



October 17, 2013

Dr. Burl Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Metro Square Building
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198

Re: Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit
For the Bear Creek Wind Partners LLC Project in Todd and Otter Tail Counties
IP-6629/WS-07-297
Comments and Recommendations, Annual Compliance Review dated February 15, 2013

Dear Dr. Haar:

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Commerce) has been assisting the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in its focus on improving Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) site permit compliance during the last year.

In February 2013, we conducted a compliance review comparing LWECS site permit conditions for compliance filings to permittee submittals for the Bear Creek Wind Partners LLC project in Todd and Otter Tail counties. This LWECS site permit had been issued on May 19, 2009, and amended to extend on September 28, 2011.

The results of the compliance review were sent to John Ihle and e-filed on February 15, 2013, in e-Docket WS-07-297. Commerce staff requested an e-filed reply in the project docket by March 28, 2013. During February 2013, Commerce staff connected with Mr. Ihle by email and phone regarding the review and provided him with guidance for accessing the project e-docket and finding certain documents there. Commerce staff explained that we were requesting an e-filing of documentation that the issued LWECS site permit had been mailed to local residents and bodies of government as required by permit condition III.K.9. We also explained that a notice was coming due to the Commission on September 28, 2013, to inform them if construction had not begun or if a power purchase agreement or other mechanism had not been obtained, as required by LWECS site permit conditions III.J.4. and III.K.2.

Commerce staff emailed a reminder of these requirements to Mr. Ihle on September 12, 2013, and Mr. Ihle replied that he would work on a letter to the Commission.

To date, the letter that Mr. Ihle indicated he would work on has not been e-filed in the project docket.

Recommendation:

At this point, Commerce staff believes that a letter to Mr. Ihle from Commission staff requesting the notices required by LWECS site permit conditions III.J.4. and III.K.2. would be appropriate.

Should you have questions about these comments and recommendations, please contact Larry Hartman at 651-539-1839 or larry.hartman@state.mn.us or me, Cynthia Kahrman at 651-539-1840 or cynthia.kahrman@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Kahrman
Permit Compliance Coordinator

Cc: John Ihle, Bear Creek Wind Partners LLC
Bret Eknes, Public Utilities Commission staff
Tricia DeBleeckere, Public Utilities Commission staff
Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce
Larry Hartman, Department of Commerce