

Office of Land Management
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651-366-4635
Fax: 651-366-3450
stacy.kotch@state.mn.us

Mailstop 678

October 21, 2019

Charley Bruce, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: In the Matter of the Petition for Site Permit Amendment and Supplemental Information for the Blazing Star Wind Farm 2 Project in Lincoln County
PUC Docket Number: IP6985-WS-17-700

Dear Mr. Bruce,

On October 11th, 2019, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued a Notice of Comment Period on Petition for Site Permit Amendment and Supplemental Information with respect to the Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, an up to 200 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Lincoln County. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has reviewed the amendments and supplemental information regarding the proposed project and submits the following comments in response to the Notice.

Based on the amended information provided, MnDOT's previous concerns still stand. In particular:

1. The potential impact to US 75, the King of Trails Scenic Byway.

6.2 Scenic Byways

The Permittee shall coordinate with MnDOT and any other designated local stakeholders, to identify project related impacts to The King of Trails Scenic Byway (U.S. Highway 75). The Permittee will work to avoid impacts to the Scenic Byway, and mitigation for unavoidable impacts will be developed in coordination with MnDOT, the local stakeholder group, and Department of Commerce.

2. The potential impact MnDOT construction projects could have on the Applicant's plans to haul oversize loads to the proposed site(s) as well as overall constructability. Future state projects for this area can be found by visiting: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects.html>

Additionally, the project maps show a large number of potential access road, collection line and crane path intersections with US 75. It is advised that the Applicant work with MnDOT as soon as possible on feasibility of **all** potential points of access/intersection to ensure each point is permissible.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact me with questions regarding the information provided.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing and Siting Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Office of Land Management

cc: Geri Vick – MnDOT District 8 Permits

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