

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben	Chair
Valerie Means	Commissioner
Matthew Schuerger	Commissioner
Joseph K. Sullivan	Commissioner
John A. Tuma	Commissioner

In the Matter of Xcel Energy’s Request to Transfer the Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) Site Permit for the 98.9 MW Mower County Wind Farm in Mower County, Minnesota.

ISSUE DATE: June 30, 2021

DOCKET NO. IP-6557/WS-06-91

ORDER GRANTING SITE PERMIT TRANSFER REQUEST

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 26, 2006, the Commission issued a route permit to High Prairie Wind I, LLC to construct and operate a large wind energy conversion system in Mower County.

On December 12, 2007, the Commission approved transfer of the site permit from High Prairie Wind I, LLC to FPL Energy Mower County, LLC.

On August 14, 2020, the Commission approved an amended site permit authorizing FPL Energy Mower County, LLC to repower all 43 project turbines to extend the life of the project while maintaining the nameplate capacity of 98.9 megawatts.

On April 16, 2021, Northern States Power Company Minnesota (NSPM or the Company, a public utility operating subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc.,) and FPL Energy Mower County, LLC filed notice that NSPM had purchased the facility and requested that the site permit be transferred to NSPM.

On May 5, 2021, the Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff at the Department of Commerce (the EERA) filed comments in support of the site permit transfer and recommended that the Company be required to file a revised decommissioning plan.

On May 12, 2021, the Company filed reply comments concurring with the EERA’s recommendation to file a revised decommissioning plan.

On June 10, 2021, the permit came before the Commission.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Minn. R. 7854.1400 governs the transfer of site permits and directs the Commission to approve the transfer if the Commission determines that the new permittee will comply with the conditions of the permit. Further, the rule requires the permittee to provide the name of the existing permittee, the name and description of the person to whom the permit is to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the requested date of the transfer.

The Commission concurs with the parties that the requirements for a site permit transfer have been met. The permittee included the required information in its filing, and the Commission is persuaded that based on the filing, the Company will comply with the conditions of the permit. For these reasons, the Commission will approve the site permit transfer request. Additionally, the Commission will require the Company to file a revised decommissioning plan for the project within three months, as recommended by the EERA and agreed to by the Company.

The Commission will so order.

ORDER

1. The Commission hereby grants the request to transfer the site permit for the Mower County Wind Facility Repower Project from FPL Energy Mower County Wind, LLC, to Northern States Power Company and authorize the reissuance of the site permit effective with the Commission's order deciding this matter for the purpose of modifying the permittee.
2. The Company must revise the decommissioning plan for the project and file the revised plan with the Commission within three months of the permit transfer.
3. This order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION



Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary



This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Chrishna Beard, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
ORDER GRANTING SITE PERMIT TRANSFER REQUEST

Docket Number **IP-6557/WS-06-91**
Dated this 30th day of June, 2021

/s/ Chrishna Beard

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Sarah	Beimers	sarah.beimers@state.mn.us	Department of Administration - State Historic Preservation Office	50 Sherburne Avenue Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Lawrence	Dernulc II	Lawrence.Dernulc@NextEraEnergy.com	FPL Energy Mower County, LLC	700 Universe Boulevard Juno Beach, FL 33408	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul, MN 551012198	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Andrew	Gibbons	andrew.gibbons@stinson.com	Stinson LLP	50 South Sixth St Ste 2600 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Matthew B	Harris	matt.b.harris@xcelenergy.com	XCEL ENERGY	401 Nicollet Mall FL 8 Minneapolis, MN 55401	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Brian	Meloy	brian.meloy@stinson.com	STINSON LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 2600 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Brian J	Murphy	Brian.J.Murphy@nee.com	Nextera Energy Resources, LLC	700 Universe Blvd LAW-JB Juno Beach, FL 33408	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalelectric.org	Legalelectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Will	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Lynnette	Sweet	Regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7 Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4040	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List