

**NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT SITE PERMIT
AVAILABILITY**

Issued: *June 12, 2018*

In the Matter of the Applications of Flying Cow Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit for the up to 152 MW Bitter Root Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota.

Public Utilities Commission Docket Numbers: IP6984/CN-17-676
IP6984/WS-17-749

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 60-2500-35035

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing on Flying Cow, LLC's certificate of need and site permit applications for its proposed 152 megawatt Bitter Root Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota.

Date: June 28, 2018
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Canby Elementary School, 601 4th Street W, Canby, MN 56220
Bad Weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc

The Honorable James E. LaFave, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the Office of Administrative Hearings, will administer this hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding the proposed project and the draft site permit issued by the Commission.

Project Description

On October 19 and November 9, 2017, Flying Cow Wind, LLC (the Applicant) submitted applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to construct and operate a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Yellow Medicine County. In order to construct the Bitter Root Wind Project, the applicant must be granted a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission.

On March 28, 2018 the Applicant filed an addendum to the original application to revise the turbine layout and to increase the number of turbines from 37 to 44 due to unavailability of the larger 4.2 megawatts (MW) turbine originally planned for the project. As a result, the proposed project would entail construction of 44 3.45 MW wind turbines for a combined nameplate capacity of up to 152 MW in Florida, Fortier, and Norman townships in Yellow Medicine County. Facilities associated with the project include underground electrical collection and communication lines, a project substation and interconnection switchyard, an operations and maintenance building, and permanent meteorological towers and gravel access roads.

The applicant is negotiating a power purchase agreement (PPA) for the project, but has also indicated it is prepared to sell the power in a wholesale energy market such as Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) or the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) as an Independent Power Producer, if a PPA is not secured. The applicant asserts the project is intended to meet the growing demand for additional renewable resources and other clean energy requirements in Minnesota and nearby states. If approved, Flying Cow anticipates beginning construction in the 1st quarter of 2019, and commencing operations in the 4th quarter of 2019.

Public Hearing Information

- Public hearings start on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Administrative Law Judge James E. LaFave will preside over the hearing.
- Commission, Department of Commerce, and Flying Cow representatives will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.

Submit Comments

Topics for Public Comment:

- *Should the Commission issue a certificate of need and a site permit for the project?*
- *Is the proposed project needed and in the public interest?*
- *What are the costs and benefits of the proposed project?*
- *What are the environmental and human impacts of each site under consideration and how can these impacts be addressed?*
- *Are there other project-related issues or concerns?*

Comment Period: June 12, 2018 through **July 18, 2018 at 4:30pm.**
Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered.

- Online** Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.
- Email** Comments can be emailed to publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us.
- eFiling** Visit mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.
- Important** Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Process Information

The Commission must approve a certificate of need and a site permit before the project can be built. Flying Cow submitted the certificate of need application in October 2017 and the site permit application was accepted in January 2018. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process.

Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy and Environmental Review and Analysis staff (EERA) has issued an environmental report (Certificate of Need docket) and a preliminary draft site permit (Site Permit docket) for this project. EERA has recommended the Commission issue a draft site permit for the project. The draft site permit is a document prepared for public review and does not constitute Commission approval of the project. The Commission issued the draft site permit for the project on May 25, 2018.

The public hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions and submit recommendations for the Commission's consideration in reaching its decision. After the public hearing and comment period, ALJ James E. LaFave will prepare a report for the Commission.

The Commission will review all the information in the record and is anticipated to reach final decisions on the certificate of need and site permit applications in October 2018.

Eminent Domain: The applicant does not have eminent domain authority to acquire land necessary for the project. All leases or easements secured to acquire land for the project are voluntary.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website:

<https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34766>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (*17-676 for the certificate of need or 17-749 for the site permit application*), your name, mailing address and email address.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (17) and the docket number (676 for the certificate of need, 749 for the site permit application), select "Search."

Subscribe to the Docket: To receive email notification when new documents are filed in the project dockets, go to the Commission's website, mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts. *Note- subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Community Locations: The certificate of need, site permit application, and environmental report are available at these locations:

- Canby Public Library, 110 Oscar Ave N, Canby, MN 56220
- Siverson Public Library, 100 West Garfield Street, Hendricks, MN 56136
- Ivanhoe Public Library, 401 N Harold St, Ivanhoe, MN 56142

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854, available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/>.

Project Contacts

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Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

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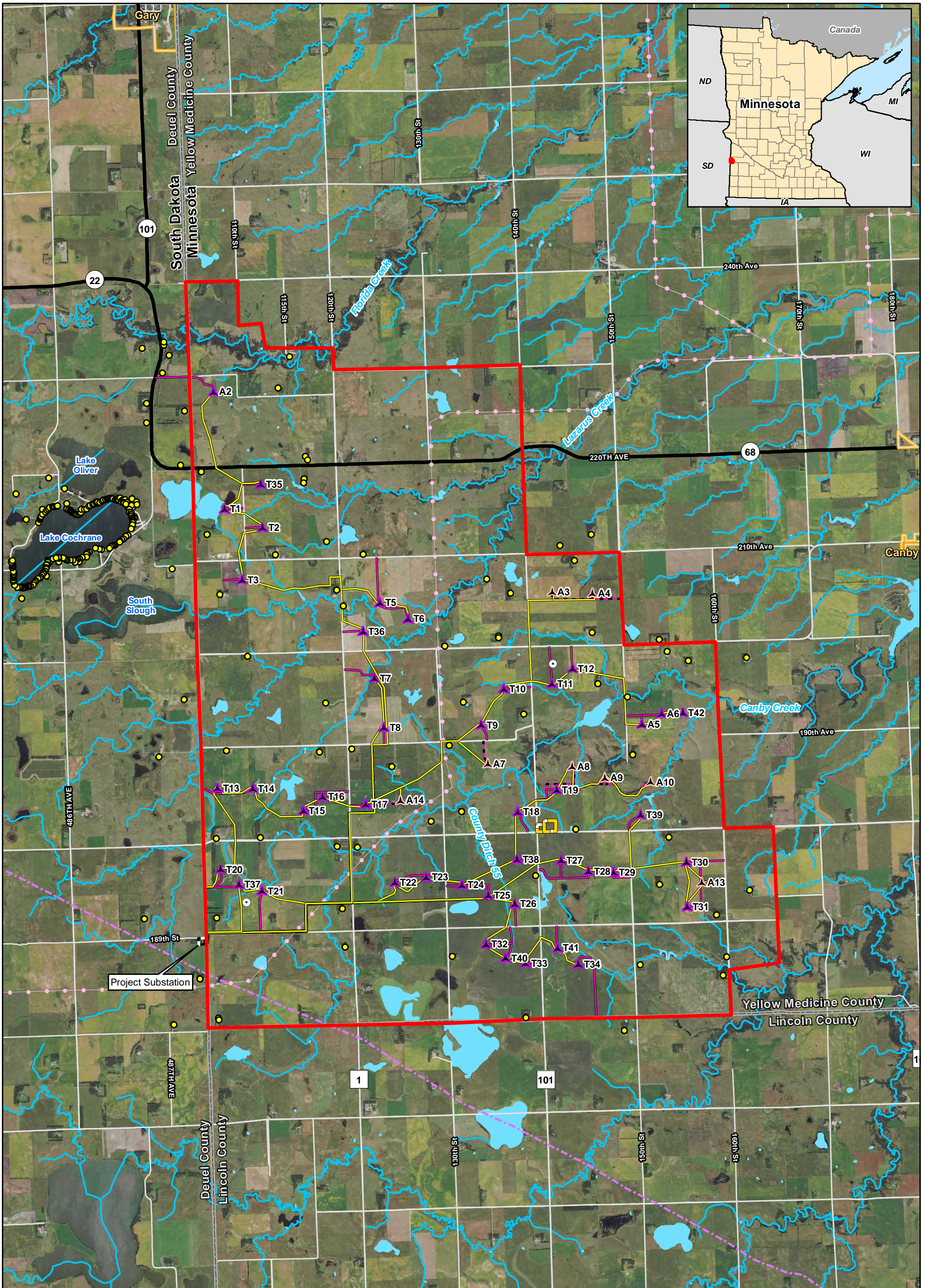
Flying Cow Wind, LLC Project Contact

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If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.



**Figure 3a
Project Area and Facilities**

**Bitter Root Wind Farm
Flying Cow Wind, LLC
Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota**

Updated 3/28/2018



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Data Source: RES Americas, USGS, MNDOC, MNDNR
Imagery Source: 2015 Color FSA

- Proposed Turbine
- Proposed Alternate Turbine
- Proposed Met Tower
- Receptors within 10 Tip Heights of Proposed Turbines
- Project Area
- Proposed Facilities Boundary (OM Building and Laydown Yard)
- Project Substation
- Proposed Collection Line
- Proposed Access Road
- Proposed Alternate Access Road
- Lake, Pond or Reservoir
- 24k Stream or Ditch
- Existing 115 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Pipeline