Moderate) as these amounts are already accounted for in other land cover impacts.

Table 42: Summary of Estimated Temporary Impacts to Vegetation (Acres)

Land Cover Type	Turbines	Alt. Turbines	Access Roads	Alt. Access Roads	Collection	Alt. Collection	Laydown Yard	Cranes Paths	Alt. Crane Paths	MET & ADLS Towers	Intersections	Total *
Cultivated Crops	255.29	32.35	73.20	8.80	82.13	16.89	37.85	219.00	18.77	12.94	11.48	768.70
Developed, Open Space	-	-	2.73	0.28	2.30	0.35	0.01	4.86	0.40	-	19.63	30.56
Developed, Low Intensity	0.22	-	0.12	0.03	0.02	-	0.22	-	-	-	3.09	3.70
Developed, Medium Intensity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.76	0.76
Grassland/Herbaceous	-	-	-	0.04	0.09	-	-	0.02	-	-	0.43	0.58
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	-	-	-	0.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.10
Hay/Pasture	1.57	-	1.72	-	1.26	-	-	2.40	-	-	1.30	8.25
Deciduous Forest	-	-	0.05	-	0.13	-	-	0.21	-	-	-	0.39
Sites of Biodiversity	0.21	-	0.58	-	3.10	-	-	0.53	-	-	1.03	5.45

(Below)												
Sites of Biodiversity (Moderate)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Total	257.08	32.35	77.82	9.25	85.93	17.24	38.08	226.4	19.17	12.94	36.69	813.0
								9				4

*The total acreage of estimated temporary impacts does not reflect the calculations for Sites of Biodiversity (Below and Moderate) as these amounts are already accounted for in other land cover impacts.

EERA Question No. 5**Wetland Impacts**

The November 4, 2020 Revised Site Permit Application states, at p. 93, that wetland delineations began in 2019 and are scheduled to be completed during the 2020 growing season. Please provide an update on the status of wetland delineations at this time and discuss whether Walleye Wind anticipates whether additional wetland delineation work in 2021 will be necessary to inform project design and permitting.

Response:

Walleye Wind does not anticipate any additional wetland delineation work in 2021. Wetland delineations were completed in 2020, during the growing season for areas proposed for disturbance. On March 5, 2021, Walleye Wind has submitted its final wetland delineation findings to the Rock County and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for concurrence of boundaries that include both field surveys and desktop reviews. Walleye Wind received concurrence on March 15, 2021.

Walleye Wind, LLC; PUC Docket No. IP7026/CN-20-269

EERA Question No. 6

Land Rights

Please provide Walleye Wind's current land rights status updating Walleye Wind's December 21, 2020, letter summarizing interconnection and land rights status.

Response:

As of March 19, 2021, Walleye Wind, LLC (Walleye Wind) has substantially completed securing landowner agreements for wind rights and property easements necessary to support the Walleye Wind Project (Project). The overall area within the Site consists of approximately 31,095 acres (49 square miles). As of March 19, 2021, Walleye Wind has executed and recorded landowner agreements for approximately 14,448 acres within the Site, which is approximately 92% of the land required to complete the Project. Leased parcels are shown on the attached Map 15 (Land Ownership). Walleye Wind remains in negotiation with a number of landowners within the Site and anticipates acreage being added to the Project's leased lands no later than April 30, 2021.

EERA Question No. 7

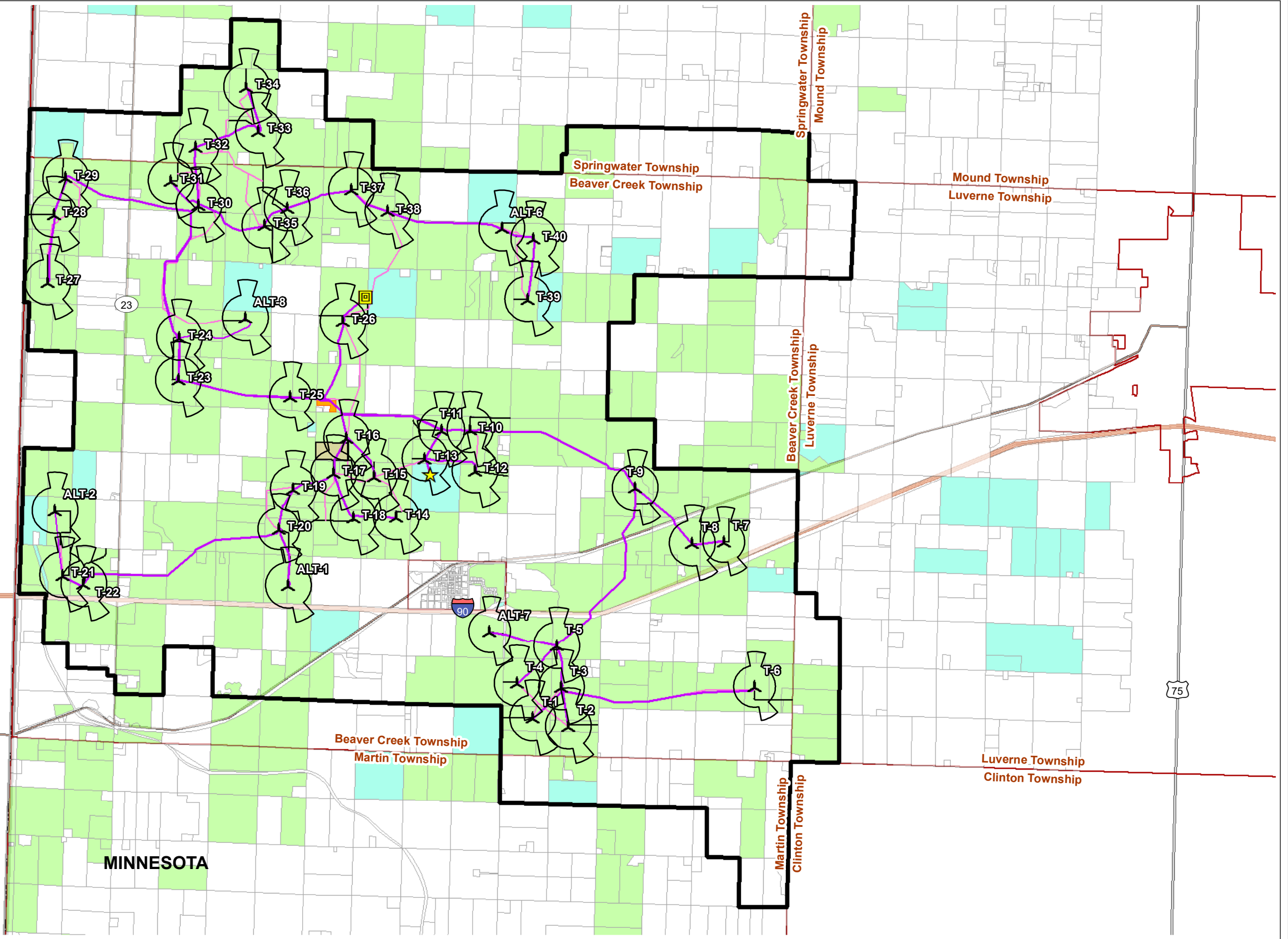
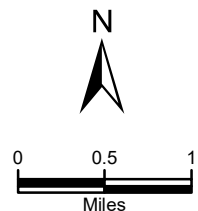
Project Costs

Section 10.7 of the Revised Site Permit Application identifies an estimated capital cost of \$150 million for development, design, and construction of the permit.

- a. Please identify any updates to the project's construction or operations and maintenance costs.
- b. Please provide an approximate capital cost breakdown by category (e.g. labor, material, permitting and land acquisition).

Response:

- a. There are no updates to construction or operations and maintenance costs.
- b. The following are approximate capital breakdowns by category: labor – \$15 to 19 million; materials – \$105 to \$110 million; permitting – \$5 to \$10 million; land acquisition – \$4 to \$5 million; and interconnection – \$5 to \$8 million.



MAP 15 - LAND OWNERSHIP
 WALLEYE WIND PROJECT
 WALLEYE WIND, LLC
 ROCK COUNTY, MINNESOTA
 DATE: 03/18/2021

Sources: Rock County, MN, 2019; Minnehaha County, 2019; ECT, 2021.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Proposed Turbine (03/18/21) | Collection Circuit | Townships |
| Proposed MET Tower | Crane Path | Parcel Land Status (03/19/2021) |
| Proposed ADLS Tower | Access Road | NOT LEASED |
| Project Boundary (±31,095 Ac.) | O&M And Substation | LEASED |
| | Proposed Laydown Yard | TARGETED |

