

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON WIND ACCESS BUFFER

Issued: April 20, 2022

**In the Matter of the Application of Buffalo Ridge Wind, LLC for a Site Permit for the 106 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Lincoln and Pipestone Counties, Minnesota**

**PUC Docket Number(s):** IP-7006/WS-19-394

**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes April 27, 2022 at 4:30pm

Reply comment period closes May 3, 2022 at 4:30pm

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

**Issue:** Should the Commission approve Buffalo Ridge Wind's request for a Limited Wind Access Buffer waiver for Xcel Energy's property?

### **Topic(s) Open for Comment:**

- Should the Commission approve Buffalo Ridge Wind's request for a limited waiver?
- Are there any potential human and environmental impacts associated with the proposed wind access buffer request?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

**Background:** On April 5, 2021, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued an order granting an amended site permit to Buffalo Ridge Wind, LLC (Buffalo Ridge, BRW or Permittee) for the Buffalo Ridge Wind Project, a 106-megawatt (MW) wind facility in Lincoln and Pipestone counties.

On April 13, 2022, Buffalo Ridge filed a petition requesting a limited waiver of the Wind Access Buffer setback requirement set forth in Section 4.1 of the Site Permit issued to BRW. Section 4.1 provides that "wind turbine towers shall not be placed less than five rotor diameters on the prevailing wind directions and three rotor diameters on the non-prevailing wind directions from the perimeter of the property where the Permittee does not hold the wind rights, without the approval of the Commission. This section does not apply to public roads and trails."

Pursuant to Section 4.1, BRW requested the Commission find good cause to grant the waiver of the Wind Access Buffer setback with respect to one parcel owned by Northern States Power

Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (“Xcel Energy”), which is currently leased to a tenant for farming operations. The Permittee provided a map showing that the waiver would apply to wind turbines 15 and 26, which are within the Wind Access Buffer of the Xcel Energy property at issue. Xcel Energy indicated that it does not object to the Commission granting the requested waiver and provided a signed affidavit attesting to their position.

**Filing Requirements:** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to efile documents using the Commission’s electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>

**Submit Public Comments:**

**Online:** [mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments](https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments), and follow the instructions.

**Email:** [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)

**U.S. Mail:** Consumer Affairs Office  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul MN 55101

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this matter on the Commission’s website at: [mn.gov/puc/edockets](https://mn.gov/puc/edockets), select *Go to eDockets Project Database*, enter the year (19) and the docket number (394), and select *Search*.

**Subscribe:** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling> and select *Subscribe to Dockets*.

**Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure?** Contact Commission staff, Cezar Panait, at [cez.ar.panait@state.mn.us](mailto:cez.ar.panait@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2207.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Chrishna Beard, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD**

Docket Number **IP-7006/WS-19-394**

Dated this 20th day of April, 2022

/s/ Chrishna Beard

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Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400  St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_19-394_Official
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