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May 31, 2013

Dr. Burl Haar  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 East Seventh Place, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: **Reply Comments of Flat Hill Windpark I, LLC**

***In the Matter of the Application for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) Site Permit for the Flat Hill Windpark I Project in Clay County, Docket No. IP-6687/WS-08-1134; and In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Flat Hill Windpark I 230 kV Transmission Line, Docket No. IP-6687/TL-08-988***

Dear Dr. Haar:

Pursuant to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") April 26, 2013 Notice of Extended Comment Period, Flat Hill Windpark I, LLC ("Flat Hill") respectfully files brief Reply Comments in response to the Comments submitted by the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting Staff ("Department") and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") in these proceedings. As discussed below, Flat Hill agrees with the Department and DNR's recommendations and looks forward to working with the agencies as the Project moves forward towards commercial operation.

*Response to Department's Comments*

In its May 24, 2013 Comments, the Department recommends that the Commission issue an amended permit to Flat Hill (1) for a 201 MW LWECS Site Permit in Clay County, incorporating the changes set forth in a proposed Amended Site Permit; and (2) for a 230 kV HVTL Route Permit in Clay County, incorporating the changes set forth in a proposed Amended Route Permit. According to the Department, the amended Permits have been updated to reflect current permit requirements. Flat Hill agrees with the Department's recommendations and appreciates the need for the permits to reflect updated permit requirements. Of note, on May 21,

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2013, Clay County, Minnesota issued extensions of Flat Hill's Conditional Use Permits for project meteorological towers.

*Response to DNR Comments*

In its April 26, 2013 Comments, the DNR recommends that Flat Hill undertake a new Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) review, which could inform the Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP) and other inventories required by the Amended Site Permit. Flat Hill agrees with this recommendation and notes that Section 6.1 of proposed Amended Site Permit requires that Flat Hill complete updated Biological and Natural Resources Inventories prior to the pre-construction meeting. Such inventories will be conducted in consultation with the Department and DNR.

Flat Hill appreciates the Commission's consideration of its Petitions and, consistent with the Department's recommendations, respectfully requests that the Commission issue Amended Site and Route Permits.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*/s/ Brian M. Meloy*

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

*In the Matter of the Application for a Large  
Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS)  
Site Permit for the Flat Hill Windpark I  
Project in Clay County; and In the Matter of  
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Flat Hill Windpark I 230 kV Transmission  
Line* )

MPUC Docket Nos. IP-6687/WS-08-1134;  
and IP-6687/TL-08-988

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Catherine M. Wood, certifies that on May 31, 2013, she served true and correct copies of the **REPLY COMMENTS OF FLAT HILL WINDPARK I, LLC** upon the following parties via e-filing and/or U.S. Mail:

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*/s/ Catherine M. Wood*  
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