## In The Matter Of:

Amendment to Repower the 200 MW Pleasant Valley Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Dodge and Mower Co's.

## Virtual Public Information Meeting - 09-1197 August 17, 2022 09-1197 - Virtual Public Information Meeting - 8-17-22

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**Min-U-Script® with Word Index** 

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1	AUGUST 17, 2022 - PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING - 09-1197	1	MR. SCOTT EK: So welcome. This is the
2	BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION		public information meeting for the Pleasant Valley
3	AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE		Wind repowering project, PUC Docket
4			E-002/WS-09-1197. It's August 17th, and my name is
5			<b>.</b>
6	In the Matter of the Application for a Site Permit		Scott Ek. I am an analyst with the Public Utilities
7	Amendment to Repower the 200 MW Pleasant Valley Large		Commission, and we're here tonight to provide
8	Wind Energy Conversion System in Dodge and Mower		information and accept questions and comments about
			the Pleasant Valley Wind project.
9	Counties, Minnesota	9	So tonight's agenda, I will describe the
10			application review process. Rich Davis is also
11	PUC DOCKET NO. E-002/WS-09-1197		available online when we get to the question and
12			comment period, who can answer with the Department
13		13	of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and
14		14	Analysis. And they assist the Commission as
15		15	technical advisors and prepare environmental
16		16	documents as well, and he can answer any questions
17		17	for their department. After I do a quick little
18	Met via Webex, pursuant to Notice, at		review, Matt Langan with Xcel Energy will describe
19	6:00 p.m. in the evening on August 17, 2022.		the project, and then we'll get to questions and
20			comments.
21		21	So the Pleasant Valley Wind facility is
22		22	in operation. It received a permit back in October
23			of 2010. The permit was amended a few times to
24			change ownership and changes to the proposed
24 25			facility at the time. So the facility's been in
25	COURT REPORTER: Bridget E. Kelly		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
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Wi	nd Energy Conversion System in DVdgtuah@WilitwEnfOrts	atio	n Meeting - 8-17-22 August 17, 2022
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 12	Page 5 it's technically considered a permit amendment. So when the Commission considers any wind farm, even a new one, as well as permit amendments like this, the Commission ensures that any of the changes are compatible with environmental preservation, sustainable development, and the efficient use of resources, following that rule of law. Rules provide that the Commission may amend a site permit at any time if it has good cause to do. That's one of the rules we're following, and statute says the Commission may place conditions in a permit, modify in this case modify, suspend, or revoke a permit. In this case we're talking about modifying a permit. So the review timeline is a little	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	company we have service territory in eight states in the U.S. We serve 3.6 million electricity customers and 2 million natural gas customers. We are a recognized leader in wind energy, energy efficiency carbon emissions reductions, innovative technology, and storm restoration. Next slide, please.
-	different than a new facility. As you can see, the		Wind Farm played a really important role in that
	application, as I said, was filed in April. We had		vision.
	an in-person public information meeting last night	18	1
	in Austin, Minnesota. Fairly well attended with about 19 folks, good questions yesterday. And	19 20	So in 2020 Xcel Energy applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for approval
	tonight we're having the remote-access public		of repowering four of our wind farms in the upper
	information meeting. The close of the comment		midwest, three of which are in Minnesota, and one of
	period, which I'll get to later in the slides the		them is one of which is Pleasant Valley. And
	written comment period is August 31st because this amendment the review schedule is a little		that plan was approved by the Commission in December of 2020, but there's still more approvals to go,
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Amendment to Repower the 200 MW Pleasant Valley La0ge1197	Virtual Public Information	Meeting - 09-1197
Wind Energy Conversion System in DVdgwahl Wiliw Information Meeting -	8-17-22	August 17, 2022

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3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	And then another component that we intend to install during the repower and thereafter is something called an aircraft detection lighting system. You might hear this referred to as ADLS. This is an FAA-approved lighting system for wind farms. Out in southwestern Minnesota and North Dakota, this is being used. And what it is, is instead of the static red aircraft safety lights that go on the top of the nacelle of each turbine and that red light is always on during nighttime hours, when we install this system, we're able to turn those lights off except when an aircraft is detected as approaching. And then the red lights turn on, and FAA can safely navigate the area. So we've found that communities have really favored this type of system, having the lights only used during aircraft when aircraft are detected and then off when they are not. So that's part of this proposal that's being reviewed at the state. Thank you, Scott. Next slide, please. So to describe the construction process that we're proposing, the timeline is that we would you would start to see construction activities in	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	workspace would be our construction equipment. It would be the blades and hub and components that are removed from the top of the tower, and it would be the stocked you know, the stored new components that would be placed on the top of the tower as part of the repower project. So all that activity, we're saying we need a maximum of a 400-foot radius around each tower foundation. Next slide, please, Scott. So this is just a figure to illustrate what changes and what stays the same. The blades will be replaced. The nacelle in some cases will be replaced fully, and in some cases we will simply replace components inside the existing nacelle. And then the hub that connects the three blades together will be replaced as well. What will stay the same, and Scott alluded to this earlier what will stay the same is the foundation and the tower. Those will remain, same size and the same location for all 100 towers. Next slide, please. Hopefully the folks on the phone or on this webinar received notice of this meeting tonight	
24	the spring of 2025. There may be some minor site preparation work a little bit earlier than that, but	24	via direct mail, and if you did, that means you're on the project mailing list and you'll continue to	
	Page 10		Page 12	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	the majority of the the bulk of the construction process would begin in second quarter of 2025, with the intention of concluding by the end of that year. So approximately six to eight months of construction duration. In order to remove the existing components at the top of the tower and to replace those with the new components, the project will use cranes to disassemble and reassemble top-of-tower components. Importantly, we want to share with this group and the community that the cranes are the cranes we've selected for this project are rubber-tire cranes that will use public roads and existing access roads in order to access the construction site at each turbine. We are not proposing to cross to go across country with cranes as we move from turbine to turbine. So we are looking to reduce or eliminate impacts to agricultural fields, to drain tile systems, along with this proposal, and that's our approach to it. In terms of the temporary workspace around each turbine, we're evaluating a maximum of a	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	get updates as we move through the state's review process. There's all kinds of really good contact information there. Scott has his information there. Rich Davis from the Department of Commerce has his contact information, as well as mine. And I think the three of us would say that at any time you have a question, you know, after tonight's meeting, please feel you know, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're happy to answer questions or clarify things. But I wanted to provide some contact information here if you'd like to get in touch with the project directly. The first bullet is an e-mail address that a few of us have access to, and we'll make sure to turn around any responses there that come in. We also have a project direct phone number where you can call us or leave a voicemail. And then we do have a website set up to provide this you know, the information that we're sharing tonight, as well as additional information about the project in case you're interested in further reading, and that's at	
23 24	400-foot radius around the turbine foundation. So that area what would occur within that 400-foot radius or, you know, what would be in that temporary	23 24	xcelenergy.com/pleasantvalley. Scott, that's what I wanted to cover tonight. I'll turn it back to you. Thank you.	

Amendment to Repower the 200 MW Pleasant Valley Labge1197	<b>Virtual Public Information</b>	Meeting - 09-1197
Wind Energy Conversion System in DVdgwahl Wiliw Information Meeting -		August 17, 2022

	Vind Energy Conversion System in DVdguah R Wiliw Information Meeting - 8-17-22 August 17			
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1	MR. SCOTT EK: Thank you, Matt. So as I	1	that in the transcript. Speak clearly. And it	
	explained earlier in the presentation, after tonight		looks like we only have a handful of folks attending	
	and through August 31st, there is a written comment		tonight, so it doesn't look like we're gonna need to	
	period as well, where folks can provide their		abide to the five minutes. We only use that if we	
	written comments into the record. And the		have an awful lot of people that want to provide	
	information here is on the screen. You can do that		comments, so we want to make sure everybody has an	
	online. We have an online service if you navigate		opportunity to be heard.	
	to the website there, e-mail, as well as U.S. mail.	8	And so I think we can go ahead and get to	
	The comments you give verbally tonight there's a		the public comment period. Actually first, so the	
	court reporter online with us that will that is		screen the slide that you see up now gives all	
	transcribing what we talk about tonight, and any		that information about how to find information on	
	comments you provide, that will also be in the		the Commission's eDockets system, how to provide	
	record. And I will get to there's a copy of this		comments. The Department of Commerce has a website	
	presentation on our eDockets system, as well as the		that provides information as well. You can see that	
	notice with all this information as well, and that		down at the bottom, additional information. Our	
	will be the last slide of this presentation.		website is mn.gov/puc. You select eDockets. It	
	So if you do want to comment, of course		takes you to our eDockets system. You type in 09	
17	you're welcome to comment on anything you'd like		for the year. It says year and the docket number's	
	about the project or even ask questions in a comment		1197, and that will give you a list of all the	
	that you provide. But what's helpful for the		records or all the documents in this record, so.	
	Commission and staff is to find out, you know, what		And we have the contact information on the	
	you think are the potential human or environmental		right-hand side of the screen if you have any	
	impacts of this proposal. And you are the folks		trouble accessing the information or need help	
	that live around there and are landowners, and you		providing a comment.	
	know more than anyone. So if you have something	25	Other than that, I will open it up for	
2.5	know more than anyone. So if you have something	2.5	Other than that, I will open it up for	
	Page 14		Page 16	
-	you'd like to point out that the Commission should	-	comments. And it looks like our first person is	
	be aware of, by all means put that in a comment.		Valerie S., and I will unmute. Valerie, you're	
	The second question is: Should this site permit		unmuted.	
	amendment be approved? Simple. So those are the	4	MS. VALERIE SHEEDY: My name is Valerie	
	questions that kind of help guide the Commission			
	questions that kind of help guide the Commission through the process. But as I said any comment or	5	Sheedy, V-A-L-E-R-I-E, S-H-E-E-D-Y. I work for	
	through the process. But as I said any comment or	5 6	Sheedy, V-A-L-E-R-I-E, S-H-E-E-D-Y. I work for Mower County. And I wondered if Xcel Energy could	
7	through the process. But as I said any comment or question is always valued of course.	5 6 7	Sheedy, V-A-L-E-R-I-E, S-H-E-E-D-Y. I work for Mower County. And I wondered if Xcel Energy could speak to or elaborate on the staging of inbound and	
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Amendment to Repower the 200 MW Pleasant Valley Labge1197	<b>Virtual Public Information</b>	Meeting - 09-1197
Wind Energy Conversion System in DVdgtuah R Wiliw Information Meeting -	8-17-22	August 17, 2022

Wi	nd Energy Conversion System in DVdguah Billiw Informa	atio	n Meeting - 8-17-22 August 17, 2022
	Page 17		Page 19
1	need to get back to you on with a specific schedule,	1	that in place as well.
	as I don't know offhand. But certainly they will be	2	
	removed off-site and either disposed of recycled or		Valerie. And I will say that as part of the
	reused. Let me check. I do have members of the		requirements of the new site permit, we anticipate
	project team on, and I want to make sure that I'm		needing a road-use agreement with Mower County with,
	not missing anyone here who might have an answer for		you know, a degree of participation; however, it
	the timing of all the blades being removed, if we		gets worked out between the county and townships and
	have a time frame for that.		of a road-use agreement that's agreed to by all
9	Okay. Hearing none. Scott, if you will,		parties. So most definitely we will be in touch
10	this I think this needs to be something that Xcel		regarding that.
	will put in its comments to provide information for	11	
	Mower County as to our intended time frame for those		all I have.
	activities.	13	MR. SCOTT EK: Thank you, Valerie. Okay.
14	MR. SCOTT EK: And, Matt, yeah, I we	14	The next person I had there's two folks, Adam
15	have Valerie on the line, and I know she's with	15	Hutchens and then there's a call-in user. I don't
	Mower County, so offline I would expect you could	16	have the name. But we'll go to Adam Hutchens next.
	contact Valerie as well.		Adam, I have your mike open.
18	MR. MATT LANGAN: Yeah, okay. Will do.	18	
19	I think that's something that I'll check in with the		thank you. First off, good evening. Thank you for
20	project team, and we'll see if we could submit those	20	the opportunity to comment. My name is Adam
21	yet during our comment period, if that information	21	Hutchens, A-D-A-M, H-U-T-C-H-E-N-S. I'm currently a
	is available yet so that we can get Valerie her		marketing representative of LIUNA Minnesota North
23	answer. That's a good question.		Dakota. We're a construction union that represents
24	MR. SCOTT EK: And, Valerie, did you have		over 13,000 members in the State of Minnesota and
25	any additional questions or a follow-up?	25	North Dakota. In a previous role with LIUNA, I was
	Page 18		Page 20
			- 3
1	MS. VALERIE SHEEDY: You can contact me,	1	actually a trainer with our apprenticeship program.
	<b>MS. VALERIE SHEEDY:</b> You can contact me, sure, Matt, at Mower County. You'll be able to find	1 2	actually a trainer with our apprenticeship program.
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2 3 4 5	sure, Matt, at Mower County. You'll be able to find me there through the website. And just to note for you and your team, if you need staging areas, we do	2 3 4 5	actually a trainer with our apprenticeship program. In our apprenticeship program, our LIUNA members are enrolled in a three-year apprenticeship where they learn industry-leading skills both
2 3 4 5 6 7	sure, Matt, at Mower County. You'll be able to find me there through the website. And just to note for you and your team, if you need staging areas, we do have, you know, zoning and land-use restrictions in Mower County, so please do get ahold of our office and we can help you through those through those	2 3 4 5 6 7	actually a trainer with our apprenticeship program. In our apprenticeship program, our LIUNA members are enrolled in a three-year apprenticeship where they learn industry-leading skills both hands-on and in the classroom. These skills lead to good family-sustaining wages, wages earned while working on renewable energy projects such as the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	have worked in both wind and solar for quite a long time. And over this time they've earned good family-sustaining wages off renewable energy projects throughout the region. I'm here tonight with my colleague Adam Hutchens to express strong support for the Pleasant Valley Wind repower project. This project we know will create good opportunities for local workers and maximize benefit to the local economy. This project will have an especially positive impact on the regional economy because Xcel plans to work with labor unions to recruit and utilize skilled local workers to build it. We've seen, and myself in my personal experience, far too many renewable energy projects in the past rely heavily on traveling construction workers to build new wind and solar projects. And we know this is not gonna happen on this project, and that's a really good thing. Xcel's gonna build this project the right way by relying on skilled local workers. And I've done a lot of research around the impacts of local versus nonlocal hiring practices in the industry, and it's really clear that a commitment to local workers leads to a much greater investment in the regional economy. In fact	3 r 4 t 5 r 6 C 7 r 8 t 9 l 10 C 11 f 12 1 13 t 14 C 15 f 16 I 17 t 18 C 19 C 20 e 21 M 22 H 23 A 24 f	MR. SCOTT EK: Thank you, Mr. Franco. We appreciate it. We appreciate your comments. So right now there's no other folks that have indicated they want to speak. Again, just in case I will remind folks, those on the web, just online on a computer, either use the chat function or raise-your-hand function to let me know, or those that called in on a telephone, star 3. That will let me know you're interested. We'll wait a minute or two here. It looks like we still have a few folks on. Okay. This is the point I always want to make sure folks who want to speak get an opportunity to. Chat function or raise-your-hand function or star 3 on the phone. And as I say that, I just want to remind folks written comments will be taken until August 31st. They can be submitted online. You can submit them to the website, the online website that's presented on the screen; e-mail, consumer.puc@state.mn.us; U.S. mail at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. And again, we just want to know anything that you feel about the project of course, but what you feel would be are potential human or environmental
25	Page 22	25 \	Page 24
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	in past research I've found that local workers tend to spend three to four times more money locally, which generates higher earnings for area grocery stores, restaurants, car dealerships, and other businesses. There's a real ripple effect by that commitment to using utilizing the maximum level of local workers. It's also important to highlight, in this	2 a 3 r 4 5 r 6 i 7 s 8 I 9 c 10 F 11 c 12 c 13 y 14 i 15 16 v 17 i 18 y 19 c 20 F 21 t 22 v 23 r	impacts of the facility, and should the Commission approve a permit for these or approve the requested amendments, I should say. Again, if anybody has questions in the meantime or even after the comment period, my name is Scott Ek. My information is on the right-hand side of the screen. Rich Davis is with the Department of Commerce, who can also is very capable of answering questions when it comes to permit amendments and permits in general when it comes to wind facilities such as this. And of course Matt Langan with Xcel Energy, who can provide you much greater detail about the proposed project itself. And at the bottom there is also the website at the Department of Commerce that provides information. And as I said mn.gov/puc will bring you to our eDockets system, and the year for this one is 09. The docket number is 1197. There's prompts on the website that hopefully you'll be able to figure out, and you input those numbers, and it will provide you all the dockets that are in this record that you can download and review electronically. Other than that, it doesn't look like

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1	anybody's raised their hand or are interested in any	
2	more comments or questions, so I will say thank you	
3	for participating and we will end the public meeting	
	tonight. Thanks again for everybody who	
5	participated. I appreciate it.	
6	(Meeting concluded at 6:37 p.m.)	
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Α	5:8	3:11;6:22;17:22	carbon (2)	compatible (1)
A	amended (1)	aware (1)	7:5,10	5:5
abide (1)	3:23	14:2	carbon-free (2)	completely (1)
15:4	amendment (7)	awful (1)	7:8,14	16:12
ability (1)	5:1,25;6:6;8:1;14:4;	15:5	case (4)	component (1)
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access (3)	analyst (1)	basics (1)	certainly (1)	23:6
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4:22	6:3	8:2	3:24;5:5;11:11	conclusion (1)
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11:6	apprenticeship (3)	<b>blades (11)</b>	classroom (1)	22:15
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Adam (7)	10:20	17:7	21:23	considered (1)
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Amendment to Repower the 200 MW Pleasant Valley Large09-1197 Virtu Wind Energy Conversion System in Dodgeiatuda Muddic Coformation Meeting - 8-17-22

Virtual Public Information Meeting - 09-1197 17-22 August 17, 2022

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