

September 4, 2018

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Response to ALJ Report
260 MW Nobles 2 Wind Project
PUC Docket Nos. IP-6964/WS-17-597/CN-16-289
OAH Docket No. 71-2500-35110

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation (Report) issued by Administrative Law Judge Jessica Palmer-Denig (ALJ) for the Nobles 2 Wind Project. The Report provides a comprehensive analysis of the record; EERA has no exceptions to the Report.

EERA agrees with the ALJ that the Project is consistent with “the policy of the state to site LWECS in an orderly manner compatible with environmental preservation, sustainable development, and the efficient use of resources” (Minn. Statute 216F.03).

EERA further agrees that the Public Utilities Commission should grant a Site Permit to Nobles 2 to construct and operate the up to 260 MW Project in Nobles County, and that the Site Permit include the conditions found in the Draft Site Permit, and amended as set forth in paragraph 7 of the ALJ’s Conclusions of Law.

Sincerely,



David Birkholz, Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis
(651) 539-1838 | david.birkholz@state.mn.us

cc: John Wachtler, EERA Program Director
Michael Kaluzniak, Commission Senior Facilities Planner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Sharon Ferguson, hereby certify that I have this day, served copies of the following document on the attached list of persons by electronic filing, certified mail, e-mail, or by depositing a true and correct copy thereof properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Department of Commerce
Response to ALJ Report**

Docket No. IP6964/WS-17-597 and IP6964/CN-16-289

Dated this 4th day of **September 2018**

/s/Sharon Ferguson

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Christina	Brusven	cbrusven@fredlaw.com	Fredrikson Byron	200 S 6th St Ste 4000 Minneapolis, MN 554021425	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_16-289_CC Service List
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1800 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_16-289_CC Service List
Ian	Dobson	residential.utilities@ag.state.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012130	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_16-289_CC Service List
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Scott P	Seier	sseier@tenaska.com	Tenaska Wind Holdings II, LLC	14302 FNB Pkwy Omaha, NE 68154	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_16-289_CC Service List
Janet	Shaddix Elling	jshaddix@janetshaddix.com	Shaddix And Associates	7400 Lyndale Ave S Ste 190 Richfield, MN 55423	Paper Service	Yes	OFF_SL_16-289_CC Service List
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