

From: [Juran, Rylan \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: FW: Public Inquiry re: Big Bend Wind Project
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:51:38 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Rich,

I believe this is the email chain you were looking for.

Rylan
Aviation Planning Director
MnDOT Office of Aeronautics

From: Juran, Rylan (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Davis, Richard (COMM) <richard.davis@state.mn.us>; Braunig, Richard (DOT) <rick.braunig@state.mn.us>
Cc: avid.haler@co.watonwan.mn.us
Subject: RE: Public Inquiry re: Big Bend Wind Project

Rich,

You may find more information regarding the MnDOT permitting process here:
<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/talltowers.html>

Please note Met Towers which support wind turbines also require notification to our office. This is a new requirement this year: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/meteorological-towers/index.html>

The Commissioner must be notified of existing towers by August 1st of 2021.

If after reviewing these materials you have additional questions I will be happy to answer them.
Thank you.

Rylan
Aviation Planning Director
MnDOT Office of Aeronautics

From: Davis, Richard (COMM) <richard.davis@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Braunig, Richard (DOT) <rick.braunig@state.mn.us>
Cc: Juran, Rylan (DOT) <rylan.juran@state.mn.us>; avid.haler@co.watonwan.mn.us
Subject: RE: Public Inquiry re: Big Bend Wind Project

Hi Rick,

Thank you for reaching out with this information.

I was aware of FAA certification/approval specifically for 500 feet plus structures, but I was not aware of the State permitting process for these structures. That type of information is very helpful for me as we work through the permitting process on wind facilities. I have a couple additional questions regarding the MnDOT Permit process.

1. Does the MnDOT Permit process for the 500 feet plus structures generally run before, after, or concurrently with the FAA review process?
2. Once the permit applicant received MnDOT approval is there a certain amount of distance the base of the turbine could shift and still be covered by the permit, or would the turbine location not be allowed to move without going through the permitting process for a new approval? For example, the Site Permit issued by the Public Utility Commission does allow for some minor adjustment of turbine locations in the field once construction begins, generally that shift would be 50 to 100 feet if a shift was necessary. A significant shift in turbine location would require that an amendment be applied for and approved by the Commissioners prior to construction.
3. How often do you receive permit applications for 500 feet plus structures?
4. Obviously every situation could vary, but what is the approximate timeline on completing the MnDOT Permit process?

Thanks again
Rich

Richard Davis

Environmental Review Manager

Energy Environmental Review and Analysis

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From: Braunig, Richard (DOT) <rick.braunig@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Davis, Richard (COMM) <richard.davis@state.mn.us>
Cc: Juran, Rylan (DOT) <rylan.juran@state.mn.us>; avid.haler@co.watonwan.mn.us
Subject: Public Inquiry re: Big Bend Wind Project

Hello Richard,

I was contacted by Mr. Elvin Theissen who lives at 62030 – 360th St, Butterfield, Minnesota in Watonwan County. Mr. Theissen received notice in the mail of the Big Bend Wind Turbine Project, Docket Number 19-619. Mr. Theissen has a runway on his property that runs north/south. In reviewing the documentation for the project his runway seems to be just south of Turbine T47. Construction of this turbine would make his runway unusable.

Mr. Theissen contacted me asking to register his runway, but the registration process takes several months and registration provides no protection for private airports. I am contacting you to make you aware of this runway so that you may consider the impact of the proposed windfarm on Mr. Theissen's use of his property. If you need further information about his runway please let me know.

In reviewing the documents I see that all of the wind turbines are proposed to be in excess of 500 feet above ground level (agl). I would also point out that objects constructed above 500 feet agl are considered to be obstructions to the safety of flight in Minnesota and a permit is required under Minnesota Statute 360.83 before they can be constructed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rick Braunig

Manager, Aviation Safety and Enforcement
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