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2	PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING - 09-553
3	Jackson, Minnesota - August 5, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.
4	BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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8	In the Matter of the Site Permit for Elm Creek Wind II,
9	LLC, 150 MW Project in Martin and Jackson Counties
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12	MPUC DOCKET NO. IP-6728/WS-09-553
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15	Meeting held at:
16	Jackson National Guard Armory
17	108 County Highway 51
18	Jackson, Minnesota
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20	August 5, 2025
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25	COURT REPORTER: Ruth Holdvogt, RPR

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2	SPEAKER						PAG	E
3	Sam Lobby						3	
4	Luke Schwitzer						8	
5	Rich Davis						18	
6	Nate Runke						25	
7	Debra Ringkob						27	
8	Lowell Gorden						29	
9	Don Zebedee						35	
10	Shane Meyer						38	
11	Earl Cordes						41	
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MR. SAM LOBBY: Good evening. Hello, folks. Thanks very much for coming tonight. We have a good turnout here, and we really appreciate everybody coming and taking time out of your evening. We know this is extra, to come and let us know what you think about this, but we appreciate your civic participation and being here for this meeting.

So I am Sam Lobby. I'm with the State -Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, so -- and my
role -- we are not for or against the project. We
are here because we want to make sure that folks on
the ground get a chance to tell us what you think
about the project. So we're independent from that,
as far as, you know, if we want it to be approved or
not. We're neutral in that case.

We want to hear from you. We have five commissioners that will ultimately make a decision if there is a site permit -- their amendment -- if the site permit amendment is granted. And a big factor in that is hearing from the public, the folks that live in the area, so we really appreciate you being here tonight.

I'm going to go over some slides here, and then the applicant will talk -- will talk

1	about oh Hello. Hello. There we go.
2	The applicant will talk about I'm not
3	hearing
4	The applicant will talk about the project
5	itself. And then my counterpart over there, Rich
6	Davis, will talk a little bit about the review
7	environmental review process.
8	So with that, again, I am Sam Lobby. I'm
9	going to cover the actual review process, as far as
10	the procedural side of things. Then the description
11	of the project will be coming from
12	I'm sorry. Would it be easier if I
13	just can you hear me if I'm speaking?
14	COURT REPORTER: Let's try it.
15	MR. SAM LOBBY: Okay. Sounds good.
16	Sorry for the technical difficulties,
17	folks. I'll try and project loudly here.
18	So we have the applicants here that are
19	requesting to do a permit amendment. And then, as I
20	mentioned, Rich Davis will talk about the
21	environmental review process. And then from
22	that'll we'll get through this in probably 20 to
23	30 minutes. And then the rest of it will be an
24	opportunity for questions and comments from you all.
25	So I won't get too deep into the background here.

Is this working for you?

COURT REPORTER: Yes.

MR. SAM LOBBY: Okay. I won't get too deep into the background here, because the applicant will talk more about that.

But the Elm Creek Wind II project was originally granted a permit from the PUC on February 25th, 2010. Then this April, on April 1st, Elm Creek Wind submitted an application to repower the wind facility and amend their site permit to increase the facility's efficiency and energy output, as well as to extend the permit term and operational life of the facility.

The proposed changes will consist of retrofitting existing equipment and will not include changes to turbine locations, the MET tower, or the substation. Requested changes include: replacing rotors, replacing turbine nacelles and interior elements, increasing the hub height of the existing turbines from 78 to 86 meters, increasing the tip height of the existing turbines from 127.5 to 146 meters, adjust turbine output for existing turbines from 2.4 to 2.2 megawatts, and decrease the total nameplate capacity below the permitted 150 megawatts.

So the Commission considerations -- if you want to look into the legalese behind, kind of, what is all the legislation -- the enabling legislation, under Minnesota Statute 216F.03, the siting of a large wind energy conversion system must be done in an orderly manner, compatible with environmental preservation, sustainable development, and the efficient use of resources.

Minnesota Rule 7854.1300, Subp. 2, provides that the Commission may amend a site permit for a large wind energy conversion system at any time if the Commission has good cause to do so. And under Minnesota Statute 216F.04, the Commission may place conditions in a permit and may deny, modify, suspend, or revoke a permit.

So just to give you a sense of, kind of, what to expect here and -- what's happened and what to expect, the site permit was filed on April 1st. And then Rich, with the environmental review team, provided comments on application completeness and provided a proposed draft site permit. That was on June 20th of 2025.

Then, today and tomorrow -- we've got today, of course, we're here at the in-person meeting. Tomorrow we also have a virtual meeting.

It's going to be the exact same information covered; you'll see the same thing. Sometimes folks do like to come to that a second time, if you think of something tonight and you want to let us know tomorrow. But then there also is a written comment period that goes through August 20th, so if you think of something tomorrow and you're like, "I wish I got that comment to them," you still have plenty of time.

There is information -- we have some in this -- in this slide deck that is up on the table; it's also in the notice that -- information to get you how to comment publicly if you would like to.

Then, once we are through the comment period, Rich will provide more comments on the site permit amendment and -- factoring in any comments received. That will come out on September 5th of 2025. And then the Commission will consider the site -- site permit amendment sometime at the end of -- of the year, quarter 4 of 2025, at some point.

So -- and at that point, that's when the commissioners will -- they do read all the public comments. They read the transcripts. They really care a lot about what the landowners on the ground think. So your participating tonight, it isn't just

1	for it doesn't just, you know, go nowhere. You
2	will be listened to. So that is kind of what to
3	expect, timeline-wise.
4	And then, here is my contact information;
5	so that is in the slide deck when you pick that up.
6	You can reach out to me at any time. Even if it's
7	past August 20th, and you have questions or comments
8	or anything you want to say, you can reach out to me
9	and I can try to help you direct you to where you
10	need to go.
11	So with that, I will hand it over to the
12	company. And make sure to project loudly.
13	MR. LUKE SCHWITZER: Yeah. Thanks, Sam.
14	MR. SAM LOBBY: Thank you.
15	MR. LUKE SCHWITZER: Good evening,
16	everyone. My name is Luke Schwitzer. I'm a lead
17	developer with Avangrid Power, based out of
18	Minneapolis.
19	Before I go on, is the volume pretty
20	good?
21	COURT REPORTER: Yes.
22	MR. LUKE SCHWITZER: Good.
23	So thank you. We appreciate the chance
24	to highlight our project plans out at Elm Creek II,
25	and appreciate you all taking the time to to come

out and join us.

So before I get into specifics on the project itself, I just wanted to highlight company overview, you know, for folks not familiar, kind of, with the company.

Avangrid Power, we are the third largest renewable energy owner and operator in the States, so that -- that presence really spans nationwide. We have wind and solar projects located in 22 different states across the country. In the Midwest in particular, that -- that presence is very large, in wind projects in particular. It might be hard to read some of the numbers, which is good, because some of the numbers in Illinois have changed. But in general, we have a large presence of wind projects in -- in Minnesota, Illinois, the Dakotas, and Iowa.

So zooming in a little bit more into Jackson and Martin Counties, you know, we, as a company, have been active in this community for over 20 years. I just wanted to highlight -- I know many of you probably know this area like the back of your hand, but as it relates to Avangrid projects in your community, you know, I wanted to highlight Elm Creek II there in yellow, Elm Creek I is in blue,

and Trimont, to the north, in red.

And Trimont was our first project -- I should say first project to go into service in the community, so you'll see the COD dates that are listed; it stands for commercial operation date. Basically, it's when that project was placed in service.

So Trimont led the way in 2005. It was a 100 megawatt wind site. It was actually repowered in 2020 as well. Elm Creek I followed, going into service in 2008, as a 99 megawatt wind site. And then, of course, we're here tonight to talk about Elm Creek II. That was placed in service in 2010, and we'll get into some more of those details.

So when we talk about repowering in general, it's kind of a catchall term. It can mean many different things, depending on the company, depending on the site, what folks', you know, particular plans are. Basically, you're talking about -- regardless of the details, you're talking about the process of retrofitting -- retrofitting and replacing existing components with newer, more modernized, more efficient equipment. So that is what we're doing.

And -- and specifically, these plans

consist of replacing the -- the turbine blades themselves and replacing the nacelles so that -- that housing that sits on top of the tower itself -- houses the gear box, houses the drivetrain, the generator itself for each turbine -- the picture kind of highlighting, you know, I think, dropping the -- dropping that -- the generator and the drivetrain into that nacelle housing, just for context.

So again, our Elm Creek II plan is swapping out the existing blades with new blades and swapping out the existing nacelles with -- with new equipment.

We are not proposing any kind of permanent change to the tower foundations themselves, as well as any of the existing infrastructure out there, as far as roads, the O&M building, the substation, so on and so forth. It will all remain as it is today.

I'll squeeze one small caveat in there, in that the existing towers, in order to make them match with the new nacelles that will need to be bolted on, there is a small -- relatively small tower adapter section -- so it's a 17-foot section -- that will need to be installed on top of

the existing towers in order to make it match with the proposed new nacelle.

So with that, when we begin to, you know, think about temporary construction impacts that might come with a project like this, folks that were around, you know, during the original greenfield development, you might imagine this is not quite on par with -- with the scale of that. But still, this is -- it's a large project with not, you know, insignificant, you know, construction work.

So the biggest things that you can begin to kind of picture being associated with this is crane paths right away; large, you know, over-ground, over-terrain crane paths being blocked around the site to install the equipment, tear down the old equipment. Improved turning radius areas, so that's talking about any of your 90-degree turns. Access from public roads to -- to access stream roads. You might imagine they need to be widened to allow for that -- you know, the blade swing being delivered, again for repower, both -- both taking out the old blades and bringing in the new.

And then something to note, as well, is the collector line section upgrades. So the collector lines are what, you know, receive that

power from the turbine and take it to the collector sub. We have been doing many studies to understand what that looks like right now and what it looks like under a repower. Indeed, these things are ongoing, so we're learning more.

But it's safe to assume that there might be a couple sections that would need to be supplemented with new collector lines in order to take that power efficiently and safely. But for the most part, you know, we're not talking about having to replace all the collector lines on the site, by any means.

And then, lastly, again, picturing construction, really, one of the bigger things is going to just be the laydown, the staging. Again, it's kind of a logistical undertaking to, you know, find the space to bring down the blades and the nacelles and yet still bring in the new. So that is something that we're working on understanding, you know, where these laydown, where these staging yards will be. But as you begin to picture it, that's -- that's something that will come with a project like this.

So diving down into a little bit more detail, again, talking about replacing the blades --

and this is where, I think, I need to begin to caveat. A lot of this is -- you know, we are interested in sharing the best information that we have available today. A lot of this is subject to change. Frankly, there's a lot of uncertainty in the market, as far as supply chain goes, as far as, you know, studies that we're doing to understand what equipment -- what final equipment selection will look like. So these details, yeah, are subject to change. And of course, you know, that information will be communicated when it does become final.

But with that, what our current plan is right now, is increasing the rotor blade size from the 95 meters that is existing up to 120 meters. If you can picture a tip height -- so the tip height is when the blade is at its highest point -- that height will change, again, from the 418 feet that it is right now to 480 feet. And then the per turbine generation right now is 2.4 megawatts, and that would be proposed to adjust to 2.2.

I already touched on the collector line upgrades where needed. And one bonus for folks in -- such as yourselves, landowners in the room, is installing lighting mitigation. So we talked about

Aircraft Detection Lighting System. The good news for folks that are annoyed by the constant blinking of lights at night is that that will go away. There will be a radar system installed, tentatively at the O&M yard, that will detect aircraft when it's in the project space, and at that point, it will trigger the lights to go on. If there isn't aircraft detected, no lights. So that's something that would come with this as well.

And then I just need to call out, you know, our ops folks. And our -- our ops team in the building tonight, I know, is excited about the support of this repower. We are also installing lifts in all of the existing turbine towers that are onsite, which really helps them onsite. I know they're excited about it.

So that's kind of just a snapshot of many of the details. You know, again, many of the figures here on the lower right are admittedly TBD right now, but just for -- to have something at a glance for folks to -- to look at as a pre- and post- comparison.

There are 62 turbines onsite. You know, ideally, we are in a position to retrofit all 62.

Again, it's Mitsubishi 2.4 megawatt generators that

are the turbines onsite currently. And it's TBD on what that final selection will be, but it will fit under those parameters discussed here already.

And then -- yeah, I've laid out the tip height differences already. The nameplate capacity really just kind of stays the same ultimately, or -- or we try to get it as close to the same as possible.

I will call out already -- and I know there's likely questions on just why the drop from per turbine generation. And what I will say on that is, it's -- we're taking an existing site, right, and trying to match with new equipment, and that's just -- that's part of the equipment availability issues, so the 2.2 generator is just what's making sense. It's what seemed to work for the site right now.

And if you're wondering why we would take a step down, really, it's -- the bonus is in the efficiency. These new models, the new equipment, just way more efficient than the existing MHI machines at lower wind speeds, for example, just in general. So it's -- it's more a matter of efficiency over the nameplate capacity.

So beyond that, the caveats truly

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continue when we begin to touch on the schedule.

But I think at this point, you know, what we would want to communicate, more than anything, is the soonest potential of a project like this. So this is -- this is laying out that scenario.

So obviously, we're all in the room today for -- for permitting scope. That has been detailed The PUC application was submitted in already. April. Environmental surveys and then other permitting work is -- is ongoing to support the project. The same thing with engineering; that design work is ongoing. In a perfect world, we could have -- you know, anticipate construction-ready design as soon as the end of this year, is what we're working towards. And then, again, the -- the earliest possible construction start date could be something like May of '26. the earliest possible COD, working off of that -again, that's the commercial operation placed-in-service date -- would be something like December of 2026.

And then, of course, you know, we're not -- we're not going anywhere. We would be around through the following year for restoration, reclamation type of work, to leave the site, you

1 know, as good or better than we found it. 2 With that, no real talking points on the 3 I just wanted to highlight, you know, as -- as you're walking around, we have a couple of maps 4 5 spread across the room. Again, we understand you folks know this area very well, so familiarize 6 yourself with the site based on, you know, where you 7 and your neighbors live. 8 9 And, yeah, we look forward to taking your 10 questions. MR. RICH DAVIS: Well, good evening, 11 everybody. My name is Rich Davis. I am with the 12 Public Utilities Commission, the same as Sam, or the 13 Energy Infrastructure Permitting -- or Planning 14 15 Sorry. And environmental review is kind of unit. the -- the side that I'm on which, with that, our 16 17 staff --18 I should check. Am I good? COURT REPORTER: A little louder. 19 MR. RICH DAVIS: A little louder? 20 Okay. 21 Our focus is to provide technical 22 assistance, basically, on potential environmental 23 impacts and potential mitigation, or reduction of those impacts, to the commissioners as they're 24 making their decisions regarding issuing of a site 25

permit to allow the repowering, in this case, of this project.

and the analysis process. It's a little bit
different with wind as opposed to transmission lines
and solar projects. But we walk the -- when the
application comes in, we actually use that as our
baseline for the environmental review process. And
we -- we are out to provide an objective analysis,
and we don't advocate for or against projects. We
are just trying to work with the facts that are out
there. And our primary goal is to assist the
commissioners with an informed -- in their informed
decision-making process as they're issuing that site
permit.

This is where to find some project information. If you're interested in it, that top one -- this is all in the packet over there, the PowerPoint. That top one is a specific -- a specific web page within our website. It's a little easier to navigate than the next link down there; eDockets can get a little bit overwhelming. That is the full record of this project, so we can go all the way back to when -- the initial permit and beyond, when the initial application for the

original permit was actually submitted.

so if you want the full record of everything, you're going to want that second link right there. The top one, like I said, is a little bit more straightforward. And it also -- there is, at the top of that -- that first web page there, there's a public comment submittal button up there that you can actually click on and enter your comment in there, and I get that directly.

Environmental review and site permit development -- so, again, the site permit amendment application that comes in is the primary environmental review document that we use as our baseline. It helps us identify and evaluate potential resource impacts to the proposed repowering project, and it identifies possible impact mitigation measures that can be used. We use that to develop the draft site permit, or the amended draft site permit, which there are two copies of over on that table over there.

Myself and a couple of our other staff kind of worked on that draft site -- that amended draft site permit back when our unit was actually with the Minnesota Department of Commerce. So I'll just point that out because that bottom bullet says

"EERA comments." That was our unit's name when we were at the Department of Commerce. Our entire unit got shifted over to the Public Utilities Commission on July 1st, thanks to the legislature. I'll be nice about that.

But potential -- with that, we're looking at potential resources that might be out in the project area and potential impacts that could be included in that amended draft site permit. We're also looking to include local -- local items of interest or concern -- things that might not be on a map somewhere -- that you folks would know about. We want to know about those things.

For public participation, you can provide comments tonight. It will go on the record with our court reporter. You can submit comments in writing, again at that link on our web page, or directly via email to myself. Or if you want to send something in the mail, my mailing address is on there, and also on the slides that are over there, that are hard-copied at the table.

The comment period deadline is Wednesday,

August 20th, at 4:30 p.m. The exception to that is

if you can get it -- if you're sending something in

the mail, if it's postmarked by the 20th, we'll -- I

try to give it a little bit extra time so things can get in, because I know it takes a little bit if they're -- if you're sending them that way.

out in further developing the amended draft site permit -- and if you can focus your comments on these, if -- should the Commission issue an amended draft site permit for the repowering project, if the site permit amendments are authorized, what additional conditions, if any, should the Commission impose. Those would be the conditions that would be wrapped into the site permit. And are there other issues or concerns related to this matter, being the project as a whole, potential impacts that some of you local folks are -- are concerned about or would like additional details on.

There's a lot on this slide -- kind of small, but this is probably one of the more useful slides in that whole packet over there. It has the comment period deadline. It has the ways you can comment: Online, email, and by mail. It has those questions I just read off for addressing your comments to. Contacts are on there for Sam, myself, and for Luke. And then some additional information on how to find the docket or the project website.

1 And this... 2 MR. SAM LOBBY: Do you want --3 MR. RICH DAVIS: I don't know how -what? 4 5 MR. SAM LOBBY: Oh, go ahead. MR. RICH DAVIS: Okay. For presentation 6 of comments, these are just, kind of, some general 7 ground rules that we have. One speaker at a time. 8 9 It's important for us so that the court reporter can hear and she can get a solid record for us so we 10 have the minutes. Because I do go back and read 11 through those minutes myself; the commissioners read 12 That's how I keep track of comments 13 through them. that we might get tonight that are up here. 14 15 I should point out that whether you give your comment up here tonight, speaking, or mail it 16 17 or email it, none of those carry any more weight 18 than any other version. So if you send your 19 comments in or say your comments tonight, you don't have to worry about doing it -- multiple different 20 21 versions of that. We take them all the same. 22 Maintain some respect for each other 23 I -- that's always helpful. Begin -- when tonight. you -- I'm going to have everybody come up here. 24 25 probably would be easiest for us and for the court

1 Just come up here. reporter. 2 And I need you to state and spell your 3 first and last name so the court reporter can get it on the record. And direct any of your comments and 4 5 questions towards those other questions that have to do with the merits of the proposed project or the 6 suggestion -- suggestions of permit conditions, 7 would be most helpful for us. 8 9 We'll have to see how many people we have that want to speak, but we do try to limit stuff for 10 five minutes the first time around. Obviously, if 11 we have some extra time, so -- we can always go back 12 around if somebody has additional comments or 13 questions that they would like to bring up. 14 15 That's about it. The next one is for WebEx stuff. 16 17 MR. SAM LOBBY: Yeah, that's... 18 MR. RICH DAVIS: Yeah. 19 The thank you slide. That's Sam and 20 I's contact info, so I'm going to have -- I'm 21 actually going to put this one back up to help 22 direct people if they've got some questions or 23 comments. And I'm going to turn this, and then I'm 24 25 going to go sit back down and get out of the way.

1	MR. SAM LOBBY: Thanks, Rich.
2	So I've got the sign-in sheet here, and
3	it looks like Nate Runke, if you would like to
4	come up and speak.
5	MR. NATE RUNKE: Hi. I'm Nate Runke.
6	I'm with the International Union
7	MR. SAM LOBBY: Could you spell your
8	spell your name.
9	MR. NATE RUNKE: I'm sorry. N-a-t-e
10	R-u-n-k-e.
11	I'm with the International Union of
12	Operating Engineers Local 49. I'm also speaking on
13	behalf of North Central States Regional Council of
14	Carpenters; they weren't able to be here tonight.
15	But on behalf of the 15,000 heavy
16	equipment operators that we represent between Iowa,
17	across Minnesota, and the Dakotas, and the 27,000
18	carpenters there present across their five-state
19	region, I guess, we just wanted to find out if if
20	you guys already have ideas on who the workforce for
21	this would be.
22	We always, obviously, advocate to use as
23	much local union labor as possible, or local labor.
24	If you go a different way than I think the key
25	part there being as much getting the workforce

1 from -- as locally as possible to keep as much of 2 the investment going back to the communities that 3 are hosting these projects. So obviously, from our viewpoint, union labor would be the best option 4 5 there. But either way, we were just kind of hoping to find out what your plans were for -- for 6 workforce. 7 8 MR. LUKE SCHWITZER: Yeah. So that --9 that is one of the things -- similar to schedule, similar to final equipment design, it's something 10 that we're actively working on and it's ongoing. 11 So 12 there are no final decisions on that right now, but that is certainly something -- using local unions is 13 certainly something that's being considered right 14 15 now, yeah. 16 MR. NATE RUNKE: That sounds great. 17 All right. That was all I had. Thank 18 you. Thank you very much. 19 MR. SAM LOBBY: 20 I've got a number of other folks on the 21 list here, but nobody else signed up to speak. So 22 I'll just read off the names, and if you don't want 23 to come up, that's just fine. Once I get through these, if other folks want to raise their hand, we 24 25 can do that.

1 Debra, would you like to speak? 2 right. Thank you, Debra. And if you can make sure to project your voice as much as possible. 3 you. And state and spell names, please. 4 MS. DEBRA RINGKOB: 5 My name is Debra Ringkob, D-e-b-r-a and R-i-n-g-k-o-b as in "boy." 6 7 Reading that first sentence, "Should the Commission issue an amended draft site permit for 8 the repowering project," here's my question for 9 10 Avangrid, is: Do you have a contract already for the energy that -- if this goes through, do you have 11 12 somebody out there that's got a signed contract that 13 you can sell our energy to? Because when you built our project 14 15 originally, there was no signed contract that -- our energy got sold pretty darn cheap and we never 16 17 received what was promised. 18 How do you -- how do you -- it's kind of like Field of Dreams: "Build it and they will 19 20 come." Not necessarily. We have to have some kind 21 of proof that us having our land torn apart again is 22 going to be worth it. It -- for environmental, it's 23 extremely hard to explain to somebody what the land went through when the towers were constructed. 24 25 Yes, we knew there was going to be a lot

1 of crop destroyed. It would be nice if they could 2 do this in the winter, when things were frozen, but 3 they don't. But the thing that is, to me, hurtful, as 4 a landowner, is, how the soil is so -- with the big 5 cranes going over it -- it went diagonally across 6 one of our farms, and the compaction was tremendous. 7 Tile was destroyed. And you can't put the air back 8 9 into the ground, lift that compaction, no matter That's another environmental thing, I 10 what you do. think, that's not factored in at all, is how the 11 production of cropland can get destroyed. 12 13 Those are my comments. That's my Thank you for listening. 14 feelings. 15 MR. SAM LOBBY: Would any of you like to respond to that at all? 16 17 MR. JEFFREY REINKEMEYER: There was a 18 question -- she had a question; right? I am Jeff Reinkemeyer. I gave you my 19 20 card. Do you want me to spell it? 21 COURT REPORTER: No. 22 MR. JEFFREY REINKEMEYER: I appreciate 23 your question on the power purchase agreement. Yeah, when -- when this project was originally first 24 25 operational in 2010, it was a different commercial

1 environment. Yeah, there was more -- there was more 2 of a -- I guess, more of a -- I don't want to call 3 it -- not so much scrutiny on want -- wanting to 4 have or needing to have power purchase agreements as part of these projects, because -- because the 5 market was a little different. 6 Since that time, the -- the industry has 7 matured a lot and -- and, you know, we have come to 8 9 the conclusion that -- that a vital part of the 10 project is to have a secured -- secured off-take. So that would be -- that is our effort on this 11 12 project, to be honest, to -- would be to secure 13 that. 14 MR. SAM LOBBY: All right. Thank you 15 very much for that. Next up, it -- it wasn't indicated if you 16 17 wanted to speak or not, but Cindy and Joe? 18 that's okay. No? All right. 19 So we've got -- forgive me if I'm 20 mispronouncing -- Lowell. All right. Thank you 21 very much. If you could, state and spell your name, 22 please. 23 MR. LOWELL GORDEN: Okay. I signed that if we were going to talk, but --24 25 MR. SAM LOBBY: Oh. You -- yes.

1 MR. LOWELL GORDEN: I just have a couple 2 comments on --3 COURT REPORTER: Please give your name 4 and spell it. 5 MR. LOWELL GORDEN: Lowell Gorden, G-o-r-d-e-n. Lowell. And I'm -- I have a tower on 6 7 my place. So this whole thing started, confusingly, 8 9 for me back in March, when a young man came to me and had a legal document and said, "Sign this for a 10 new project. Free money. Just sign it. " So I 11 believe some of my other neighbors got asked the 12 same thing. And it's a little confusing when --13 when that happens like that. 14 15 So he came back again. He said, "Did you sign it?" I said, "No." I said, "Good grief." No 16 17 explanation; no anything. So then in October, they 18 must have figured that things weren't going real smooth, we better have a meeting. 19 20 So I struggle with a company that does 21 something like that. I mean, "5,000 bucks. Just 22 quick sign this." Then I think Cindy and Joe was up 23 to 15,000 to sign it. I don't know. But, to me, are they going to make more 24 25 The bigger blades, are they going to be noise?

1	noisier? Do you know that, yes or no?
2	MR. LUKE SCHWITZER: That'd be this is
3	all part of ongoing studies.
4	MR. LOWELL GORDEN: Okay. But nobody
5	nobody finds that out until after it's done, maybe.
6	What are they going to do to the roads?
7	And it's it's a lot of stuff that the person that
8	has the tower in their place goes through to make
9	everybody else happy.
10	MR. JEFFREY REINKEMEYER: Okay. There
11	were two two questions there.
12	Again, Jeff Jeff Reinkemeyer.
13	Correct me if I again, there were two questions;
14	one was about the noise, and the second was about
15	the roads.
16	Okay. Now, on on sound, you know, the
17	project has been simulated with the you know,
18	with the new models, and if we with the turbine
19	that we currently looked at, if we if that
20	changes, we would look at the new model with the new
21	turbine. And and our projects are are going
22	to conform with with PUC sound standards, so
23	so that's that's one of our actually, that's
24	one of our most heavily studied, you know, items
25	when we look at at designing and laying out a

1 project, is conformance with the sound standard. 2 On the -- on the roads, as Luke had 3 alluded to, you know, as part of -- part of the project and just -- this is temporary, you know. 4 When you have larger -- larger components coming in, 5 you have to widen out your entrances to allow for 6 those turns in. You know, we will be adding rock, 7 you know, to further stabilize the access roads. 8 9 However, at the conclusion of the project, those widened -- those widened entrances will be removed 10 and -- and the actual dimensions of that access road 11 will remain, you know, what -- what it was. 12 13 MR. LOWELL GORDEN: I was basically --MR. SAM LOBBY: If you could -- if you 14 15 come up, sorry, just so the court reporter can hear 16 you. 17 MR. LOWELL GORDEN: I'll just stand up. 18 My -- my concern is from last time. you've got that huge frame of all that weight going 19 20 across the roads -- not about the approaches. 21 they do to the roads. Because I know -- I mean, you're going to go up and down the roads to deliver 22 23 that crane; right? It's not about the approaches. 24 25 about driving that crane from one spot to the next,

1 going across one field to the next, busting tile. 2 And that crane is huge. 3 How many ton is it, do you know? MR. JEFFREY REINKEMEYER: 4 Their weight --5 I'll give you that; that, yes, they are -- they are heavy. 6 The -- and yes, as you know, it's part of 7 our -- part of our responsibility in our lease to 8 9 repair tile, you know, that -- that's damaged. know, we -- we do locate the locations of those 10 repairs, and -- and we keep that -- we keep a log of 11 that, you know, for future. And we do -- we do --12 as part of our restoration, you know, we are also 13 obligated to restore the site, you know, to -- to, 14 basically, till it back up. 15 MR. LOWELL GORDEN: Till it? 16 17 MR. JEFFREY REINKEMEYER: Yes. 18 MR. SAM LOBBY: All right. Thank you. 19 MR. RICH DAVIS: I just want to mention 20 some stuff with the -- the amended draft site permit 21 There's -- there's does get at those items. 22 conditions in there regarding the noise. They have 23 to do beforehand modeling to figure out what noise level they plan for it to be at, at the residences, 24 25 but they also have to check it afterwards. So they

do have to do some monitoring.

And as far as the roads go, they do have to have road agreements with the county. That's a required condition. And there's also conditions in there that they have to fix any broken tile or any drainage that's not functioning correctly, so it could be culverts as well.

And we handle -- I should mention that.

Our -- our staff handles compliance with the permits as well. So it might not always be clear, but if there's ever issues with that and you're not getting a response from the company -- I'm not saying that that's going to happen or does happen with this project. But if you're not getting a response from them, you can always contact our staff as well directly, and we can -- we can help track down the concern or what's happening out there.

MR. SAM LOBBY: One thing, too, to address the -- the previous comment about the power purchase agreement -- I should have mentioned this before -- that's the -- once the project is built, who is actually buying it.

There is a permit condition now -- when this was originally permitted in 2010, a lot has changed since then. There are permit conditions now

1	that require that they have to have an off-taker in
2	order for the project to actually commence, so so
3	just to answer your question on that.
4	The next person. Don, if you would like
5	to speak. If not, that's just fine. I'm sorry, I
6	just wasn't sure.
7	All right. Now Mike? Would Mike like to
8	speak? All right. And that's our last one on the
9	list, and then we can take
10	And just a quick explanation, too.
11	Apologies for the back-and-forth stuff. It's
12	just if we can try to keep people up here just
13	for the court reporter. It's kind of awkward, but
14	it makes it easier for on her.
15	So if you could, please state and spell
16	your name.
17	MR. DON ZEBEDEE: Well, I guess, I I
18	probably didn't really intend to speak.
19	MR. SAM LOBBY: Could could you please
20	state and spell your name.
21	MR. DON ZEBEDEE: I've got a problem with
22	the 15-year
23	COURT REPORTER: Sir. Sir, could you
24	please state your name and spell it.
25	MR. DON ZEBEDEE: I'm Don Zebedee.

Yeah, and I've got a problem with the 15-year extension. What -- why are they -- they just going to nonchalantly take that, or are they going to give us something for it?

And, also, a contract. We were originally expecting to get more money as the years went by. And what happened is, we were lucky to stay even. I mean, I -- I realize that you got us signed up for another 25 years. You can do whatever you want about that. We haven't got anything to say, really. But the next 15, I -- I think I ought to get paid. I mean, we -- we operated the last 15 just on hearsay, and I think we should have a contract for the next -- you know, if the thing goes through.

I guess that's probably all -- actually,

I don't live right by it, so I -- I sympathize with

those -- I guess they got a problem like that,

but... But...

And -- and I really think that my

farms -- or where they drove with the thing, they've

kind of healed up. It looked kind of tough there

for a while, and I -- I think they healed up. I

guess I -- I don't have near as big a problem with

that as I do with the fact that -- that we might go

on forever.

And we don't know the business. They can tell us whatever they want to about the business, you know, based on the earnings they were going to pay. And, well, based on the earnings they paid us the last -- you know, whatever they damn please.

And I think that -- that if you're going to give them a permit to redo it, that we need a contract, too. And I -- I don't know how to draw it up, but I think they're smart enough, they know how.

I think that's all I got to say.

MR. RICH DAVIS: Well, I can respond to that a little bit.

The Commission does not write up individual contracts. We don't -- the commissioners themselves and our staff, we don't -- that's a private business agreement. We handle the permitting or the siting of the project and potential impacts and how to mitigate those things, and compliance with that permit.

The contract is something that has to be handled with the developer, because that's -- that -- my best advice to you is -- if you have concerns about it, is to have an attorney look at it, because we can't give legal advice on behalf of

1	the State, or anything like that.
2	MR. SAM LOBBY: Did you want to respond?
3	MR. JEFFREY REINKEMEYER: Yeah, I'll
4	respond just in the sense of you know, following
5	on Rich's statement, let's let's catch up, maybe,
6	after this meeting to at least meet in private.
7	Lease agreements yeah, I just want to respect
8	that private side of it.
9	But I will say, we fully intend on on
10	extending our leases for this project really, for
11	all the projects. Avangrid is not in the business
12	of decommissioning turbines. We want to keep these
13	plants going; we want to keep these agreements
14	going. So I'll just I'll leave it at that, and
15	catch up with you on the side.
16	MR. SAM LOBBY: The last one on the list
17	here I have is Mike. Would Mike like to speak? No?
18	All right. With that, is there anybody
19	else that would like to? Just raise your hand.
20	I believe the gentleman in the hat, go
21	ahead. And then you can go next, after him.
22	And if you could, please speak loudly,
23	state and spell your name. Thank you, sir.
24	MR. SHANE MEYER: My name is Shane Meyer,
25	S-h-a-n-e M-e-y-e-r. A lot of you probably don't

know me. We recently -- my wife, Alesha, and I moved here in November, November 1st. We came from a place that was very controversial with wind towers. We kind of sat in the middle of two different wind farms, and we watched neighbors hate neighbors.

And we moved up here, knowing what we were getting into, somewhat. We knew the wind towers were there. We had never lived that close to them. We have, I believe, four towers where we live that are a half a mile, give or take, from our house. I am disappointed in the company, because we have been there since November 1st -- I was told this happened in June -- and we have not been contacted at all.

We kind of believe -- my wife and I believe that if something is there that you move into, you have no right to complain about it. And we chose that. There's no reason for us to complain about what's existing. We chose to move there. But now you want to change it, and so you're changing it after I've moved there. Now I feel like I have a right to say something.

They're noisy. And I don't want to step on anybody's feet, as far as landowners that are

getting money that don't live out there; but if you live there, you know they're noisy. We have flickers at our house. We have -- when they turn is probably the worst. I thought I'd get used to it; you don't. It's -- I don't know that it affects my quality of life, other than being annoying.

We moved up here with the intentions of buying my wife her dream place back home. And it is to us, but we also have to deal with the wind towers. And so we are not in favor of this.

My neighbors, Jake and Rita, couldn't be here tonight; they are not in favor, either. They told me I could say that. They live just to the north and west of me about a half a mile.

The other thing I don't like is, it seems a little open-ended on this, to where the other people that have talked about, "We don't even know what we're going to get paid." I haven't heard --

Down there, there was a big discussion with the taller ones and the bigger ones -- where we came from in Nebraska -- and they never got through because there wasn't a lot of data on what they produced for noise and sound. And I have not heard them speak about that yet tonight. Do they know how much worse or better it's going to be?

I don't know. I'm not here to complain 1 2 about what's existing, but we are not in favor of 3 changes. Thanks. Thank you very much. 4 MR. SAM LOBBY: 5 Yes, sir. Would you like to speak? Ιf you could, please state and spell your name for the 6 7 record. 8 MR. EARL CORDES: My name is Earl Cordes, C-o-r-d-e-s. I'm a resident of Elm Creek Township. 9 My wife and I have farmed out there for 10 the last 20 years. We're landowners. We have one 11 12 turbine on our property, four in our section which is -- the section is family-owned. 13 We went into this, eyes wide open. 14 15 sure almost everybody that signed up, signed up for the money when they signed up for the wind turbines, 16 17 not that they wanted a monument on their place 18 without getting reimbursement for it. And the money 19 has -- was good. It's not as good now. And I 20 sympathize with Lowell and Deb. Everybody's -- as 21 being a farmer, you dealt with the compression 22 issues on your land when it was first built, the 23 mud, all those types of things. I anticipate it will be better this time 24 25 because the roads are -- or the ingress roads are

already there. We'll still have a crane pad to put it on, but it -- but again, people get reimbursed for crop loss and they also get paid a -- a rent every year, so it's not like they're losing all sorts of money.

I am also the chairman of Elm Creek

Township, and I was on the board when they -- it was constructed. There was a lot of questions back then. There were other issues. Bottom line, our township roads were better after they were done than before they started, because the roads that weren't upgraded -- or suitable for the amount of weight that were put across them were upgraded with rock and gravel at that time. And when it was finished and -- they were actually better.

I do have some of the same questions -again, this is a financial thing. For the township,
we get about 15 percent of our budget from wind
turbine money that's paid through the -- Martin
County. Billeye can probably tell what the county
gets for it. But again, if they would shut down, we
would lose 15 percent of our -- our income to the
township, and we'd have to either raise taxes or
reduce services. But, like, we don't have a -can't do a deficit.

The noise has gotten worse. You can look at the turbines and see that the current ones leak oil like a sieve. And on certain occasions, with the humidity and wind right, they are -- can be very noisy. But that's what we signed up for. We've lived there for 15 years; you can tune them out. At least we can.

And again, I support the project because I have hopes that the -- the new turbines will be less noisy. I don't think they've invented one that's not noisy at all.

But again, the financial re- -- the money that we get -- I'm a little concerned that people are saying, "Well, the guy was out and said, 'Well, we want to give you 5,000 to extend your -- your thing.'" And again, we're part of the LLC and -- and get a check. We want the project to go through we signed, but we weren't told that you could ask for more to get an extension. And that seems -- I've heard people say, "Well, don't give us 5,000. We'll take 15,000." And those are people that don't have a -- a turbine on their property.

And we are -- my turbine -- our turbine is probably the closest turb- -- house to a turbine in -- in our section; we're about a quarter mile.

1	And again, people that are a half mile, a mile away,
2	say, "Jeez, we want more money than you're
3	offering."
4	So, anyway, the bottom line, as a as a
5	resident, a farmer, and a township official, I
6	I'm in support of the project.
7	MR. SAM LOBBY: Thanks for your comments.
8	MR. JEFFREY REINKEMEYER: And, yeah,
9	we and you let him speak before I had a chance.
10	I was going to we were going to respond to the
11	to the previous guest.
12	And so yeah, Shane, to answer the
13	address your comments on on sound, it would be a
14	couple of things. First, our sound study is
15	actually part of our application, and so it's
16	publicly available for review.
17	And and just to reiterate, as I had
18	said at the outset, you know, the the repower
19	project has been simulated and, as alluded to, will
20	conform to the PUC requirements to you know, but
21	the project has been designed, simulated to conform
22	to the PUC standards.
23	So I I would advise that more
24	information I'm not the guy who created the
25	study, I can't quote the numbers, you know, right

1 here, but I -- but what I would -- what I would 2 advise is to take a look at the application and take 3 a look at the sound analysis in that. MR. SAM LOBBY: Any other folks who would 4 like to speak? And if you don't -- if you're not a 5 public speaker, that's fine. Again, you do have 6 until August 20th to submit any written comments 7 that you have. And if you -- another thing. 8 9 with written comments, if you wanted to, you know, 10 provide a map, or something, to show where your house is and if there's a specific issue, that sort 11 12 of thing can be helpful. Any other speakers? If -- if not, that's 13 just fine. We can wrap up the meeting here. 14 15 just want to give folks a chance if you do want to speak. 16 17 I'll put it up one more time. 18 All right. I'm not seeing anyone. So, yeah, just a reminder that you can 19 submit the written comments in the notice. 20 21 the presentation on the table there, grab one of 22 those on your way out if you'd like, and the 23 information is all in there. I just want to thank you, once again, on 24 behalf of the Public Utilities Commission, for 25

taking the time to come here. We know, again, this 2 is time out of your day. And we've got a lot of important comments 3 that we had tonight, so we really appreciate hearing 4 from each one of you and what you -- what you had to 5 The commissioners will review this, and that 6 say. 7 will be taken into consideration for this permit 8 application. 9 So thank you very much. And if you want, I think we'll probably stick around for a couple of 10 11 minutes, if you have individual questions for us. 12 So thank you, everybody. 13 (Public comment concluded.) 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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