

Appendix A

Agencies Contacted Regarding Project

Red Pine Wind Project
Lincoln County, Minnesota

This page is intentionally blank

Red Pine Wind Project
Agency Contact List: Contacted 2/11/16

Agency	Contact
Federal	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Attn: Benjamin Orne 180 5 th Street East, Ste. 700 St. Paul, MN 55101-1678 Phone: (651) 290-5280 Email: benjamin.g.orne@usace.army.mil
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (Region 3)	Peter Fasbender U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Twin Cities Ecological Services Office 4101 American Boulevard East Bloomington, Minnesota 55425 Phone: 952-252-0092, ext. 210 Email: peter_fasbender@fws.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (Region 3)	Mags Rheude U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office 4101 American Boulevard East Bloomington, Minnesota 55425 Phone: 952-252-0092 ext. 202 Email: Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA/NRCS)	Cathee Pullman, State Conservationist Minnesota State Office: USDA/NRCS 375 Jackson Street, Suite 600 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 Phone: (651) 602-7854 Email: cathee.pullman@mn.usda.gov
Federal Aviation Administration	Cindy Whitten OE Wind Turbine Team Manager FAA Central Regional Office 901 Locust St Kansas City, MO 64106 Phone: (816) 329-2528 Email: cindy.whitten@faa.gov

Red Pine Wind Project
Agency Contact List: Contacted 2/11/16

Agency	Contact
State	
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Kelly Gragg-Johnson State Historic Preservation Office Minnesota Historical Society 345 Kellogg Boulevard West St. Paul, Minnesota 55102 Phone: (651) 259-3455 Email: kelly.graggjohnson@mnhs.org
MN BWSR Board Conservationist	Jason Beckler Board Conservationist MN BWSR Regional Office 1400 East Lyon Street Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: (507) 537-6615 Email: jason.beckler@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)	Lisa Joyal Minnesota DNR Natural Heritage Information System 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155 Phone: (651) 259-5109 Email: lisa.joyal@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)	Jamie Schrenzel Minnesota DNR Energy Project Planner 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155 Phone: (651) 259-5115 Email: jamie.schrenzel@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)	Mr. Kevin Mixon Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 261 Hwy 15 S New Ulm, MN 56073 Phone: 507-359-6073 Email: Kevin.Mixon@state.mn.us

Red Pine Wind Project
Agency Contact List: Contacted 2/11/16

Agency	Contact
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)	Lucas Youngsma, Region 4 Area Hydrologist DNR Waters 1400 E. Lyon Marshall, MN 5556258 Phone: (507) 537-7258 Email: lucas.youngsma@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)	Bob Hobart DNR Lands and Minerals, Region 4 21371 State Hwy 15 New Ulm, Minnesota 56073 Phone: (507) 359-6071 Email: bob.hobart@state.mn.us
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)	Dan Card Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Supervisor, Environmental Review Unit 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 Phone: (651) 757-2261 Email: dan.card@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)	Minnesota Department of Health Environmental Health Division 625 Robert Street N P.O. Box 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164-0975 Marshall, MN 56258: (651) 201-4899 Email: health.climatechange@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	John Huseby District 8 Engineer 1800 East College Drive Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: (320) 231-5497 Email: Jon.Huseby@state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation Office of Aeronautics	Darlene Dahlseide MnDOT Office of Aeronautics 222 East Plato Boulevard St. Paul, Minnesota 55107-1618 Phone: (651) 234-7248 Email: darlene.dahlseide@state.mn.us

Red Pine Wind Project
Agency Contact List: Contacted 2/11/16

Agency	Contact
Local	
City of Arco, Mayor	Mayor Todd Dressen City of Arco P.O. Box 97 Arco, MN 56113 Phone: (507) 487-5538 Email: cityofarco@gmail.com
City of Ivanhoe, Mayor	Mayor Dennis Klingbile City of Ivanhoe 401 N Harold St PO Box 54 Ivanhoe, MN 56142 Phone: (507) 694-1738 Email: cityivan@frontiernet.net
Lincoln County Environmental Office	Robert Olsen, Administrator Lincoln County Environmental Office 221 North Wallace Avenue PO Box 66 Ivanhoe, MN 56142 Phone: (507) 694-1344 Email: ROlsen@co.lincoln.mn.us
Lincoln County Highway Department	David Halbersma, County Engineer Lincoln County Highway Department PO Box 97, Ivanhoe MN 56142 Phone: (507) 694-1464 Email: dhalbersma@co.lincoln.mn.us
Lyon County Planning and Zoning	John Biren Planning and Zoning Administrator Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: (507) 537-0396 ext.#3 Email: JohnBiren@co.lyon.mn.us
Lyon County Highway Department	Aaron VanMoer Lyon County Highway Engineer 504 Fairgrounds Rd Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: (507) 532-8205 Email: AaronVanMoer@co.lyon.mn.us

Red Pine Wind Project
Agency Contact List: Contacted 2/11/16

Agency	Contact
Lincoln County Board Chair	Commissioner Donald Evers Lincoln County Commissioner, Board Chair 227 Fremont St S Lake Benton, MN 56149 Phone: (507) 368-4884 Email: dianekevers@yahoo.com
Lyon County Board Chair	Commissioner Charlie Sanow Lyon County Commissioner, Board Chair 1109 Birch St. #4 Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: (507) 530-4806 Email: c_sanow@yahoo.com
Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District	Pauline VanOverbeke, District Manager Lincoln County SWCD 200 S. Co Hwy 5, Ste. 2 Ivanhoe, MN 56142 Phone: (507) 694-1630 Email: pauline.vanoverbeke@mn.nacdnet.net
Lyon County Soil and Water Conservation District	John Biren, Administrator Lyon County SWCD 1424 East College Drive, Ste 600 Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: (507) 537-0396 Email: johnbiren@co.lyon.mn.us
Southwest Regional Development Commission	Jayme I. Trusty South West Regional Development Commission 2401 Broadway Avenue, Suite 1 Slayton, MN 56172 Phone: (507) 836-1636 Email: execdir@swrdc.org
Lincoln County Townships	
Alta Vista Township	Chairman Kevin Swedzinski Alta Vista Township 2792 360th St. Taunton, MN 56291 Phone: (507) 828-3309
Ash Lake Township	Chairman Matthew Marczak Ash Lake Township 2540 Co Hwy 5 Ivanhoe, MN 56142 Phone: (507) 694-1696

Red Pine Wind Project
Agency Contact List: Contacted 2/11/16

Agency	Contact
Lake Stay Township	Chairman Mike Hauswedell Lake Stay Township 2346 Co Rd 15 Arco, MN 56113 Phone: (507) 487-5736
Limestone Township	Chairman Merle Rost Limestone Township 2986 250th Ave Ivanhoe, MN 56142 Phone: (507) 530-5516
Marble Township	Chairman John Cornell Marble Township 3881 170th Ave Canby, MN 56220 Phone: (507) 223-7220
Marshfield Township	Chairman Tom Ruppert Marshfield Township 2452 160th St. Tyler, MN 56178 Phone: (507) 247-5399
Royal Township	Chairman David Lacek Royal Township 1820 300th St. Ivanhoe, MN 56142 Phone: (507) 694-1391
Lyon County Townships	
Coon Creek Township	Chairman Kenneth Weedman Coon Creek Township 1856 295th Ave Tracy, MN 56175 Phone: (507) 629-4521
Island Lake Township	Chairman Mike Williams Island Lake Township 1418 State Hwy 19 Lynd, MN 56157 Phone: (507) 829-3084
Lynd Township	Chairman Michael Buesing Lynd Township 1917 260th St Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: (507) 532-6012

Red Pine Wind Project
Agency Contact List: Contacted 2/11/16

Agency	Contact
Lyons Township	Chairman Loren Evans Lyons Township 2034 170th St. Balaton, MN 56115 Phone: (507) 530-7509
Nordland Township	Chairman Allan Telste Nordland Township 1555 290th St Minneota, MN 56264 Phone: (507) 872-6557

February 11, 2016

Peter Fasbender
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Ecological Services Office
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425

Re: Red Pine Wind Project, Lincoln and Lyon Counties, Minnesota
File 0006243.00

Dear Mr. Fasbender:

On behalf of EDF Renewable Development, Inc., Westwood Professional Services is writing to request comments regarding the Applicant's plans to obtain a site permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for the Red Pine Wind Project. The Applicant plans to apply for a site permit from the MPUC in March 2016.

EDF Renewable Development, Inc. proposes to construct the Red Pine Wind Project in portions of Lincoln and Lyon Counties, Minnesota (Exhibit 1). The overall Project Area is located in the Townships, Ranges, and Sections provided in the table attached to this letter.

The project for which the permit is being requested includes constructing a 200 megawatt (MW) wind energy facility, which will include turbines, a project substation, collection lines, an operation and maintenance building, permanent meteorological tower(s) and gravel access roads. The location of proposed infrastructure has not been finalized.

The Red Pine Wind Project is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS), as defined in the Wind Siting Act, Minnesota Statutes § 216F.01, and a Site Permit is required for the project under Minnesota Statutes § 216F.04. A Certificate of Need (CON) is also likely to be pursued for the project.

Consistent with MPUC objectives, the Applicant is committed to optimizing the wind resource for the Red Pine Wind Project. All decisions with respect to equipment selection, site layout, and spacing are designed to make the most efficient use of land and wind resources. EDF Renewable Development, Inc., will evaluate the project to optimize wind resources, transmission interconnection opportunities, and economic factors, while avoiding and minimizing impacts to environmental resources to the degree practicable. The turbine selected for the project will be

dependent on the most appropriate technology available at the time of ordering equipment prior to construction.

We would appreciate hearing any comments you may have regarding the proposed project; comments received will be incorporated into the PUC review process. Please respond as soon as possible or within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have questions, I can be reached at (952) 906-7419 or via email david.weetman@westwoodps.com.

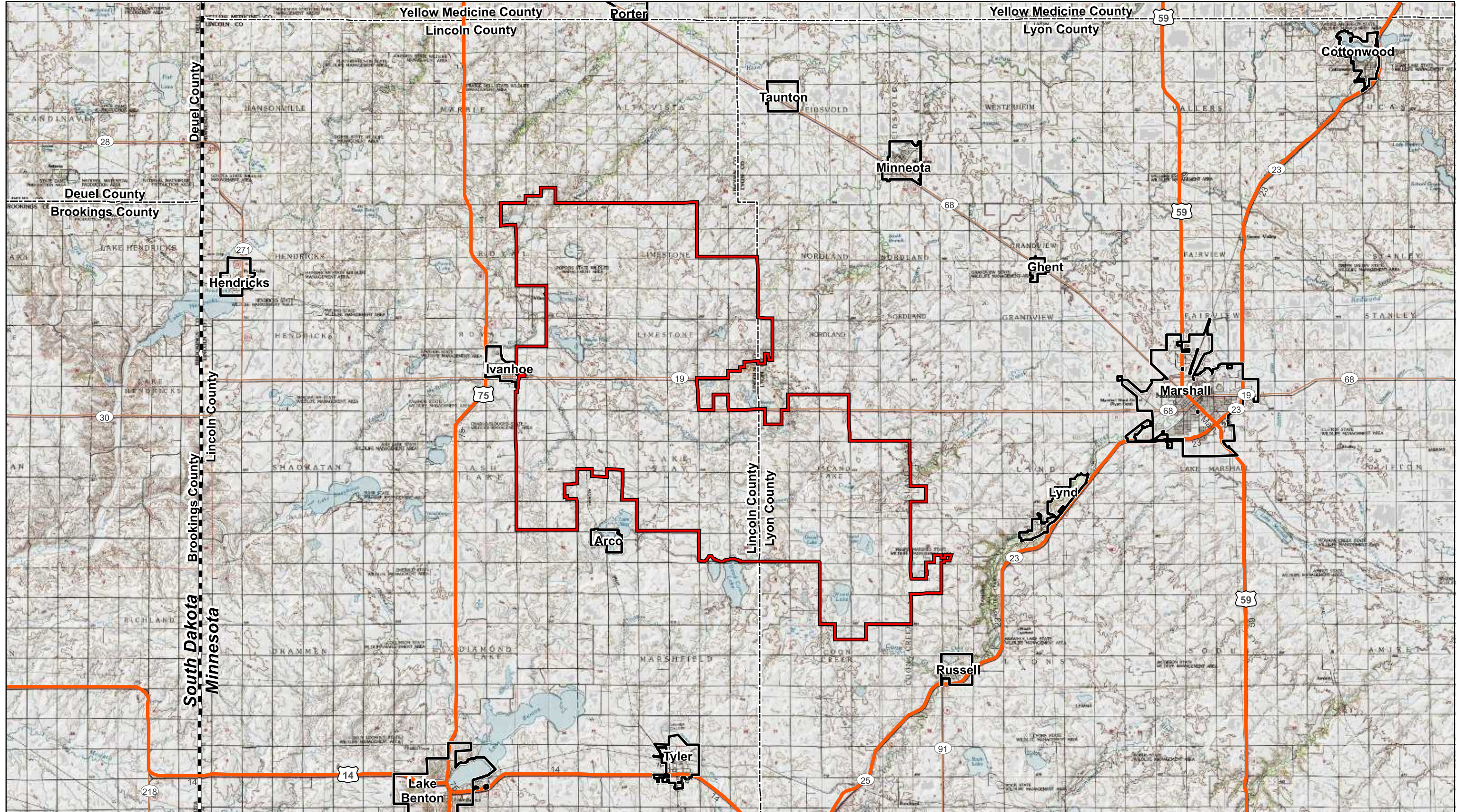
Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.M. Weetman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

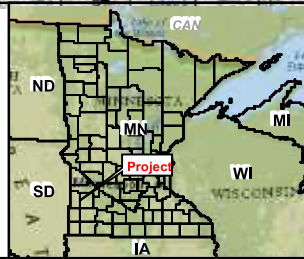
David M. Weetman
Sr. Environmental Scientist/Project Manager

Red Pine Wind Project Location				
Township	Range	Sections	Township Name	County
112N	44	3-6	Alta Vista	Lincoln
112N	45	1	Alta Vista	Lincoln
113N	45	36	Alta Vista	Lincoln
111N	44	19	Ash Lake	Lincoln
111N	45	1-2, 11-14, 23-26	Ash Lake	Lincoln
112N	45	35-36	Ash Lake	Lincoln
111N	44	2-28, 35-36	Lake Stay	Lincoln
111N	45	1, 12-13, 24, 31-34, 36	Lake Stay	Lincoln
111N	44	2-3	Limestone	Lincoln
112N	44	3-10, 13-36	Limestone	Lincoln
112N	45	1,12-13,24-25,36	Limestone	Lincoln
112N	45	1-3	Marble	Lincoln
113N	45	36	Marble	Lincoln
111N	44	35-36	Marshfield	Lincoln
112N	44	18-19	Royal	Lincoln
112N	45	1-3, 11-14, 24-25, 35-36	Royal	Lincoln
110N	43	1-4, 9-11, 15-16	Coon Creek	Lyon
111N	43	31-36	Coon Creek	Lyon
111N	44	36	Coon Creek	Lyon
110N	43	1-4	Island Lake	Lyon
111N	43	4-5, 7-9, 14-24, 26-36	Island Lake	Lyon
111N	44	12-13, 24-25, 36	Island Lake	Lyon
111N	42	31	Lynd	Lyon
111N	43	24, 36	Lynd	Lyon
110N	43	1	Lyons	Lyon
111N	42	31	Lyons	Lyon
111N	43	36	Lyons	Lyon
111N	43	4-5	Nordland	Lyon
112N	43	30-31	Nordland	Lyon
112N	44	13, 24-25, 36	Nordland	Lyon



Data Source(s): Westwood (2016); ESRI WMS USA Topo & National Geographic Basemap Imagery (Accessed 2016); ESRI (2012).

Westwood
 Toll Free (888) 957-5150 westwoodpi.com
 Westwood Professional Services, Inc.



Legend

- Current Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Highway
- County Boundary
- State Boundary
- Major Road



0 3
 Miles

Red Pine Wind Project

Lincoln & Lyon Counties, Minnesota

Project Location Map

January 28, 2016

Appendix B

Agency Responses

Red Pine Wind Project
Lincoln County, Minnesota

This page is intentionally blank

David Weetman

From: Joyal, Lisa (DNR) <Lisa.Joyal@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:00 PM
To: David Weetman
Cc: Bump, Samantha (DNR)
Subject: RE: Red Pine Wind Project

Ok, we'll add this info to your data request and you will only receive one response.

Thanks,
Lisa

From: David Weetman [<mailto:David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 3:55 PM
To: Joyal, Lisa (DNR)
Cc: Bump, Samantha (DNR)
Subject: RE: Red Pine Wind Project

Hi Lisa,
Yes, it probably contains a little more detail on the project and specifics regarding the site permit application timeline. Thanks for passing it along to Samantha as well.
Regards,
David

From: Joyal, Lisa (DNR) [<mailto:Lisa.Joyal@state.mn.us>]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 3:47 PM
To: David Weetman
Cc: Bump, Samantha (DNR)
Subject: RE: Red Pine Wind Project

Hi David,

Thanks for the heads up. Does the attached document contain any information that was not included in the NHIS Data Request?

Thanks,
Lisa

From: David Weetman [<mailto:David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 8:28 AM
To: Joyal, Lisa (DNR)
Subject: Red Pine Wind Project

Please see the attached comment request letter in regards to the proposed Red Pine Wind Project in Lincoln and Lyon Counties, Minnesota.

Lisa – We also sent a request for NHIS database search, so this probably overlaps that request a bit. Just want you to be aware of the project.

Regards,

David Weetman

From: Mixon, Kevin (DNR) <kevin.mixon@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:27 PM
To: David Weetman
Cc: Youngsma, Lucas (DNR); Schrenzel, Jamie (DNR); Hobart, Bob J (DNR); Joyal, Lisa (DNR)
Subject: Red Pine Wind Project
Attachments: RedPineDNRPrelimAug32015.pdf; 10_DNR_Mixon_160211 - Copy.pdf

David:

Thanks for providing the comment letter request to the DNR for early coordination for the Red Pine LWECs located in Lincoln/Lyon Counties. In order for the DNR to review the project we will need the project boundary shapefiles. The DNR has reviewed the project in 2013 and 2015 and I have attached the 2015 DNR comment letter for reference. The DNR will provide an updated response letter based on the new project boundary. The DNR response letter will come directly from me as I will coordinate with all of the appropriate DNR staff to develop the letter. Once the project is officially submitted to the Public Utilities Commission then Jamie Schrenzel will be the lead contact for the DNR.

If you have any questions about the DNR review process for LWECs let me know.

Thanks,

Kevin
507-359-6073

From: David Weetman [<mailto:David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:00 AM
To: Mixon, Kevin (DNR)
Subject: Red Pine Wind Project

Please see the attached comment request letter in regards to the proposed Red Pine Wind Project in Lincoln and Lyon Counties, Minnesota.

Thank you,

David M. Weetman
SR. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST/PROJECT MANAGER
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

Direct (952) 906-7419
Main (952) 937-5150
Cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood Multi-Disciplined Surveying & Engineering
7699 Anagram Drive | Eden Prairie, MN 55344

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

Confidentiality Statement:

This message and any attachments may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. Any unauthorized dissemination, use, or disclosure of this information, either in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited. The contents of this e-mail are

David Weetman

From: Annette Fiedler <phydev@swrdc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 4:31 PM
To: David Weetman
Cc: Rhonda Wynia; Jay Trusty; Olsen, Robert; JohnBiren@co.lyon.mn.us; Aaron VanMoer (AaronVanMoer@co.lyon.mn.us); Dave Halbersma; Annette Fiedler
Subject: Red Pine Wind Project - SRDC Comment - draft

Dear Mr Weetman:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Red Pine Wind Project prior to your application to the PUC.

My first thought is the smooth interaction with the two counties and respective townships in the project area. The Development Agreement is a good tool for that process, and I would recommend working with the two counties to use a joint Development Agreement. I have conveyed this thought to the two counties. Often the County will assist the Townships, that of course is between the counties and townships.

If you have not already done so, please connect with the two county engineers and zoning administrators to identify haul routes and circulation at the proposed site. They will know best where the roads and bridges that can handle or will require upgrades to handle the traffic generated by the construction as well as crossings, wetland issues, etc; as well as work with you on potential staging areas.

If you have a good idea on the number of (overweight/ dimension vehicles, as well as the number of legal loads) and proposed routes, it will help your discussions with the counties.

Sincerely,

Annette Fiedler

Annette Fiedler
SRDC Physical Development Director
RMEB Staff
SW CERT Coordinator
2401 Broadway Ave
Slayton, MN 56172
507.836.1631 FAX 507.836.8866
phydev@swrdc.org



www.swrdc.org



www.rmeb.org

Restorative – Adaptability – Arranger – Individualization – Achiever

From: Rhonda Wynia
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:59 AM
To: Annette Fiedler
Cc: Jay Trusty
Subject: FW: Red Pine Wind Project

David Weetman

From: Mixon, Kevin (DNR) <kevin.mixon@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 8:22 AM
To: David Weetman
Subject: RE: Red Pine Wind Project

David:

I received it from Lisa and will work on an updated DNR preliminary review letter in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks,

Kevin

From: David Weetman [<mailto:David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:00 AM
To: Mixon, Kevin (DNR)
Subject: Red Pine Wind Project

Please see the attached comment request letter in regards to the proposed Red Pine Wind Project in Lincoln and Lyon Counties, Minnesota.

Thank you,

David M. Weetman

SR. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST/PROJECT MANAGER
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

Direct (952) 906-7419
Main (952) 937-5150
Cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood Multi-Disciplined Surveying & Engineering
7699 Anagram Drive | Eden Prairie, MN 55344

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

Confidentiality Statement:

This message and any attachments may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. Any unauthorized dissemination, use, or disclosure of this information, either in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited. The contents of this e-mail are for the intended recipient and are not meant to be relied upon by anyone else. If you have received this message in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail, and delete this message and any attachments. Thank you.

David Weetman

From: Merle Rost <mrost@mvtwireless.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 1:45 PM
To: David Weetman
Subject: comments on Red Pine Wind Project

Dear Mr. Weetman: I have no objection or any negative comments concerning the Red Pine Wind Project here in Limestone township, Lincoln county.

Our economy needs a shot in the arm in our neighborhood so the sooner this project is completed the better. Although there were a few objections at first, we had no issues when the CapX2020 transmission line was constructed in our township. Now that the line is up no one complains. This is progress and we need renewable sources of energy. Merle Rost, Chairman Limestone Township, Ivanhoe, MN

David Weetman

From: Knutson, Lindsey (DOT) <Lindsey.Knutson@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 12:07 PM
To: David Weetman
Cc: Huseby, Jon A (DOT); Karnowski, Susann (DOT); Vick, Geralynn (DOT); Kotch, Stacy (DOT)
Subject: FW: Red Pine Wind Project
Attachments: 15_MNDOT_Huseby_160211.pdf; 2164_001.pdf

Hello David,

Thank you for contacting MnDOT regarding the Red Pine Wind Project. Attached you will find a letter with our response. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment.

Lindsey Knutson, AICP
Planning Director
MnDOT District 8, Willmar
Office Phone: 320.214.6333
Cell Phone: 320.979.5534

From: "David Weetman" <David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>
To: "Huseby, Jon A (DOT)" <Jon.Huseby@state.mn.us>
Subject: Red Pine Wind Project

Please see the attached comment request letter in regards to the proposed Red Pine Wind Project in Lincoln and Lyon Counties, Minnesota.
Thank you,

David M. Weetman
SR. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST/PROJECT MANAGER
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

Direct (952) 906-7419
Main (952) 937-5150
Cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood Multi-Disciplined Surveying & Engineering
7699 Anagram Drive | Eden Prairie, MN 55344

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

Confidentiality Statement:

This message and any attachments may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. Any unauthorized dissemination, use, or disclosure of this information, either in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited. The contents of this e-mail are for the intended recipient and are not meant to be relied upon by anyone else. If you have received this message in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail, and delete this message and any attachments. Thank you.



Minnesota Department of Transportation

District 8 Headquarters
2505 Transportation Road
Willmar, MN 56201

Office: 320-231-5195
Fax: 320-214-6305
800-657-3792

February 18, 2016

David M. Weetman
Sr. Environmental Scientist/Project Manager
Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

RE: Red Pine Wind Project Site Permit

Dear Mr. Weetman:

Thank you for contacting MnDOT regarding the site permit for the Red Pine Wind Project. We appreciate the opportunity to comment. Upon reviewing the document you've sent, we have the following comments:

1. There may be highway related considerations related to oversize/overweight hauling of wind turbines and equipment. These large loads of freight are often transported via interregional corridors such as TH 23, TH 75 and TH 19. Because MnDOT's highway construction activities could impact the Applicant's plans to haul oversize loads to the proposed site, the Applicant will need to coordinate with MnDOT when planning such loads.
2. Any construction work, including entrances, delivery or storage of structures, materials, or equipment that may affect MnDOT right of way is of concern, such that MnDOT should be involved in planning and coordinating such activities. The site permit should include language specifying that the Permittee shall obtain all relevant permits from road authorities relating to the transport of oversize material and equipment over public roads, as well as installation of facilities that may be proposed to occupy portions of public road rights-of-way. Please note that if work is required within MnDOT Right of way, such work should be coordinated with Geri Vick in MnDOT's District 8 Utility Permits Office at 320-214-6364 or Geri.Vick@state.mn.us. Applicable permit applications can be found at the following web site <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/forms.html>.
3. The environmental review and draft site permit should address matters relating to the proximity of the wind turbine towers to TH 19, including matters such as the impact of blade flicker affecting drivers on the highway, the potential for ice falling off the blades, and the potential for the wind turbine tower to fall in a storm. MnDOT requests that the wind tower turbines be located a prudent distance away from TH 19 to avoid potential adverse impact on highway travelers.
4. US Highway 75 is adjacent to the proposed wind farm site. US 75 has been designated as the "King of Trails" State Scenic Byway. Scenic byways are designated because they possess one or more of six intrinsic qualities, including: scenic, cultural, recreational,

An Equal Opportunity Employer



natural, historic and archeological qualities. An analysis of the physical and visual impact on each of these six intrinsic qualities should be conducted to determine the impact on the scenic byway route. Mitigation measures should be included to minimize unavoidable impacts on intrinsic qualities within the scenic byway corridor. Each scenic byway has a leaders group and/or stakeholder group. The leaders group for the King of Trails Scenic Byway should be contacted as part of the environmental review process.

5. The draft site permit should include language specifying that the Permittee shall obtain all relevant permits or authorizations from road authorities relating to any electric cables and/or feeder lines that may be proposed to be placed in a public right of way. MnDOT has adopted a formal policy and procedures for accommodating of utilities on the highway rights-of-way (Utility Accommodation Policy). A copy of MnDOT's policy can be found at <http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/edms/download?docId=1401425>. MnDOT's policy sees to permit utilities to occupy portions of the trunk highway right of way where such occupation does not put the safety of the traveling public or highway workers at risk or unduly impair the public's investment in the transportation system. Compliance with Mn/DOT's Utility Accommodation Policy, and similar policies of other road authorities, should be included as a condition of the site permit.
6. Please note that Mn/DOT is uncertain at this time whether Red Pine Wind Project is an entity that has lawful authority to place its facilities in a public road right of way. This matter should be addressed in the ER.

MnDOT appreciates the opportunity to comment on any site development plans on properties adjacent to state highways.

Sincerely,



Lindsey Knutson
Planning Director
District 8

cc: Jon Huseby, Susann Karnowski, Geri Vick, Stacy Kotch





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700
ST. PAUL MINNESOTA 55101-1678

02/22/2016

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
Operations
Regulatory (MVP-2016-00510-RMM)

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

David Weetman
Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-7310

Dear Mr. Weetman:

We have received your submittal described below. You may contact the Project Manager with questions regarding the evaluation process. The Project Manager may request additional information necessary to evaluate your submittal.

File Number: MVP-2016-00510-RMM

Applicant: EDF Renewable Development, Inc.

Project Name: EDF Renewable Development, Inc. / Red Pine Wind Project

Received Date: 02/11/2016

Project Manager: Ryan Malterud
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1678
651-290-5286

Additional information about the St. Paul District Regulatory Program, including the new Clean Water Rule, can be found on our web site at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory>.

Please note that initiating work in waters of the United States prior to receiving Department of the Army authorization could constitute a violation of Federal law. If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager.

Thank you.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District
Regulatory Branch

David Weetman

From: David Halbersma <David.Halbersma@co.pipestone.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 8:13 AM
To: David Weetman
Subject: RE: Red Pine Wind Project
Attachments: Red Pine Wind Project comments from Lincoln Co Hwy.doc

Hello David,

Please see attached letter regarding comments on the projects.

Thanks

Dave Halbersma
Lincoln County Engineer

From: David Weetman [<mailto:David.Weetman@westwoodps.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:16 AM
To: dhalbersma@co.lincoln.mn.us
Subject: Red Pine Wind Project

Please see the attached comment request letter in regards to the proposed Red Pine Wind Project in Lincoln and Lyon Counties, Minnesota.

Thank you,

David M. Weetman
SR. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST/PROJECT MANAGER
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

Direct (952) 906-7419
Main (952) 937-5150
Cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood Multi-Disciplined Surveying & Engineering
7699 Anagram Drive | Eden Prairie, MN 55344

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

Confidentiality Statement:

This message and any attachments may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. Any unauthorized dissemination, use, or disclosure of this information, either in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited. The contents of this e-mail are for the intended recipient and are not meant to be relied upon by anyone else. If you have received this message in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail, and delete this message and any attachments. Thank you.

Lincoln County Highway Department

221 North Wallace Ave

PO Box 97

Ivanhoe MN 56142

Phone 507.694.1464 Fax 507.694.1101



February 22, 2016

Mr. David M. Weetman
Westwood
Sr. Environmental Scientist/Project Manager
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Re: Comments regarding Red Pine Wind Project in Lincoln County (your file # 0006243.00)

Dear Mr. Weetman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EDF Renewable Development, Inc. project and application for permit to the MPUC. In your correspondence on February 11, 2016, you indicated that EDF Renewable Development, Inc., will "evaluate the project to optimize wind resources, transmission interconnection opportunities, and economic factors, while avoiding and minimizing impacts to environmental resources to the degree practicable." While I share your concern about minimizing impacts to our environmental resources, I also ask for your consideration to minimize impacts to our residents and highway infrastructure. Of specific concern are issues such as road life consumption during the construction phase of the project, safety impacts of the heavy traffic related to the construction, restoration of the roadways after construction, placement and related impacts of the project's infrastructure facilities on our future highway improvements, as well as the ongoing maintenance operation impacts to the highway after the project is constructed and operational. Understanding that the location of proposed infrastructure has not been finalized, it's difficult to detail all the specific concerns with the project. To that end, I would suggest and request that a Development Agreement be adopted between Lincoln County and EDF Renewable Development, Inc defining and addressing the issues once the project design has been finalized.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the project and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

David J. Halbersma
Lincoln County Highway Engineer



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700
ST. PAUL MINNESOTA 55101-1678

FEB 23 2016

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
Operations
Regulatory (2016-00510-RMM)

Mr. David Weetman
Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

Dear Mr. Weetman:

This letter responds to your request for comments about a project of EDF Renewable Development, Inc. to obtain a site permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities commission for the Red Pine Wind Project. The project site is located in several Sections, Townships, and Ranges in Lincoln and Lyon County.

The placement of aerial lines that cross navigable waters of the U.S. requires authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Underground utility lines through waters of the U.S., including wetlands, as well as navigable waters of the U. S. are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act if there is a discharge of dredged or fill material. Any discharge would require authorization by a general permit or letter of permission.

Underground lines installed by vibratory plow and directional bore method through waters of the U.S., including wetlands, do not involve a discharge and a permit is not required. However, if installation of connecting points requires excavation and backfill in waters of the U.S., including wetlands, a permit would be required.

The placement of poles, overhead wiring, and/or buried wiring at upland locations is not within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers, provided the work does not involve the placement of dredged or fill material into any waterbody or wetland.

Temporary placement of fill material into any waterbody or wetland for purposes such as bypass roads, temporary stream crossings, cofferdam construction, or storage sites may require a Department of the Army permit.

If any of the proposed projects would involve the placement of fill material, either permanent or temporary, please notify our office.

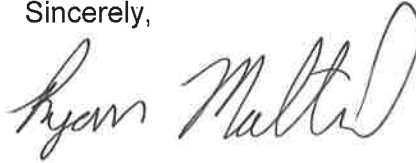
Without detailed construction plans, we cannot provide specific comments regarding the effects that the proposed activity would have on watercourse floodstages. It has been our experience that underground and overhead utility construction has negligible effects on flood

stages, provided excess construction material is removed from the floodplain and additional care is taken not to disturb its hydraulic characteristics.

You may also need city, county, or State permits for the project. You should contact the appropriate agencies for their permit requirements. If the project includes the placement of dredged or fill material in a Federal regulated waterbody, we will notify the responsible State agency for water quality (401) certification.

If you have any questions, please contact me in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5286. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan Malterud". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ryan Malterud
Senior Project Manager

David Weetman

From: Funston, Margaret - NRCS, St. Paul, MN <Margaret.Funston@mn.usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 11:29 AM
To: David Weetman
Subject: New contact name
Attachments: Westwood Professional Services.pdf

Hello David!

Please find in the letter that there is a new contact person for any FPPA requests. His name is Blayne Doty, and I included his contact information.

Thank you!

Margaret Funston

Contracted to the NRCS

Administrative Assistant Engineering/Ecological Sciences

375 Jackson Street, Suite 600

St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: 651-602-7933

Fax: 651-602-7915

Margaret.Funston@mn.usda.gov

Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture
www.nrcs.usda.gov

Stay Connected with USDA:



This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



February 25, 2016

Mr. David Weetman
Sr. Environmental Scientist/Project Manager
Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

IN REPLY REFER TO: Red Pine Wind Project

Dear Mr. Weetman:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed the above referenced Project. Our review indicates several NRCS administered permanent easements are located within the proposed project area and may be impacted by your project. Once final locations have been identified please reinstate consultation for further review. The general easement locations are as follows:

Lincoln County:

Lake Stay Township – SW1/4 Section 19
Marble Township – SW1/4 Section 35
Marshfield Township – SE1/4 Section 32
Royal Township – SW1/4 Section 18

Finally, if as a result of your proposal, agricultural lands may be permanently affected, it is a requirement that a Farmland Policy Protection Act (FPPA) site assessment be appropriately filed. Because of the location and type of activity proposed, this project may, dependent on final location siting, permanently impact agricultural lands.

Once final locations have been identified please submit a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form (Form AD-1006) for each of the individual sites in question with part one filled out. Along with the AD-1006, send a detailed map of the area impacted. We will then complete the form and mail it back to you.

FPPA land evaluations are conducted by local NRCS personnel who review the project for possible effects on unique, prime or statewide important farmland. You can find the FPPA form AD-1006 at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/fppa/>. Please refer your FPPA request to Blayne Doty 218-739-4694 or Blayne.Doty@mn.usda.gov

Our agency appreciates your thorough follow up on the environmental review requirements of this project.

Sincerely,



RYAN GALBREATH

Environmental Review and Justice Program

cc: Gary Watson, Assistant State Conservationist, (Field Operations), NRCS, Marshall, MN

David Weetman

From: David Weetman
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 11:30 AM
To: 'Sterzinger, Dale - NRCS-CD, Ivanhoe, MN'
Subject: Red Pind Wind Project - WCA Review

Good Morning Dale,

Thanks for your email and inquiry about the Red Pine Wind Project, and for clarifying contact information. The original request for comment email was sent to Pauline as she was listed as the District Manager for the Lincoln County SWCD, and therefore was our first point of contact for overall comments regarding the Minnesota Public Utility Commission Site Permitting process.

The project is still under design. No wetland work has been conducted at this point (aside from preliminary desktop work). When the project reaches a more refined design stage, the project proposer will be doing the necessary wetland work and reaching out to agencies for comment in regard to WCA and 404 rules in particular. We will keep you posted!

Thanks again for your contact information,
David

David M. Weetman
SR. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST/PROJECT MANAGER
david.weetman@westwoodps.com

Direct (952) 906-7419
Main (952) 937-5150
Cell (612) 849-5320

Westwood Multi-Disciplined Surveying & Engineering
7699 Anagram Drive | Eden Prairie, MN 55344

westwoodps.com
(888) 937-5150

From: Sterzinger, Dale - NRCS-CD, Ivanhoe, MN [<mailto:Dale.Sterzinger@mn.nacdnet.net>]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 10:56 AM
To: David Weetman
Subject: Contact information

Hi David!

Please put myself down as your WCA contact for Lincoln County, Ivanhoe MN. I am the WCA admin. for Lincoln County. I noticed you sent a letter out to Pauline VanOverbeke on Feb. 11th. She just sent it on to me this morning 2-26-16 since she was on vacation for the past two and a half weeks. It's important to get this information to the proper source so approvals can be done in a timely manner. Also, is there a plan as to where the wetland impacts will take place? I have no idea about this project! If I need to issue an exemption for WCA I will need to see a plan.

Thanks for your help!

Dale Sterzinger
Lincoln SWCD
Conservation Tech./WCA Admin.

March 8, 2016

Mr. David Weetman
Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Re: Westwood Project No. 0006243.00
Red Pine Wind Project
Lincoln and Lyon Counties
SHPO No. 2016-1680

Dear Mr. Weetman:

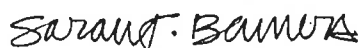
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. Information received in our office on 16 February 2016 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Due to the nature of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase IA literature search and archaeological assessment be completed. If, as a result of this assessment, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended, this survey should be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation, and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys, please visit the website preservationdirectory.mnhs.org, and select "Archaeologists" in the "Search by Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Review and Compliance Specialist, at (651) 259-3455.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

David Weetman

From: Mixon, Kevin (DNR) <kevin.mixon@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 9:09 AM
To: David Weetman
Subject: Red Pine LWECS
Attachments: RedPineDNRPrelimLetterMar142016.pdf

David:

Attached is the MNDNR preliminary review for the Red Pine LWECS. The links in the letter are in this email so they are easier to access. I would also recommend that a meeting be held with the MNDNR, USFWS, and Department of Commerce if the project will be moving forward toward permitting. Please contact me directly if you have any questions about the MNDNR letter.

Thanks,

Kevin

Web links:

A Synthesis Of Operational Mitigation Studies To Reduce Bat Fatalities At Wind Energy Facilities In North America (Arnet et al. 2013):

<http://www.batsandwind.org/pdf/Operational%20Mitigation%20Synthesis%20FINAL%20REPORT%20UPDATED.pdf>

Bat Assessment Guidance for Wind Energy Facilities in Nebraska:

http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/download/Bat%20Assessment%20Guidance%20for%20Wind%20Energy%20Facilities%20in%20Nebraska_August%202015.pdf

**KEVIN MIXON
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
21371 HIGHWAY 15 SOUTH
NEW ULM, MN 56073
507-359-6073**



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Ecological and Water Resources
21371 Highway 15 South, New Ulm, MN 56073
Phone: 507-359-6073 Email: kevin.mixon@state.mn.us

March 14, 2016

David Weetman
Westwood Professional Services
7699 Anagram Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Subject: Red Pine Large Wind Energy Conversion System
MNDNR Preliminary Review
Lincoln/Lyon Counties, MN

Dear Mr. Weetman:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Red Pine Large Wind Energy Conversion System. Please review the “DNR Guidance for Commercial Wind Energy Projects” and “Avian and Bat Survey Protocols For Wind Energy Projects” for our standard commercial wind project recommendations. Both documents can be located at the following link: (http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/additional_resources.html).

The MNDNR Guidance For Commercial Wind Energy Projects should be reviewed and considered throughout project development. The following specific sections are known to pertain to this project area: Rare Species and Native Plant Communities, Native Prairies, Public Conservation and Recreation Lands, State Trails and Recreational Trail Corridors, Properties in Government Programs or With Conservation Easements, and Lakes, Wetlands, Streams, and Rivers.

The Poposki, Tillemans, Rost, Hawks Nest, Salix, Bosque, Multendal, Rogge, Sioux Prairie, Furgamme, Coot, Thostenson, Elmer Wetz, Coon Creek, Chain-O-Sloughs, Spanton, and Prairie Marshes Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are within or adjacent to the project boundary with several of the them containing multiple parcels. The MNDNR recommends that no direct impacts occur to these public recreational lands from turbine construction, transmission lines, substations, or road networks associated with the project. It is the MNDNR’s responsibility to seek avoidance, minimization, and mitigation for potential impacts to Minnesota Recreation System Units (Minnesota Statutes, chapter 86A) from turbine construction, transmission lines, substations, or road networks associated with a wind project. The wind resource of State lands is protected from encroachment through the wind access buffer of 5 rotor diameters (prevailing wind direction) and 3 rotor diameters (non-prevailing wind direction) that has been established by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to protect non-participating landowners wind rights.

Also within or adjacent to the project boundary are Waterfowl Production Areas and Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge that are managed by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Further coordination should also occur with the USFWS concerning the potential presence of the federally threatened Dakota Skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) in the northwest portion of the new project boundary.

The project area contains a greater number of mature trees than most other proposed and constructed commercial wind projects in southern Minnesota. The mature trees include dead or partially dead trees and loose bark conditions that provide summer roosting habitat for bats. Add in the lakes, streams, and wetlands that are found within and adjacent to the project area and you have a project that has potential for higher bat fatalities. The Bat Activity Studies for the Red Pine Wind Project in Lincoln and Lyon Counties, MN dated February 17, 2014 (page 22 and Appendix A) indicates bat activity at Red Pine Wind Project by ground detectors at met towers was among the higher activity rates at facilities in the Midwest. The average bat passes per detector night and periodic spikes in bat activity at some detectors is an indication that bat activity at this site is high enough to increase the risk of the project to bats.

The MNDNR has identified portions of the project area that may have higher bird and bat use (map attached). The Avoidance Areas contain numerous resources including Reinvest In Minnesota easements, Outstanding and High Sites of Biodiversity Significance, calcareous fens, state and federal-listed species, state and federally owned lands, and numerous lakes, wetlands, and streams. The boundaries of the identified Avoidance Areas are drawn to indicate general areas of higher wildlife activity and they are not intended to be exact. Avoiding the placement of turbines in the identified Avoidance Areas may minimize wildlife impacts, including fatalities. The MNDNR recommends that turbines not be placed in the Avoidance Areas as a measure to potentially decrease fatalities and lessen the likelihood of having bat fatality estimates that could warrant operational mitigation (i.e. increased cut-in-speed).

The DNR recommends that scientifically rigorous fatality monitoring be conducted for this project. The Avian and Bat Survey Protocols referenced above should be reviewed in order to develop a specific fatality monitoring plan. The fatality monitoring plan should be included in the ABPP as it will be a key component to assess project impacts. As a high risk site, the DNR recommends a minimum of 2 years of fatality monitoring using scientifically valid protocols. Additional years of fatality monitoring may also be warranted depending on the first two years of data.

The MNDNR will be recommending that the PUC Site Permit include a requirement for feathering turbine blades when operating below the cut-in speed for the life span of the project. Arnet et al. (2013) describes one project that discovered feathering turbine blades at or below the manufacturer's cut-in speed resulted in up to 72% fewer bats killed when turbines produced no electricity into the power grid (link attached). The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and other states, i.e. Nebraska, have already recommended feathering of turbine blades to reduce bat fatalities. AWEA expects feathering of the blades to reduce impacts to bats from operating wind turbines by as much as 30 percent. Feathering turbine blades below the cut-in speed is likely to reduce bat fatalities/bat fatality estimates and decrease the need for additional operational mitigation.

Phased development should be considered for this project due to the proposed 200 MW nameplate capacity and potential for 100 (2.0 MW) turbines to be erected. The number of turbines erected is directly related to the estimated bat fatalities for the entire facility. The more turbines erected the greater the total bat fatalities. The first phase could be constructed and be monitored for bat fatalities for 2 years. The bat fatality data would then be used to determine if modifications are needed for siting or operational mitigation in order to reduce bat fatalities for subsequent phases.

The PUC required fatality monitoring report should include not only the estimated bat fatalities per MW, but also a facility wide bat fatality estimate on a yearly basis and for the permitted lifespan of the project. Understanding the facility wide and lifespan bat fatalities provides a more robust picture of the estimated cumulative bat fatalities.

If bat fatalities are high, despite feathering of the blades, then operational mitigation such as raising the cut-in-speed will need to be discussed as a mechanism to reduce fatalities. Raising the cut-in-speed has been shown to significantly reduce bat fatalities at numerous commercial wind facilities. Arnet et al. (2013) provided a synthesis of operational mitigation studies to reduce bat fatalities at 10 different wind projects (link attached). Most of the studies found that at least a 50% reduction in bat fatalities occurs when turbine cut-in speed was increased by 1.5 m/s above the manufacturer's cut-in speed. They also concluded that changing cut-in speeds offers an ecologically sound and economically feasible strategy for reducing bat fatalities at wind energy facilities. The MNDNR is indicating a potential need for operational mitigation early in the process so the project proponent can make decisions on turbine placement that may minimize bat fatalities and to factor in the possibility of future operational mitigation if high bat fatalities occur.

During development of the turbine layout it is recommended that 7-8 alternate turbine locations be included. The alternate turbine locations provide an opportunity to avoid or minimize potential impacts to natural resources and to work around other issues that arise during project development.

Please be advised that an active bald eagle nest was observed on March 2, 2016 north of the intersection of 130th Avenue and 235th Street. A large stick nest and one adult bald eagle was observed at the nest site. Margaret Rhuede from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service should be contacted at 612-725-3548 in order to coordinate issues related to the need for bald eagle surveys.

Calcareous fens are known to occur within the project boundary and they may occur at other unidentified locations. Calcareous fens must not be impacted or otherwise altered or degraded, wholly or partially, by any action, unless the commissioner, under an approved management plan, decides some alteration is necessary (Wetland Conservation Act Rules 8420.0935). Calcareous fens will need to be identified so they can be avoided. Avoidance would apply to all infrastructure associated with the project including but not limited to: turbines, access roads, collector lines, transmission lines, crane paths, and temporary construction areas.

The project site contains a significant amount of habitat for birds and bats when compared to other proposed and constructed wind farms in southern Minnesota. The bat acoustic data is indicative of higher bat use within the project area and that may indicate potential for higher bat fatalities. Moving forward the turbine layout will need to avoid the higher risk portions of the project area, blade feathering needs to be required as part of the PUC Site Permit, and a robust fatality monitoring plan will need to be developed.

Mr. David Weetman
March 14, 2016
Page 4

The DNR looks forward to working in a positive and collaborative manner on this project to ensure that sustainable energy sources are developed while protecting Minnesota's natural resources. Please contact me directly at (507) 359-6073 if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Kevin Mixon
Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist
Division of Ecological and Water Resources

cc: Lisa Joyal, Endangered Species Review Coordinator
Jamie Schrenzel, Environmental Review
Jim Sehl, EWR Assistant Supervisor
Wendy Krueger, Area Wildlife Supervisor
Bill Dinesen, Camden State Park Manager
Phil Nasby, Parks and Trails
Margaret Rheude, USFWS
Richard Davis, Department of Commerce-EERA
DNR R4 REAT
ERDB#20110259

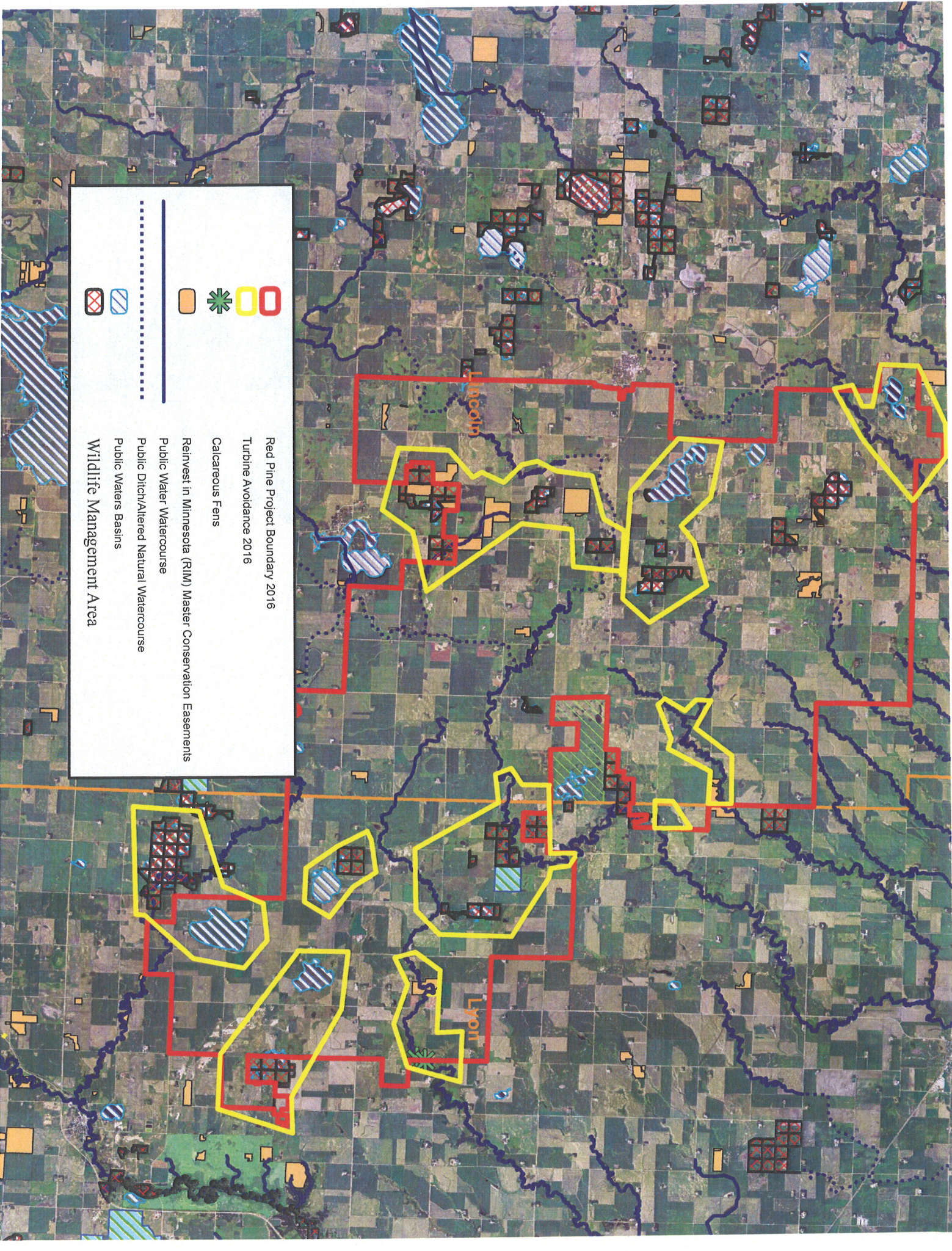
Web links:

A Synthesis Of Operational Mitigation Studies To Reduce Bat Fatalities At Wind Energy Facilities In North America (Arnet et al. 2013):

<http://www.batsandwind.org/pdf/Operational%20Mitigation%20Synthesis%20FINAL%20REPORT%20UPDATED.pdf>

Bat Assessment Guidance for Wind Energy Facilities in Nebraska:

http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/download/Bat%20Assessment%20Guidance%20for%20Wind%20Energy%20Facilities%20in%20Nebraska_August%202015.pdf



Red Pine Project Boundary 2016

Turbine Avoidance 2016

Calcareous Fens

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Master Conservation Easements

Public Water Watercourse

Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse

Public Waters Basins

Wildlife Management Area

Legend symbols: Red outline, Yellow outline, Orange square, Green asterisk, Yellow rectangle, Red rectangle, Blue hatched area, Blue hatched area with diagonal lines, Red hatched area, Dotted line, Solid line.

Lincoln

Lyon