

September 4, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

**Re: In the Matter of the Odell Wind Farm, LLC's Route Permit Application for the Proposed 115 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Martin Counties
MPUC No. IP-6914/ TL-13-591 and OAH 48-2500-31501**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Enclosed please find Odell Wind Farm, LLC's Exceptions to the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation that were efiled today via eDockets.

A copy of this filing is also being served upon the persons on the Official and Special Service Lists. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeremy P. Duehr

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Enc.

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Beverly Jones Heydinger
David C. Boyd
Nancy Lange
Dan Lipschultz
Betsy Wergin

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of Odell Wind Farm, LLC's
Route Permit Application for the Proposed
115 kV Transmission Line and Associated
Facilities in Cottonwood, Jackson and Martin
Counties, Minnesota

**EXCEPTIONS TO THE ALJ'S FINDINGS
OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND
RECOMMENDATION**

**OAH 48-2500-31501
PUC No. IP-6914/WS-13-591**

I. INTRODUCTION

Odell Wind Farm, LLC ("Odell" or the "Applicant") agrees with, and recommends that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") adopt the Administrative Law Judge's ("ALJ") comprehensive Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation filed on August 25, 2014 in the above-referenced docket ("ALJ Report")¹, subject to the one exception discussed below related to the location options for the proposed Woad Hill Substation.

II. DISCUSSION

B. Proposed Location of Woad Hill Substation

The ALJ Report accurately states that the Woad Hill Substation was originally proposed for the southeast corner of the intersection of 230th Street and 30th Avenue in Section 16 of Cedar

¹ Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation, *In the Matter of Odell Wind Farm, LLC's Route Permit Application for the Proposed 115kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Martin Counties, Minnesota* Docket No. IP-6914/TL-13-591 (August 25, 2014).

Township. As described in the ALJ Report, the placement of the Woad Hill Substation in that location may not be practicable due to Xcel Energy's internal design spacing requirements for substations and switchyards. As a result, Odell investigated the option of locating the Woad Hill Substation in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of 230th Street and 30th Avenue. The ALJ Report and portions of the record incorrectly state that the northwest quadrant of the intersection of 230th Street and 30th Avenue is in Section 16 of Cedar Township rather than Section 8 of Cedar Township. Odell respectfully requests that the Commission correct Findings of Fact 3, 4 and 54 and Recommendations Sections 2(a) and 2(b) of the ALJ's Report to reflect that the northwest quadrant of the intersection of 230th Street and 30th Avenue is in Section 8 and that proposed Woad Hill Substation may be located in Section 8 or Section 16 depending upon discussions with Xcel Energy. As corrected, the relevant Findings of Fact and Recommendations read as follows:

3. The Proposed Route of the Project extends from the new Odell Wind Farm substation located in Section 32 of Mountain Lake Township in Cottonwood County and heads east along County Highway 17 to Jackson County Highway 85/600th Avenue. The Proposed Route then turns to run south for approximately one mile. The Proposed Route then turns to run east along Jackson County's 930th Street where, after approximately one mile, it crosses into Martin County and continues east along 240th Street for approximately two miles until the intersection of 240th Street and 30th Avenue. The Proposed Route turns south for the final time on 30th Avenue, ending approximately one and a half miles south at the proposed Woad Hill Substation at the intersection of 30th Avenue and 230th Street in Section 8 or Section 16 of Cedar Township in Martin County.³
4. The Woad Hill Substation was originally proposed for the southeast corner of the intersection of 230th Street and 30th Avenue in Section 16 of Cedar Township.⁴ In design discussions with Xcel Energy, which owns the transmission line to which the Woad Hill Substation will connect, it was determined that the placement of the Woad Hill Substation in the southeast corner of the intersection of 230th Street and 30th Avenue may not be practicable due to Xcel Energy's internal design spacing requirements for substations and switchyards.⁵ Ongoing discussions between Odell and Xcel Energy have resulted in the need for Odell to investigate the option of locating the Woad Hill Substation in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of 230th Street and 30th Avenue in ~~Section 16~~ Section 8.⁶

Odell submitted a request to the Commission to modify the route slightly to accommodate the option of locating the Woad Hill Substation there instead.⁷

54. Mr. Davis of EERA testified at the public hearing that the option presented by Odell to locate the Woad Hill Substation in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of 230th Street and 30th Avenue in ~~Section 16~~ Section 8 would address the DNR's request to keep the Woad Hill Substation as far from Cedar Creek as practicable.⁵⁷

2. The Commission should grant Odell Wind Farm, LLC, a route permit to construct approximately 9.5 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line between the proposed project substation for the Odell Wind Farm and the proposed Woad Hill Substation and to construct the Woad Hill Substation.
 - a. Approximately 9.5 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line between the proposed project substation for the Odell Wind Farm and the proposed Woad Hill Substation. The Project will extend from the new Odell Wind Farm Substation, located in Section 32 of Mountain Lake Township in Cottonwood County, to the new Woad Hill Substation, in Section 8 or Section 16 of Cedar Township in Martin County. The HVTL line originates at the Odell Wind Farm Substation and heads east along County Highway 17 to Jackson County Highway 85/600th Avenue. The Project then turns to run south for approximately one mile. The Project then turns to run east along Jackson County's 930th Street where, after approximately one mile, it crosses into Martin County and continues east along 240th Street for approximately two miles until the intersection of 240th Street and 30th Avenue. The Project turns South for the final time on 30th Avenue, ending approximately one and a half miles south at the proposed Woad Hill Substation at the intersection of 30th Avenue and 230th Street in Martin County. The route width for the transmission line is between 150 and 600 feet. For the majority of the Proposed Route, the route width is 150 feet extending from the road centerline. In Sections 1 and 12 of T104 R34 in Jackson County, the route width is 300 feet, 150 feet on each side of the road centerline. In Sections 6 and 7 of T104 R33 in Martin County, the route width is 600 feet; and,
 - b. The Woad Hill Substation, which will be a 345/115 kV substation on the Lakefield Generation-Fieldon segment of Xcel Energy's Lakefield Junction-Wilmarth 345 kV transmission line. The Woad Hill Substation will be located in Section 8 or Section 16 of Cedar Township in Martin County at the intersection of 230th Street and 30th Avenue with the final configuration determined during discussions and negotiations between the Applicant and Xcel Energy.

These corrections clarify the potential locations of the proposed Woad Hill Substation in Cedar Township, Martin County.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Commission adopt the ALJ Report in its entirety, with the exception of the corrections to Findings of Fact 3, 4, and 54 and Recommendation 2, discussed above. In addition, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Commission issue a route permit to Odell incorporating the clarifications provided above.

Dated: September 4, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeremy P. Duehr

Christina K. Brusven (#0388226)

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AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

*In the Matter of Odell Wind Farm LLC's Route
Permit Application for a 115 kV Transmission
Line and Associated Facilities in Cottonwood,
Jackson, and Martin Counties*

MPUC Docket No. IP6914/TL-13-591

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

Karen F. Brewer, of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, in the State of Minnesota, being duly sworn, says that on the 4th day of September, 2014, she e-filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission the following:

- 1. Exceptions to the ALJ's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation; and**
- 2. Affidavit of Service.**

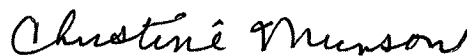
A copy has also been served in accordance with the attached service lists of record.



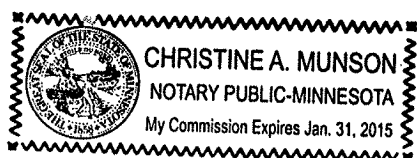
Karen F. Brewer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of September, 2014.

(SEAL)



Notary Public, Hennepin County, Minnesota
My Commission Expires _____



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