#### BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben Chair
Hwikwon Ham Commissioner
Audrey C. Partridge Commissioner
Joseph K. Sullivan Commissioner
John A. Tuma Commissioner

In the Matter of Wisconsin Power & Light Company's Site Permit Application for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of up to 153 MW in Freeborn County, Minnesota SERVICE DATE: May 27, 2025

DOCKET NO. IP-7145/WS-24-349

The above-entitled matter has been considered by the Commission and the following disposition made:

- 1. Accepted the application as complete.
- 2. Declined to appoint an advisory task force at this time.
- 3. Delegated authority to the Executive Secretary to issue an authorization to the applicant to initiate consultation with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office.
- 4. Requested that an Administrative Law Judge conduct the public hearing under the appropriate rules and statutes and provide a full report with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations regarding the project.
- 5. Waived or extended the required time periods for a preliminary determination on a draft site permit and the final site permit decision.
- 6. Required Wisconsin Power & Light to prepare an agriculture impact mitigation plan in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

This decision is issued by the Commission's consent calendar subcommittee, under a delegation of authority granted under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (a). Unless a party, a participant, or a Commissioner files an objection to this decision within ten days of receiving it, it will become the Order of the full Commission under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (b).

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Department of Commerce, which are attached and hereby incorporated into the Order.



BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Will Seuffert

**Executive Secretary** 

William Aufte



May 13, 2025

VIA EDOCKETS

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

**RE:** Completeness Comments and Recommendations

Bent Tree North Wind Farm Docket No. IP7145/WS-24-349

**Executive Secretary Seuffert:** 

Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff provides the attached comments and recommendations regarding the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) April 23, 2025, *Notice of Comment Period on Application Completeness* for the Bent Tree North Wind Farm (Project).

EERA believes the application addresses the required information in Minn. R. 7854.0500 and recommends the Commission accept the site permit application as complete. EERA requests that the Commission advise Wisconsin Power & Light Company (applicant) to continue to work with EERA staff to provide additional information as needed throughout the permitting process.

Additionally, EERA staff is not aware of any contested issues of fact regarding the application at this time. We do not recommend the appointment of an advisory task force, and we take no position on the Executive Secretary issuing authorization to the applicant to consult with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office.

Staff is available to answer any questions the Commission might have.

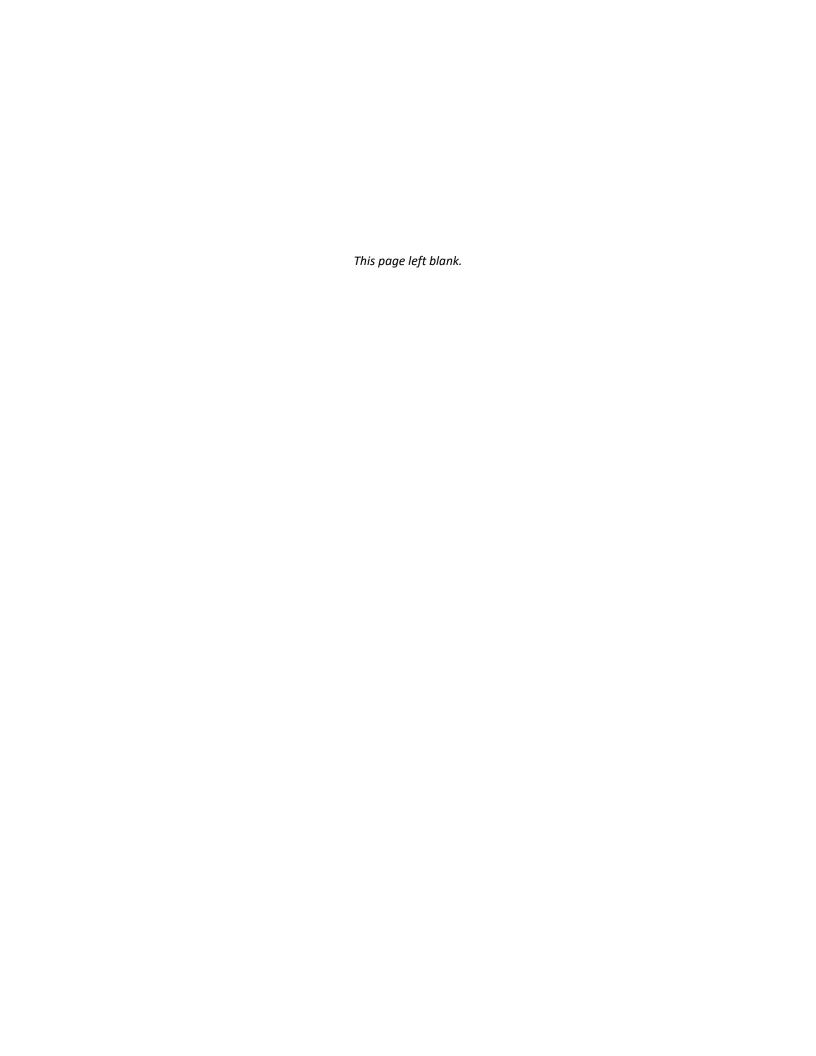
Sincerely,

**Richard Davis** 

**Environmental Review Manager** 

**Energy Environmental Review and Analysis** 

Enclosure



#### BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

# ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ANALYSIS COMPLETENESS COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Bent Tree North Wind Farm**

Docket No. IP7145/WS-24-349

Date: May 13, 2025 Staff: Richard Davis | richard.davis@state.mn.us | (651) 539-1846

In the Matter of Wisconsin Power & Light Company's Site Permit Application for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of up to 153 MW in Freeborn County, Minnesota.

**Issues Addressed**: These comments and recommendations respond to the Public Utilities Commission's April 23, 2025, *Notice of Comment Period on Application Completeness*.

Topics open for comment include:

- the completeness of the site permit application, as required under Minn. R. 7854.0500
- the presence of contested issues of fact
- the need for an advisory task force
- authorization to the applicant to initiate consultation with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- and other issues or concerns

**Tables**: Table 1 Application Completeness Checklist Table 2 Hypothetical Process Schedule

**Documents Attached:** Preliminary Site Layout – Vestas V136-112 (Application Map 3a)

Additional documents and information, can be found on eDockets, for the site permit by searching "24" for year and "349" for number: <a href="https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp">https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp</a> or the EERA webpage: <a href="https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/16323">https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/16323</a>.

To request this document in another format, such as large print or audio, call 651-539-1530. Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

## Introduction

On April 3, 2025, Wisconsin Power & Light Company (WPL or applicant) submitted a site permit application<sup>1</sup> for the 153 megawatt (MW) Bent Tree North Wind Farm, which will consist of 34 wind generators, to be constructed on 38 possible locations identified in the site permit application. As proposed all project facilities, infrastructure, and construction will occur within Freeborn County, Minnesota. Due to some of the possible turbine locations, and the site permit required wind access buffers, some lands within Waseca and Steele Counties have been included within the Project Area, but no construction is currently proposed to occur within Waseca or Steele Counties at this time.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued a notice soliciting comments on April 23, 2025. The notice requests comments concerning the completeness of the application, the presence of contested issues, the need for an advisory task force, authorization of the applicant to consult with SHPO, and other issues or concerns.

#### **Project Purpose**

The proposed Bent Tree North Wind Farm will generate up to 153 MW of electric energy; the Applicant states that the Project will generate power to meet the electrical needs of WPL's retail and wholesale customers in the State of Wisconsin.<sup>3</sup>

## **Project Description**

The Project will be located in Freeborn County, Minnesota, with a project area of 26,046 acres of land in total. Within the Project Area are lands within Waseca and Steele Counties that will not be constructed on, but are necessary to include as some of the proposed turbine locations will need the additional lands to satisfy the site permit requirement to provide the necessary wind access buffer. The project area includes lands within Freeborn Township, Hartland Township, and Bath Township in Freeborn County, Byron Township and New Richland Township in Waseca County, and Berlin Township in Steele County.

The Project will have a nameplate wind energy capacity of up to a 153 MW. The applicant continues to assess its turbine options and is currently evaluating two wind turbine models with rated nameplate capacities of 4.5 MWs. Both turbine models being considered are Vestas V136 models, with the only physical variations between the two models being the hub height (112 m and 120 m) and the total height with the blade (180 m and 188 m). The proposed project would result in the construction and operation of 34 wind turbines. The applicant has included 34 primary turbine locations, and 4 alternative turbine locations in their application.<sup>5</sup>

Wisconsin Power & Light. April 3, 2025. *Site Permit Application* -including text, maps, and appendices (Application), eDocket Nos. 20254-217223-05, 20254-217222-01, 20254-217222-02, 20254-217222-03, 20254-217222-04, 20254-217222-05, 20254-217222-06, 20254-217222-07, 20254-217222-08, 20254-217222-09, 20254-217222-10, 20254-217223-01, 20254-217223-02, 20254-217223-03, 20254-217223-04, 20254-217220-01, 20254-217220-02, 20254-217220-03, 20254-217220-04, 20254-217220-05, 20254-217221-01, 20254-217221-02 (Trade Secret), 20254-217221-03, 20254-217221-04, 20254-217221-05

Public Utilities Commission. April 23, 2025. Notice of Comment Period on Application Completeness, eDocket No. 20254-218036-01

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Application, Section 2.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Application, Section 4.1

<sup>5</sup> Application, Section 5.1

A number of facilities will be constructed to support the operation of the wind turbines and facilitate the delivery of the electricity to consumers. The applicant is seeking approval from the Commission through the LWECS site permit for the following associated facilities: new gravel access roads, improvements to existing roads, crane paths and pads, underground and/or aboveground electrical collection and communication lines, a Project substation, up to two permanent meteorological tower, a laydown area (approximately 15 acres), a Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems (ADLS) tower (including gravel pad and adjacent concrete slab for the generator), and a temporary concrete batch plant. <sup>6</sup>

An approximately six mile long, 161kV transmission line will be needed to connect the Bent Tree North project substation to its transmission grid point of interconnection (POI) at the existing ITC Midwest Freeborn Switching Station. ITC Midwest will apply separately for all necessary permits and approvals for the transmission line. ITC Midwest will also be constructing, owning, and operating the transmission line from the project substation to the POI.

At the time of the filing, WPL stated 74.2 percent of the land agreements have been acquired, or are pending, all secured agreements will allow access for construction and operation of the Project. Easement negotiations are ongoing. WPL is using wind easements that consist of a 7 year period for development, a 25 year initial operation term, and two 10 year extension options.<sup>7</sup>

## **Project Timing and Cost**

WPL anticipates commencement of construction to begin in the third quarter of 2027, and an anticipated commercial operation date (COD) in the fourth quarter of 2028.8 Total project costs are anticipated to be \$453 million, and additional costs to interconnect to the transmission system will necessary, but the MISO studies to determine these costs are still ongoing.9

## **Regulatory Process and Procedures**

The Project requires review and approval through issuance of a LWECS site permit as outline in the Minnesota Wind Siting Act found at Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F. The rules to implement the permitting requirements for LWECS are in Minnesota Rule 7854.

#### **LWECS Site Permit**

A site permit from the Commission is required to construct an LWECS, which is any combination of wind turbines and associated facilities with the capacity to generate five megawatts or more of electricity.

#### **Application Acceptance**

Pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7854.0600, the Commission may elect to accept, conditionally accept, or reject the application. If the Commission conditionally accepts or rejects an application, the Commission must advise the Applicant of the deficiencies in the application and the manner in which the deficiencies can be addressed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Application, Section 6.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Application, Section 7.0

<sup>8</sup> Application, Section 10.8.5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Application, Section 10.7.

## Preliminary Determination and Draft Site Permit

Minnesota Rule 7854.0800 states, "Within 45 days after acceptance of the application by the Commission, the Commission shall make a preliminary determination whether a permit may be issued or should be denied. If the preliminary determination is to issue a permit, the Commission shall prepare a *draft site permit* for the project. The draft site permit must identify the permittee, the proposed LWECS, and proposed permit conditions."

Issuing a draft site permit does not confer an authority to construct an LWECS. The Commission may change, amend or modify the draft site permit in any respect before final issuance, or may deny the site permit at a later date.

The PUC shall afford the public a minimum of 30 days after publication of the draft site permit notice in the EQB Monitor to submit written comments to the PUC. The Commission may extend the public comment period if necessary to afford the public adequate time to review the application and other pertinent information in order to formulate complete comments on the draft site permit and the project. <sup>10</sup>

## **Public Information Meeting**

Minnesota Rule 7854.0800, subpart 4 requires the Commission to hold at least one public information meeting in a location convenient to the vicinity of the proposed LWECS during the public comment period on the draft site permit. The public information meeting must be held more than ten days prior to the end of the public comment period on the draft site permit. The Commission shall extend the comment period if necessary to meet this requirement.

#### Contested Case Hearing

Minnesota Rule 7854.0800, subpart 5, provides the opportunity for any person to request a contested case hearing on an LWECS site permit application.

#### Final Site Permit Decision

Upon completion of the procedures and requirements of Minnesota Rule 7854, the matter must be brought to the Commission for a final decision. The Commission shall take final action on the application for a site permit for an LWECS within 180 days after acceptance of an application by the Commission, unless the applicant agrees to an extension or the Commission extends this deadline for cause. <sup>11</sup>

The Commission may include in a site permit, conditions for turbine type and designs, site layout and construction, and operation and maintenance of the LWECS, including the requirement to restore, to the extent possible, the area affected by construction of the LWECS to the natural conditions that existed immediately before construction of the LWECS and other conditions that the Commission determines are reasonable. <sup>12</sup>

Minnesota Rule 7854.0900, Subpart 3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Minnesota Rule 7854.1000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Minnesota Rule 7854.1000

#### **Public Advisor**

Upon acceptance of a site permit application, the Commission must designate a public advisor. <sup>13</sup> The public advisor answers questions about the permitting process but cannot provide legal advice or act as an advocate for any person.

#### **Environmental Review**

The LWECS Site Permit Application serves as the environmental review document for the Project and must address Site Permit criteria, as required in Minn. Stat. 216F, portions of Minn. Stat. 216E, and Minn. R. Chapter 7854.

## Certificate of Need

The Project does not require a Certificate of Need (CN), as the facility is exempt from CN requirements, because the site permit application has been submitted by WPL, an independent power producer (IPP). 14 WPL has no retail or wholesale customers in Minnesota, and the power generated at the Bent Tree North facility will used for the electrical needs of WPL's retail and wholesale customers in Wisconsin. 15

## **Public Hearing**

The Commission may order that a public hearing be held to consider the LWECS site permit. The Commission may request that the ALJ provide solely a summary of public testimony. Alternately, the Commission may request that the ALJ provide a full report with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations regarding the project.

## Advisory Task Force

The Commission may appoint an advisory task force to aid the environmental review process. <sup>16</sup> An advisory task force must include representatives of local governmental units in the project area. <sup>17</sup> A task force would assist EERA staff with identifying additional impacts and mitigation measures to be evaluated during the site permitting process.

The Commission is not required to appoint an advisory task force for every project. If the Commission does not appoint a task force, citizens may request that one be appointed. <sup>18</sup> If such a request is made, the Commission must make this determination at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The decision whether to appoint an advisory task force does not need to be made at the time of application acceptance.

### Staff Comments and Recommendations

EERA staff provides the following analysis and comments in response to the Commission's notice requesting comments on completeness and other issues related to the site permit application and procedure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Minnesota Rule 7854.0700

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Minn. Stat. 216B.243, subd. 8(7)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Application, Section 2.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Minn. Stat. 216E.08.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> *Ibid*.

## **Application Completeness**

EERA staff has conferred with WPL and agency partners about the Project and reviewed drafts of the LWECS site permit application. EERA staff believes that its comments on the draft applications have been substantially addressed in the site permit application submitted to the Commission.

EERA staff has reviewed the LWECS site permit application pursuant the requirements of Minnesota Rule 7854 (Wind Siting Rules) and believes that the application provides the information required by Minnesota Rule 7854.0500 in a format that members of the public can access (**Table 1**). Accordingly, staff recommends the Commission accept the application as complete.

## Contested Issue of Fact

Staff is not aware of any contested issues of fact in the submitted LWECS site permit application. The permitting process will include a public information meeting, a public hearing, and associated comment periods, which will allow members of the public, agencies, and tribes to provide additional information about the project area should it be appropriate.

#### Advisory Task Force

EERA staff has analyzed the merits of establishing an advisory task force for the project. Staff concludes that a task force is not warranted for the project at this time.

In analyzing the need for an advisory task force for the project, EERA staff considered four characteristics: project size, project complexity, known or anticipated controversy, and sensitive resources.

**Project Size** The Project consists of 34 turbines, generating up to 153 MWs, as well as associated facilities. Wind energy facilities of this size, and turbines of comparable to the size of those proposed for the Project have previously been permitted by the Commission. These size factors do not weigh in favor of a task force.

**Project Complexity** The proposed project equipment and facilities are comparable to projects that have previously been issued LWECS site permits by the Commission. Over 93 percent of the land within the project area is used for agriculture, and there are very limited rare or unique resources within the project area. Complexity factors do not weigh in favor of a task force.

**Known or Anticipated Controversy** To date, no comments have been received from persons with concerns about the project. Staff notes that some controversy was experienced during the permitting process of the Freeborn Wind Farm located approximately 20 miles southeast of the Project, and some controversy was experienced during the operations of the adjacently located Bent Tree Wind Farm. Although the controversy with the other two projects has been resolved some controversy with the Project is expected. On whole, controversy factors weigh slightly in favor of a task force.

**Sensitive Resources** There are rare and unique natural resources in the project area. There are statelisted rare species documented within the project area, and the potential for additional state listed and federally listed rare species to occur. There are habitats with biological significance in the project area. The Applicant has committed to not impacting any habitats with biological significance during

construction or operation of the Project. The Applicant has identified several measures to be implemented that will minimize impacts to rare wildlife species that may occur within the project area during construction and operation. WPL has committed to work with resource agencies to minimize impacts to sensitive natural resources. The rare and unique resources that occur, or are likely to occur, in the project area are similar to the rare and unique resources likely to be encountered at almost all wind energy facilities in the State of Minnesota. On whole, potential impacts to sensitive natural resources do not weigh in favor of a task force.

Based on the above factors, EERA staff believes that an advisory task force is not warranted for the project at this time.

#### Other Issues or Concerns

EERA staff recommends the Commission waive the required issuance of a preliminary determination of a draft site permit within 45 days of application acceptance. The required final site permit decision to be made by the Commission within 180 days of application acceptance may need to be extended, depending on the final project scheduling.

Additionally, if the Commission decides to have the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) hold public hearings on the Project, EERA recommends the Commission request that the ALJ provide a full report with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations regarding the project.

## **Summary of Recommendations**

### **EERA** recommends:

- The Commission accept the application as complete.
- The Commission take no action on an advisory task force.
- The Commission waive or extend the required time periods for a preliminary determination on a draft site permit and the final site permit decision.
- The Commission request that the ALJ provide a full report with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations regarding the project.

EERA takes no position on the initiation of consultation with the Minnesota State Preservation of Historic Office.

**Table 1 - LWECS Site Permit Application Completeness** 

Table 1 Completeness Checklist						
Authority	Required Information	Location				
	Minn. R. Ch. 7854					
Minn. R. 7854.0500	SITE PERMIT APPLICATION CONTENTS					
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 1	<b>Applicant</b> . An applicant for a site permit must provide the following background information regarding the applicant:					
Α.	A letter of transmittal signed by an authorized representative or agent of the applicant;	See Application Filing Cover Letter, Section 1.1				
В.	The complete name, address, and telephone number of the applicant and any authorized representative;	Sections 1.2 and 1.3				
C.	The signature of the preparer of the application if prepared by an agent or consultant of the applicant;	Section 1.3				
D.	The role of the permit applicant in the construction and operation of the LWECS;					
E.	The identity of any other LWECS located in Minnesota in which the applicant, or a principal of the applicant, has an ownership or other financial interest;	Section 1.5				
F.	The operator of the LWECS if different from the applicant; and	Filing Cover Letter, Section 1.1 Sections 1.2 and 1.3 Section 1.3 Section 1.4 Section 1.5 Section 1.7 Section 2.0				
G.	The name of the person or persons to be the permittees if a site permit is issued.	Section 1.7				
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 2	Certificate of need or other commitment.					
<b>A</b> .	The applicant shall state in the application whether a certificate of need for the system is required from the commission and, if so, the anticipated schedule for obtaining the certificate of need. The commission shall not issue a site permit for an LWECS for which a certificate of need is required until the applicant obtains the certificate, although the commission may process the application while the certificate of need request is pending before the commission.					
В.	The commission may determine if a certificate of need is required for a particular LWECS for which the commission has received a site permit application.	s N/A				
C.	If a certificate of need is not required from the commission, the applicant shall include with the application a discussion of what the applicant intends to do with the power that is generated. If the applicant has a power purchase agreement or some other enforceable mechanism for sale of the power to be generated by the LWECS, the applicant shall, upon the request of the	N/A				

Table 1						
Completeness Checklist						
Authority	Required Information	Location				
	commission, provide the commission with a copy of the document.					
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 3	<b>State policy</b> . The applicant shall describe in the application how the proposed LWECS project furthers state policy to site such projects in an orderly manner compatible with environmental preservation, sustainable development, and the efficient use of resources.	Section 3.0				
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 4	Proposed site. The applicant shall include the following information about the site proposed for the LWECS and any associated facilities:					
Α.	The boundaries of the site proposed for the LWECS, which must be delineated on a United States Geological Survey Map or other map as appropriate;	Section 4.1 and Map 1				
В.	The following characteristics of the wind at the proposed site:  (1) interannual variation; (2) seasonal variation; (3) diurnal conditions; (4) atmospheric stability, to the extent available; (5) turbulence, to the extent available; (6) extreme conditions; (7) speed frequency distribution; (8) variation with height; (9) spatial variations; and (10) wind rose, in eight or more directions;	Section 9.1				
C.	Other meteorological conditions at the proposed site, including the temperature, rainfall, snowfall, and extreme weather conditions; and	Section 9.1.11				
D.	The location of other wind turbines in the general area of the proposed LWECS.					
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 5	<b>Wind rights</b> . The applicant shall include in the application information describing the applicant's wind rights within the boundaries of the proposed site.	Section 7.0				
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 6	<b>Design of project</b> . The applicant shall provide the following information regarding the design of the proposed project:					
Α.	A project layout, including a map showing a proposed array spacing of the turbines;					
В.	A description of the turbines and towers and other equipment to be used in the project, including the name of the manufacturers of the equipment;	Maps 3a and 3b Section 5.2				
C.	A description of the LWECS electrical system, including transformers at both low voltage and medium voltage;	Section 5.3				
D.	A description and location of associated facilities.	Section 6.0				
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 7						

Table 1 Completeness Checklist					
Authority	Required Information	Location			
	potential impacts of the project, proposed mitigative measures, and any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided, in the following areas:				
<b>A</b> .	Demographics, including people, homes, and businesses;	Section 8.1			
В.	Noise;	Section 8.4			
C.	Visual impacts;	Sections 8.4.3 and 8.5			
D.	Public services and infrastructure;	Section 8.6			
E.	Cultural and archaeological impacts;	Section 8.8			
F.	Recreational resources;	Section 8.8			
G.	Public health and safety, including air traffic, electromagnetic fields, and security and traffic;	Section 8.9			
H.	Hazardous materials;	Section 8.10			
I.	Land-based economics, including agriculture, forestry, and mining;	Section 8.11			
J.	Tourism and community benefits;	Sections 8.12 and 8.13			
K.	Topography;	Section 8.11 Sections 8.12 and 8.13 Section 8.14 Section 8.15 Section 8.16 Section 8.17 Section 8.18			
L.	Soils;	Section 8.15			
M.	Geologic and groundwater resources;	Section 8.16			
N.	Surface water and floodplain resources;	Section 8.17			
0.	Wetlands;	Section 8.18			
P.	Vegetation;	Section 8.19			
Q.	Wildlife; and	Section 8.20			
R.	Rare and unique natural resources.	Section 8.21			
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 8	Construction of project. The applicant shall describe the manner in which the project, including associated facilities, will be constructed.	Sections 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, and 10.5			
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 9	Operation of project. The applicant shall describe how the project will be operated and maintained after construction, including a maintenance schedule.	Section 10.6			
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 10	<b>Costs</b> . The applicant shall describe the estimated costs of design and construction of the project and the expected operating costs.	Section 10.7			
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 11	Schedule. The applicant shall include an anticipated schedule for completion of the project, including the time periods for land acquisition, obtaining a site permit, obtaining financing, procuring equipment, and completing construction. The applicant shall identify the expected date of commercial operation.	Section 10.8			
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 12	<b>Energy projections</b> . The applicant shall identify the energy expected to be generated by the project.	Section 10.9			

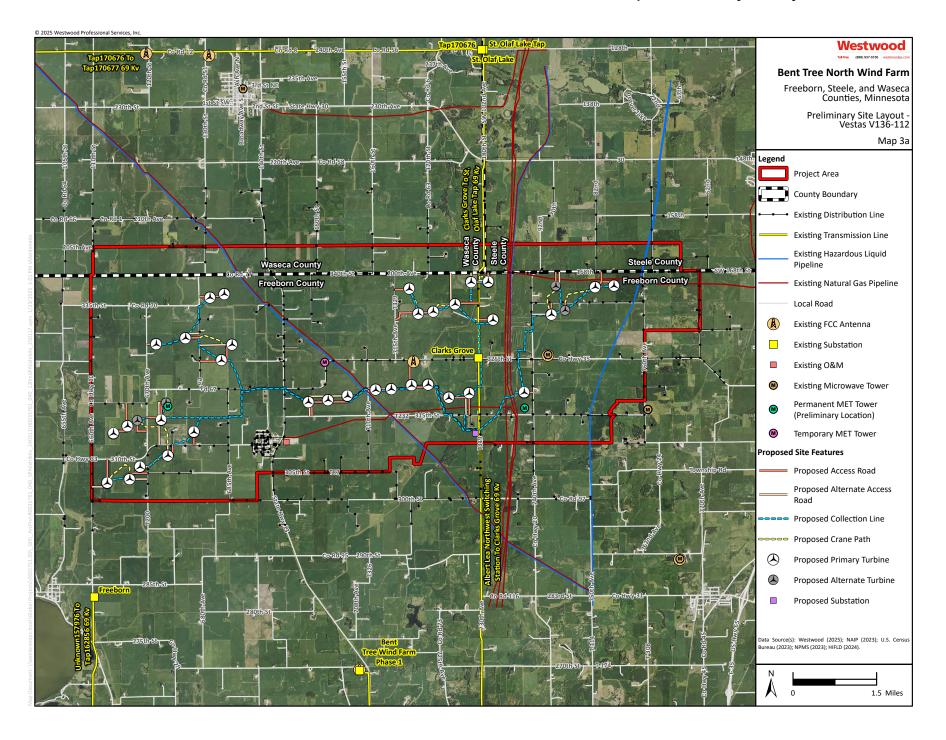
Table 1 Completeness Checklist					
Authority	Required Information	Location			
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 13	<b>Decommissioning and restoration</b> . The applicant shall include the following information regarding decommissioning of the project and restoring the site:				
A.	. The anticipated life of the project;				
B.	The estimated decommissioning costs in dollars;				
C.	The method and schedule for updating the costs of decommissioning and restoration;	Section 11.2			
D.	The method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration; and	Section 11.3			
E.	The anticipated manner in which the project will be decommissioned and the site restored.	Section 11.4			
Minn. R. 7854.0500, subp. 14	Identification of other permits. The applicant shall include in the application a list of all known federal, state, and local agencies or authorities, and titles of the permits they issue that are required for the proposed LWECS.	Section 12.0			

**Table 2 Hypothetical Process Schedule** 

Season* Day**		Process Step	Responsible Party		
	Pre-application Acceptance				
	_	Application Filed	Applicant		
		Application Completeness Comments	EERA/Agencies/Public		
Spring 2025		Reply Comments	Applicant		
		Supplemental Comments	EERA/Agencies/Public		
		Consideration of Application Acceptance	PUC		
	Acceptance to Permit Decision				
Spring 2025	0	Completeness Decision	PUC		
	5	Meeting Notice/Comment Period Opens	PUC		
	25	Public Information Meetings	EERA/PUC		
Summer 2025	40	Draft Site Permit Comment Period Closes	EERA		
	55	Preliminary Draft Site Permit Issued	EERA		
	85	Draft Site Permit Decision	PUC		
	95	Notice of Draft Site Permit and Public Hearings/Comment Period Opens	PUC		
	115	Public Hearings	OAH		
Fall 2025	135	Comment Period Closes	OAH		
	140	Hearing Transcript and Comments Posted	OAH		
	160	Proposed Findings of Fact (FOF)	Applicant		
	175	Reply Comments / Technical Analysis	EERA		
AAP - L -	205	FOF, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation	OAH		
Winter 2025/2026	220	Exceptions to ALJ Report	Applicant/EERA		
2023/2020	250	Consideration of Final Site Permit	PUC		

<sup>\*</sup> Seasons: Spring (March to May); Summer (June to August); Fall (September to November); Winter (December to February) and assumes a May or June 2025, Completeness Decision.

<sup>\*\*</sup> All timeframes are hypothetical and will change. Meetings and hearings could occur over multiple days.



## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Hannah Olson, 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

Docket Number IP-7145/WS-24-349 Dated this 27th day of May, 2025

/s/ Hannah Olson

#	First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Agency	Address	Delivery Method	Alternate Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
1	Lisa	Barton	lbarton@alliantenergy.com	Alliant Energy		200 First Street SE Cedar Rapids IA, 52401 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 24- 349
2	Generic	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Department of Commerce	Street Suite 1400	Electronic Service		Yes	Official 24- 349
3	Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us		Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280 Saint Paul MN, 55101-2198 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 24- 349
4	Zach	Ramirez	zachramirez@alliantenergy.com	Wisconsin Power and Light Company		4902 North Biltmore Ln Ste 1000 Madison WI, 53718-2148 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 24- 349
5	Generic Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us		Office of the Attorney General - Residential Utilities Division	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul MN, 55101-2131 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	Official 24- 349
6	Stephan	Roos	stephan.roos@state.mn.us		Minnesota Department of Agriculture	625 Robert St N Saint Paul MN, 55155-2538 United States	Electronic Service		No	Official 24- 349
7	Will	Seuffert	will.seuffert@state.mn.us		Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350 Saint Paul MN, 55101 United States	Electronic Service		Yes	Official 24- 349