

Appendix F

Agency Comments

Community Wind South Repower Project
Nobles County, Minnesota

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October 6, 2020

Mark Koster
Nobles County Environmental Services
315 10th Street
Worthington, MN 56187

Re: Community Wind South Repower Project, Nobles County, Minnesota
File: 0026682.00

Dear Mark:

On behalf of Zephyr Wind, LLC (Zephyr), Westwood Professional Services is writing to request comments regarding the Applicant's plans to obtain an amended site permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for the Community Wind South Project located in Nobles County, Minnesota (Exhibit 1). The original Site Permit for the 30.75 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) was issued by the MPUC on May 1, 2012.

Zephyr plans to retrofit all 15 REpower MM92, 2.05 MW turbines by installing larger rotors and different nacelles. The purpose of the retrofitting project is to improve turbine technology, increase energy yield and extend the useful life of the project. Rotor modifications provide an increase in the rotor swept area, which results in a corresponding increase in the nominal production capacity of the Project. Optimizing energy production using the existing permitted wind energy facility will help the State of Minnesota meet its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) with fewer turbines and less disruption to the natural environment.

The previously permitted locations of turbines, access roads, collection lines, and other supporting infrastructure will remain the same. Full-sized and pre-assembly cranes will be used to remove the old rotors and nacelles and install the new components. Some minor upgrading of public roadways and intersections may be required to allow for delivery of the replacement rotors and nacelles to each turbine location. A temporary laydown yard will be constructed within agricultural lands to stage the turbine components prior to installation. A temporary crane path will also be required for installing the new rotors and nacelles, which will be restored to pre-construction conditions following retrofitting. Efforts will be made to use the original crane path corridor to minimize disturbance to new areas.

No aspect of the project is anticipated to trigger Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In support of the site permit application, archaeological surveys of the new crane walk areas are being planned for this fall. The archaeological survey results can be provided upon request to

the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). Also, if interested, THPOs can coordinate a visit with the archaeological crews during the survey if they wish to review the area.

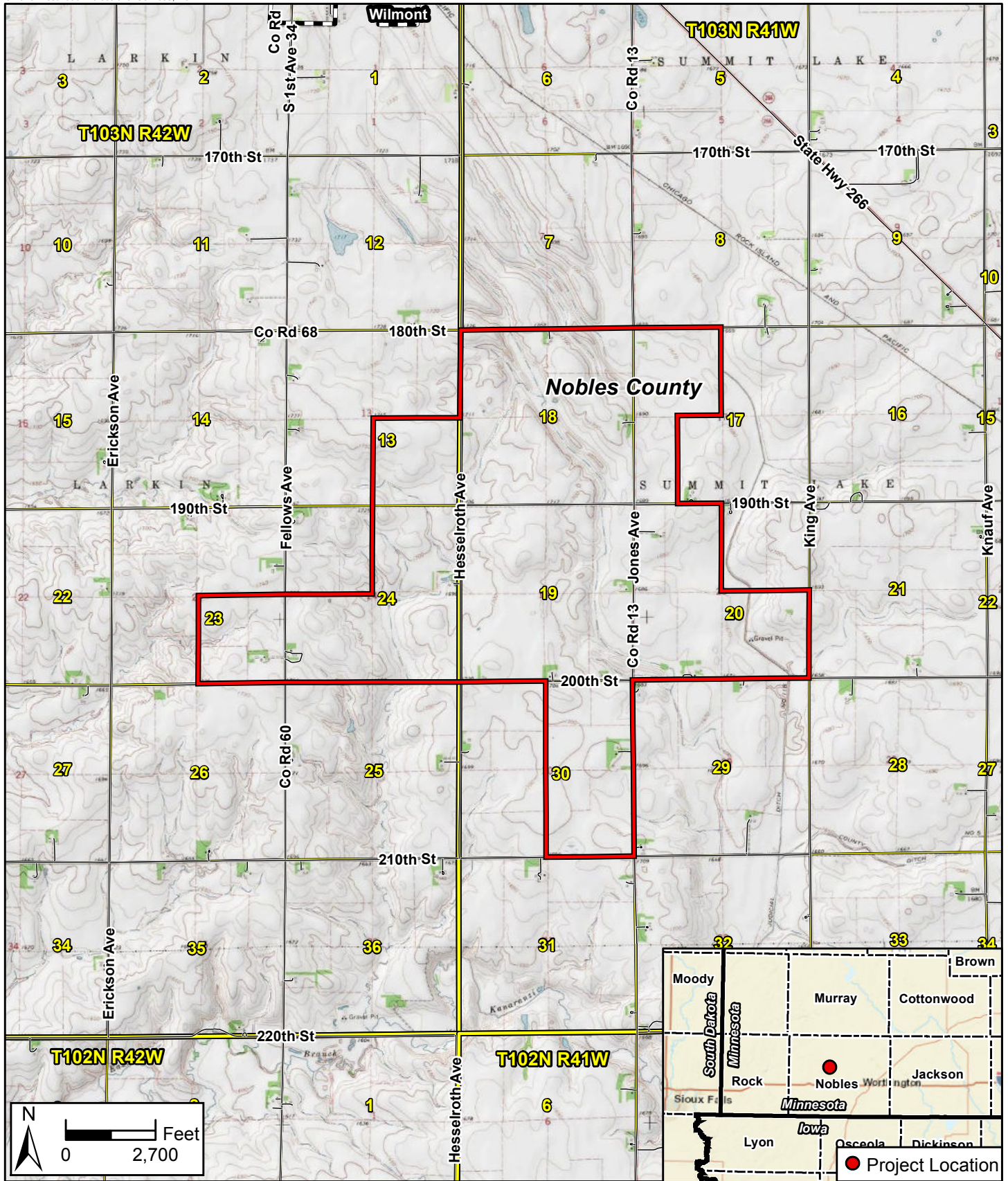
Zephyr plans to apply for an amended site permit from the MPUC in Q4 2020 to meet planned construction and a Commercial Operation Date (COD) anticipated in 2022. Written comments provided in response to this letter will be incorporated into the MPUC's review process. Please respond as soon as possible, or within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have questions or require further information regarding the project, I can be reached at (952) 906-7419 or via email david.weetman@westwoodps.com.

Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



David M. Weetman
Environmental Permitting Manager



Data Source(s): Westwood (2020); ESRI WMS USA Topo Basemap (Accessed 2019); U.S. Census Bureau (2017).

Community Wind South Project

Nobles County, Minnesota

Legend

- Project Boundary
- PLS Township Boundary
- County Boundary
- PLS Section Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Road

Project Location

Westwood
 Toll Free (888) 937-5150 westwoodps.com
 Westwood Professional Services, Inc.

Map Document: N:\0026682.00\GIS\Analysis\200319_SIA\CWS_NHIS_Ex1_ProjectLocation_200319.mxd, 3/19/2020 2:35:46 PM SL Kilbarda