

From: [Valerie Sheedy](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#); [Eknes, Bret \(PUC\)](#)
Cc: [Michal Hanson](#); [Trish Harren](#); [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: PUC Docket Number(s): IP-6557/WS-06-91
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 3:08:02 PM

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

In the Matter of the Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the 98.9 MW Mower County Wind Facility Regarding a Complaint

To: Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary MN PUC
From: Mower County, MN

A large number of blades were decommissioned from the 2020 MOWER COUNTY WIND REPOWER PROJECT (Constructed By FPL Energy Mower County LLC). The blades were hauled into and stored on a leased vacant lot in Grand Meadow, Minnesota and still remain there today from the time they were “decommissioned” in 2020.

Mower County has since required that any decommissioned blades be removed from the County as a part of any repowering projects. For example, this requirement was accomplished by Agreement between Mower County and Northern States Power Company for the 2022 GRAND MEADOW WIND REPOWER PROJECT. The blades from that Project were removed from the site and properly disposed of, not left on a leased site to create an eyesore.

We must assume that decommissioning of the blades is required as part of the permit for the project issued by the Public Utilities Commission. Decommissioning does not mean storing the blades until it is economical to recycle, dispose, or reuse them. A permit-holding entity must have measures in place to properly decommission the project, and they should be held to that standard.

Mower County was not aware that the decommissioned blades were being stored in Grand Meadow until after they had been placed there. If the proposed storage site had been under County jurisdiction, it would require a Conditional Use Permit. To our knowledge, the storage site was not permitted by the local government unit, in this case, the City of Grand Meadow.

The City of Grand Meadow, with the support of Mower County, has been attempting to get the blades removed from the City for over 3 years. Mower County continues to support the City’s efforts to remove these blades from Grand Meadow, MN.

Mower County would appreciate that the Public Utilities Commission help the City of Grand Meadow and Mower County resolve this matter.

Michal Hanson, Public Works Director
Valerie Sheedy, Assistant Public Works Director

Mower County Public Works
1105 8th Ave NE | Austin, MN 55912
Direct: 507-434-2639