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Amended
Site Permit

For

Large Wind Energy Conversion System

Permit No. NSP and Lake Benton Power Partners-LWECS-1-1997

107.25-Megawatt Wind Farm Project

In accordance with the requirement of Minn. Stat. 116C.694 this Site Permit is hereby issued to:

Northern States Power Company
and
Lake Benton Power Partners LLC

Northern States Power Company and Lake Benton Power Partners LLC are authorized to construct and operate a 107.25-megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System on the site identified in this Site Permit and in compliance with the conditions contained in the permit.

This permit shall expire on November 1, 2029.

Issued: October 31, 1995

Amended: June 19, 1997

Linda Kohl, Chair
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

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I. SITE PERMIT

This Site Permit for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System authorizes Northern States Power Company (hereinafter "NSP") and Lake Benton Power Partners LLC, a limited liability corporation (hereinafter "LBPP") to construct a 107.25-megawatt LWECS and associated facilities in an area in Lincoln County, northwest of the city of Lake Benton that encompasses approximately 11,200 acres. The preliminary site boundary is more specifically shown on the map that is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The site is of sufficient size to accommodate the NSP and LBPP (hereinafter "the permittees") 107.25-megawatt LWECS and associated facilities which have the capability to convert wind power into 107.25-megawatts of electrical power for delivery to NSP's electrical system.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 107.25-megawatt LWECS authorized to be constructed in this permit is referred to as NSP's Phase II Project. The project consists of 143 Zond wind turbines, identified as the Z 750 model with a 48-meter rotor diameter.

III. CONDITIONS

The following conditions shall apply to site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation, maintenance, abandonment, decommissioning and all other phases of the 107.25-megawatt LWECS. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) preserves all available remedies for violation of any of these permit conditions, including revocation or modification of the permit.

A. GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS

1. **SITE PLAN.** Prior to commencing construction, the permittees shall submit to the MEQB a site plan for all turbines, roads, electrical equipment, and associated facilities to be constructed and engineering drawings for site preparation, construction of the facilities, and restoration of the site due to construction. The permittees may submit a site plan and engineering drawings for only a portion of the LWECS if the permittees are prepared to commence construction on certain parts of the project before completing the site plan and engineering drawings for other parts of the LWECS.

2. **FIELD REPRESENTATIVE.** Prior to the start of construction and continuously throughout the construction and site restoration, the permittees shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit. This person (or a designee) shall be accessible by telephone during normal business hours. This person's address, phone number and emergency phone number shall be provided to the MEQB, who may make the number available to local residents and officials and other interested persons. The permittees may change the field representative by notification to the MEQB.

3. **PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING.** Prior to the start of any construction, the

permittees shall conduct a preconstruction meeting with the person designated by the MEQB to coordinate field monitoring of construction activities.

4. NOTICE OF PERMIT CONDITIONS. The permittees shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in the construction of the LWECS of the terms and conditions of this permit.

B. MITIGATION MEASURES

1. SITE CLEARANCE. The permittees shall disturb or clear the site only to the extent necessary to assure suitable access for construction, safe operation and maintenance of the LWECS.

2. TOPSOIL PROTECTION. The permittees shall implement measures to protect and segregate topsoil from subsoil in cultivated lands unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

3. COMPACTION. The permittees shall implement measures to minimize compaction of all lands during all phases of the project's life and shall confine compaction to as small an area as practicable.

4. LIVESTOCK PROTECTION. The permittees shall take precautions to protect livestock during all phases of the project's life.

5. FENCES. The permittees shall promptly replace or repair all fences and gates removed or damaged during all phases of the project's life unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

6. DRAINAGE TILE. The permittees shall promptly repair or replace all drainage tiles broken or damaged during all phases of the project's life unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

7. EQUIPMENT STORAGE. Temporary equipment staging areas for site construction and restoration shall not be on cultivated land unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. Temporary staging areas shall not be located in public waters wetlands or native prairie.

8. ROADS.

(a) Public Roads. Prior to commencement of construction, the permittees shall identify all state, county or township "haul roads" that will be used for the LWECS project and shall notify the MEQB and the state, county or township governing body having jurisdiction over the roads to determine if the haul roads identified are acceptable. The governmental body shall be given adequate time to inspect the haul

roads prior to use of these haul roads. Where practical, existing roadways shall be used for all activities associated with the LWECS. Where practical, all-weather roads shall be used to deliver cement, turbines, towers, assembled nacelles and all other heavy components to and from the turbine sites.

The permittees shall, prior to the use of approved haul roads, make satisfactory arrangements with the appropriate state, county or township governmental body having jurisdiction over approved haul roads for construction of the LWECS for the maintenance and repair of the haul roads that will be subject to extra wear and tear due to transportation of equipment and LWECS components. The permittees shall notify the MEQB of such arrangements upon request of the MEQB.

(b) Turbine Access Roads. Construction of turbine access roads shall be minimized. Access roads shall be low profile roads so that farming equipment can cross them and shall be covered with Class 5 gravel or similar material. When access roads are constructed across streams and drainageways, the access roads shall be designed in a manner so runoff from the upper portions of the watershed can readily flow to the lower portion of the watershed.

(c) Private Roads. The permittees shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when obtaining access to the site, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

(d) Control of Dust. The permittees shall utilize all reasonable measures and practices of construction to control dust.

9. SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN. The permittees shall develop a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan prior to construction and submit the plan to the MEQB. This plan may be the same plan submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as part of a stormwater runoff permit application. A goal of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan is to minimize soil erosion, to revegetate non-cropland and range areas disturbed by construction with wildlife conservation species, and wherever possible, to plant native tall grass prairie species of Minnesota origin in cooperation with landowners.

The Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan shall address the erosion control measures for each project phase, and shall at a minimum identify plans for grading, construction and drainage of roads and turbine pads; necessary soil information; detailed design features to maintain downstream water quality; a comprehensive revegetation plan to maintain and ensure adequate erosion control and slope stability and to restore the site after temporary project activities; and measures to minimize the area of surface disturbance. Other practices shall include containing excavated material, protecting exposed soil, stabilizing restored material and removal of silt fences or barriers when the area is stabilized. The plan shall identify methods for disposal or storage of excavated material.

Erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be installed prior to construction and maintained throughout the project's life.

10. CLEANUP. All waste and scrap that is the product of construction, operation, restoration and maintenance shall be removed from the site and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, bottles, and paper deposited by site personnel shall be removed on a daily basis.

11. TREE REMOVAL. The permittees shall minimize the removal of trees. The permittees shall not remove groves of trees or shelter belts without notification to the MEQB and the approval of the affected landowner.

12. DEER-WINTERING YARDS. The permittees shall avoid winter construction activities within deer-wintering yards identified by the DNR. The permittees will consult with the Department of Natural Resources in determining what construction activities will endanger the deer population.

13. RESTORATION. The permittees shall, to the extent possible, restore the area affected by any LWECS activities to the condition that existed immediately before construction began. Restoration shall be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the LWECS.

14. HAZARDOUS WASTE. The permittees shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of hazardous wastes generated during any phase of the project's life.

15. APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES. The permittees shall restrict herbicide use to those herbicides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. The permittees shall contact the landowner or the landowner's designee to obtain approval for the use of herbicide prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of herbicides on any part of the site within the landowners property. All herbicides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as to not damage crops, orchards, tree farms, or gardens. The permittees shall also, at least ten days prior to the application, notify beekeepers with an active apiary of the day the company intends to apply herbicide so that precautionary measures may be taken by the beekeeper.

16. PUBLIC SAFETY. The permittees shall provide educational materials to landowners within the site boundaries and, upon request, to interested persons, about the project and any restrictions or dangers associated with the LWECS project. The permittees shall also provide any necessary safety measures, such as, warning signs and gates for traffic control or to restrict public access.

17. **FIRE PROTECTION.** The permittees shall prepare a fire protection plan in consultation with the fire department having jurisdiction over the area prior to LWECS construction. The permittees shall submit a copy of the plan to the MEQB upon request.

18. **TOWER IDENTIFICATION.** All turbine towers shall be marked with a visible identification number.

C. **SETBACKS**

1. **WIND ACCESS BUFFER.** Wind turbines shall not be placed less than 5 rotor diameters from the perimeter of the site.

2. **RESIDENCES.** Wind turbines shall not be located closer than 500 feet from the nearest occupied dwelling.

3. **ROADS.** Wind turbine structures shall not be located closer than 250 feet from the nearest public road right-of-way.

4. **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS.** Wind turbines and associated facilities including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers, shall not be located in State Wildlife Management Areas or Scientific and Natural Areas or in county parks.

5. **WETLANDS.** Wind turbines and all associated facilities, including foundations, access roads, and transformers, shall not be placed in public waters wetlands, as defined in Minnesota Statute 103G.005 subp. 15a.

6. **NATIVE PRAIRIE.** The permittees, shall with the advice of DNR, and any others selected by the permittees, prepare a prairie protection and management plan and submit it to the MEQB Chair and DNR Commissioner within 60 days after issuance of this amended site permit. The plan shall address steps to be taken to identify native prairie within the project area, measures to avoid impacts to native prairie, and measures to mitigate for impacts if unavoidable. Wind turbines and all associated facilities, including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers, shall not be placed in native prairie unless addressed in the prairie protection and management plan. Unavoidable impacts to native prairie shall be mitigated by restoration or management of other native prairie areas that are in degraded condition, or by conveyance of conservation easements, or by other means agreed to by the permittees and the DNR.

7. **OTHER.** Wind turbines and all associated facilities, including foundations, access roads, underground cable, and transformers shall not be located within active sand and gravel operations, unless otherwise negotiated with the owner of the sand and gravel operation.

D. **PRECONSTRUCTION SURVEYS**

1. **WILDLIFE PROTECTION.** The permittees in consultation with DNR and other interested parties shall conduct a pre-construction inventory of existing wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, recreation areas, wetlands, native prairies and forests, and any other biologically sensitive area. The results of the survey shall be submitted to the MEQB prior to the commencement of construction.

2. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.** Prior to commencement of any construction, The permittees shall conduct an archaeological reconnaissance survey within the area that will be permanently or temporarily impacted during construction or operation of the LWECS. The survey results shall be provided to the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) to determine whether cultural resources are present. Any unrecorded cultural resources that are found shall be evaluated for integrity and potential listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Undocumented resources that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places shall be avoided. All archaeological investigations shall meet the Minnesota Historical Society Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historical Preservation.

Prior to construction, construction workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including grave sites, are found during construction. If any archaeological sites are found during construction, the permittees shall immediately stop work at the site and shall mark and preserve the site and notify the MEQB and the MHS about the discovery. The MEQB and the MHS shall be given three working days from the time the agency is notified to conduct an inspection of the site if either agency shall choose to do so. On the fourth day after notification, the permittees may begin work on the site unless the MHS has directed that work shall cease. In such event, work shall not continue until the MHS determines that construction can proceed.

3. **NOISE.** Prior to commencement of construction in the survey area, the permittees shall monitor the background noise levels at selected distances from the proposed locations of the turbines. The permittees shall collect such noise data at no less than five proposed turbine locations at distances of up to 1,500 feet from the turbine locations. The permittees shall identify the occupied residence within or closest to the borders of the site that is closest to a turbine and include that residence and turbine location in the noise survey.

E. SITE LAYOUT RESTRICTIONS

1. **WIND TURBINE TOWERS.** Structures for wind turbines shall be self supporting tubular towers. The towers shall not be more than 170 feet above grade.

2. **METEOROLOGICAL TOWERS.** Permanent towers up to 100 feet high for meteorological equipment shall be free standing. Temporary meteorological towers, which are those that will be removed after completion of construction, and all meteorological towers over 100 feet high may be guyed if the landowner has given written permission and the guys are properly marked.

3. **NOISE.** The wind turbine towers shall be placed such that the permittees shall comply with existing noise standards established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at all times at all appropriate locations. Turbines shall be moved or modified or removed from service if necessary to comply with this condition.

The permittees may install and operate turbines as close as the minimum setback required in this permit but in all cases shall comply with PCA standards.

4. **ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE.** The permittees shall not operate the LWECS so as to cause microwave, television, radio, or navigation interference contrary to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations or other law. In the event such interference is caused by the LWECS or its operation, the permittees shall take the measures necessary to correct the problem.

5. **FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.** Towers shall be marked as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). There shall be no lights on the towers other than what is required by the FAA. This restriction shall not apply to infrared heating devices used to protect the monitoring equipment.

6. **TURBINE SPACING.** The turbines shall be constructed within the site as shown on the map attached as Exhibit 1. The turbines shall be spaced no closer than 3.6 rotor diameters (RD) within a string and 10 RDs between strings. If required during final micro siting of the turbines to account for topographic conditions, up to 10 percent of the towers (14 towers) may be sited closer than the above spacing but the permittees shall minimize the need to site the turbines closer.

7. **FOOTPRINT MINIMIZATION.** The permittees shall design and construct the LWECS so as to minimize the amount of land that is impacted by the LWECS. Associated facilities in the vicinity of turbines such as electrical/electronic boxes, transformers and monitoring systems shall to the greatest extent feasible be mounted on the foundations used for turbine towers or inside the towers unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

8. **ELECTRICAL CABLES.** The permittees shall place electrical lines, known as collectors, and communication cables underground when located on private property. Collectors and cables shall also be placed within or immediately adjacent to the land necessary for turbine access roads unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner. This paragraph does not apply to feeder lines.

9. **FEEDER LINES.** The permittees shall place overhead 34.5 kV electric lines, known as feeders, on public rights-of-way if a public right-of-way exists. Changes in routes may be made as long as feeders remain on public rights-of-way and approval has been obtained from the governmental unit responsible for the affected right-of-way. If no public right-of-way exists, the permittees may place feeders on private property. When placing feeders on private property, the permittees shall place the feeder in accordance with the easement negotiated with the affected

landowner. Notwithstanding any of the requirements in paragraph D to conduct surveys before any construction can commence, the permittees may begin immediately upon issuance of this permit to construct the 34.5 kV feeder lines that will be required as part of this project. The permittees shall submit the site plan and engineering drawings required under paragraph A.1. for the feeder lines before commencing construction.

F. STUDIES

1. **WAKE LOSS STUDIES.** The permittees shall provide to the MEQB, with the site plan required by paragraph A.1., the preconstruction micro siting analysis leading to the final turbine locations and an estimate of total project wake losses. The permittees shall provide to the MEQB any operational wake loss studies conducted on this project.

2. **AVIAN IMPACTS.** The permittees shall comply with the avian monitoring studies requirements for the Buffalo Ridge Wind Resource Area. [On March 21, 1996, the MEQB approved an Avian Monitoring Plan for the Buffalo Ridge Wind Resource Area as well as a mechanism for equitably sharing the costs of implementing the study among the various developers of wind projects within the Buffalo Ridge Wind Resource Area.]

3. **NOISE.** Within 120 days after the last turbine is installed, the permittees shall submit a proposal to the MEQB Chair for the conduct of a noise study. The study shall be designed to determine the noise levels at various distances from the turbines at various wind directions and speeds. The study shall provide for the determination of noise levels in the same locations monitored as part of the pre-construction survey.

G. DECOMMISSIONING/RESTORATION/ABANDONMENT

1. **DECOMMISSIONING PLAN.** Within 120 days of completion of construction, the permittees shall submit to the MEQB a decommissioning plan describing the manner in which the permittees anticipate decommissioning the project in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 2 below. The plan shall include a description of the manner in which the permittees will ensure that it has the financial capability to carry out these restoration requirements when they go into effect. The permittees shall ensure that it carries out its obligation to provide for the resources necessary to fulfill these requirements. The MEQB may at any time request the permittees to file a report with the MEQB describing how the permittees are fulfilling this obligation.

2. **SITE RESTORATION.** Upon expiration of this permit, or upon earlier termination of operation of the LWECS, the permittees shall have the obligation to dismantle and remove from the site all towers, turbine generators, transformers, overhead and underground cables, foundations, buildings and ancillary equipment to a depth of four feet. To the extent possible the permittees shall restore and reclaim the site to its pre-project topography and topsoil quality. All access roads shall

be removed unless written approval is given by the affected landowner requesting that one or more roads, or portions thereof, be retained. Any agreement for removal to a lesser depth or for no removal shall be recorded with the county and shall show the locations of all such foundations. All such agreements between the permittees and the affected landowner shall be submitted to the MEQB prior to completion of restoration activities. The site shall be restored in accordance with the requirements of this condition within eighteen months after expiration.

3. ABANDONED TURBINES. The permittees shall advise the MEQB of any turbines that are abandoned prior to termination of operation of the LWECS. The MEQB may require the permittees to decommission any abandoned turbine.

H. REPORTING

1. PROJECT ENERGY PRODUCTION. The permittees shall, by July 15 of each year, report to the MEQB Chair on the monthly energy production of the project and the average monthly wind speed collected at one permanent meteorological tower selected by the MEQB chair during the preceding year or partial year of operation. The report shall include copies of any project production reports filed with MAPP, FERC, or the MPUC or any other public regulatory agency. The permittees shall describe the operational status and availability of the project and any major outages, major repairs, or turbine performance improvements in the previous year.

2. WIND RESOURCE USE. After commercial operation, the permittees shall provide the MEQB Chair convenient review of the following average hourly data for each hour of commercial operation:

(a) The power output and power curve of each turbine;

(b) The wind speed and direction measured at all monitored heights at any temporary and permanent meteorological towers, owned or operated by the permittees, in or within one mile of the project site boundary; and

(c) Temperature and any other meteorological parameters recorded at one permanent meteorological tower selected by the MEQB Chair.

As specified by the MEQB Chair, the data shall be provided in a printed format or electronic format suitable for computer analysis.

After two years of commercial operation the MEQB Chair may reduce or eliminate the requirements of this condition. The provisions of paragraph J.5. shall apply to the MEQB's review of this data.

3. EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS. Within 24 hours of any extraordinary event, The permittees shall notify the MEQB. Extraordinary events include: tower collapse, turbine failure, thrown blade or hub, feeder line failure, injured LWECS worker or private person, kills of threatened

or endangered species, or discovery of an unexpectedly large number of dead birds or bats of any variety on site. In the event of extraordinary avian mortality the DNR shall also be notified within 24 hours. The permittees shall, within 30 days of the occurrence, submit a report to the MEQB describing the cause of the occurrence and the steps taken to avoid future occurrences.

4. **COMPLAINTS.** Prior to the start of construction, The permittees shall submit to the MEQB the company's procedures to be used to receive and respond to complaints. The permittees shall report to the MEQB all complaints received concerning any part of the LWECS in accordance with the procedures provided in Exhibit 2 attached to this permit.

I. FINAL CONSTRUCTION.

1. **AS-BUILT PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.** Within 60 days after completion of construction, the permittees shall submit to the MEQB a copy of the as-built plans and specifications.

2. **FINAL BOUNDARIES.** After completion of construction, the MEQB shall determine the final boundaries of the site required for this project. This permit shall be modified, after notice and opportunity for public hearing, to determine the actual site required by the permittees to operate the project authorized by this permit. After final designation of the site, land included in this permit but removed from the final authorization will become available for other wind projects.

3. **EXPANSION OF SITE BOUNDARIES.** No expansion of the site boundaries described in this permit shall be authorized without the approval of the MEQB. The permittees may submit to the MEQB a request for a proposed change in the boundaries of the site for the LWECS. The MEQB will respond to the requested change in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

J. MISCELLANEOUS CONDITIONS.

1. **PERIODIC REVIEW.** The MEQB shall initiate a review of this permit and the applicable conditions at least once every five years. The purpose of the periodic review is to allow the MEQB, NSP, LBPP, and other interested persons an opportunity to consider modifications in the conditions of the permit. No modification may be made except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules.

2. **FAILURE TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION.** If the permittees have not completed the pre-construction surveys required in paragraph D. and commenced construction of the LWECS within two years of the issuance of this permit, the permittees must advise the MEQB of the reasons why construction has not commenced. In such event, the MEQB may determine whether this permit should be revoked. No revocation of this permit may be undertaken except in accordance with applicable statutes and rules, including Minnesota Statute § 116C.645.

3. MODIFICATION OF CONDITIONS. After notice and opportunity for hearing, this permit may be modified or amended for cause including but not limited to the following:

- (a) Violation of any condition in this permit;
- (b) Endangerment of human health or the environment by operation of the facility; or
- (c) Other grounds established by rule.

4. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT. The MEQB may take action to suspend or revoke this permit upon the grounds that:

- (a) A false statement was knowingly made in the application or in accompanying statements or studies required of the applicant, and a true statement would have warranted a change in the board's findings;
- (b) There has been a failure to comply with material conditions of this permit, or there has been a failure to maintain health and safety standards; or
- (c) There has been a material violation of a provision of an applicable statute or rule or an order of the MEQB.

In the event the MEQB shall determine that it is appropriate to consider revocation or suspension of this permit, the MEQB shall proceed in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statute § 116C.645 to determine the appropriate action. Upon a finding of any of the above, the MEQB may require the Permittees to undertake corrective measures in lieu of having the permit suspended or revoked.

5. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. Certain information required to be submitted to the MEQB under this permit, including energy production and waste loss data, may constitute trade secret information or other protected information under the Data Practices Act or other law and is not to be made available to persons outside the agency.

6. TRANSFER OF PERMIT. This permit may not be transferred by the permittees without the approval of the MEQB. If the permittees desires to transfer this permit, the holder shall advise the MEQB in writing of such desire. The permittees shall provide the MEQB with such information about the transfer as the MEQB requires to reach a decision. The MEQB may impose additional conditions on the new permittee as part of the approval of the transfer.

7. OTHER PERMITS. The permittees shall be responsible for acquiring any other federal, state, or local permits or authorizations that may be required to construct and operate a

LWECS within the authorized site. The permittees shall submit a copy of such permits and authorizations to the MEQB upon request.

8. SITE MANAGER. The permittees shall designate a site manager who shall be the contact person for the MEQB. The permittees shall provide the MEQB with the name, address and phone numbers of the project site manager prior to placing any turbine into operation. The permittees shall notify the MEQB as soon as changes in the contact information go into effect.

9. NOTICE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS. The permittees shall, within 10 working days of receipt of this permit, send a copy to the office of the auditor of each county in which the site is located and to the clerk of each city and township within the site boundaries. If applicable, the permittees shall also, within 10 working days of issuance, send a copy of this permit to each regional development commission, local fire district, soil and water conservation district, watershed district, and watershed management district office with jurisdiction in the county where the site is located. Within 30 days of issuance of this permit, the permittees shall send a copy to each landowner within the site.

10. RIGHT OF ENTRY. The permittees shall allow representatives of the MEQB to perform the following, upon presentation of credentials:

(a) To enter upon the facilities easement of the site property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations.

(b) To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.

(c) To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property; and

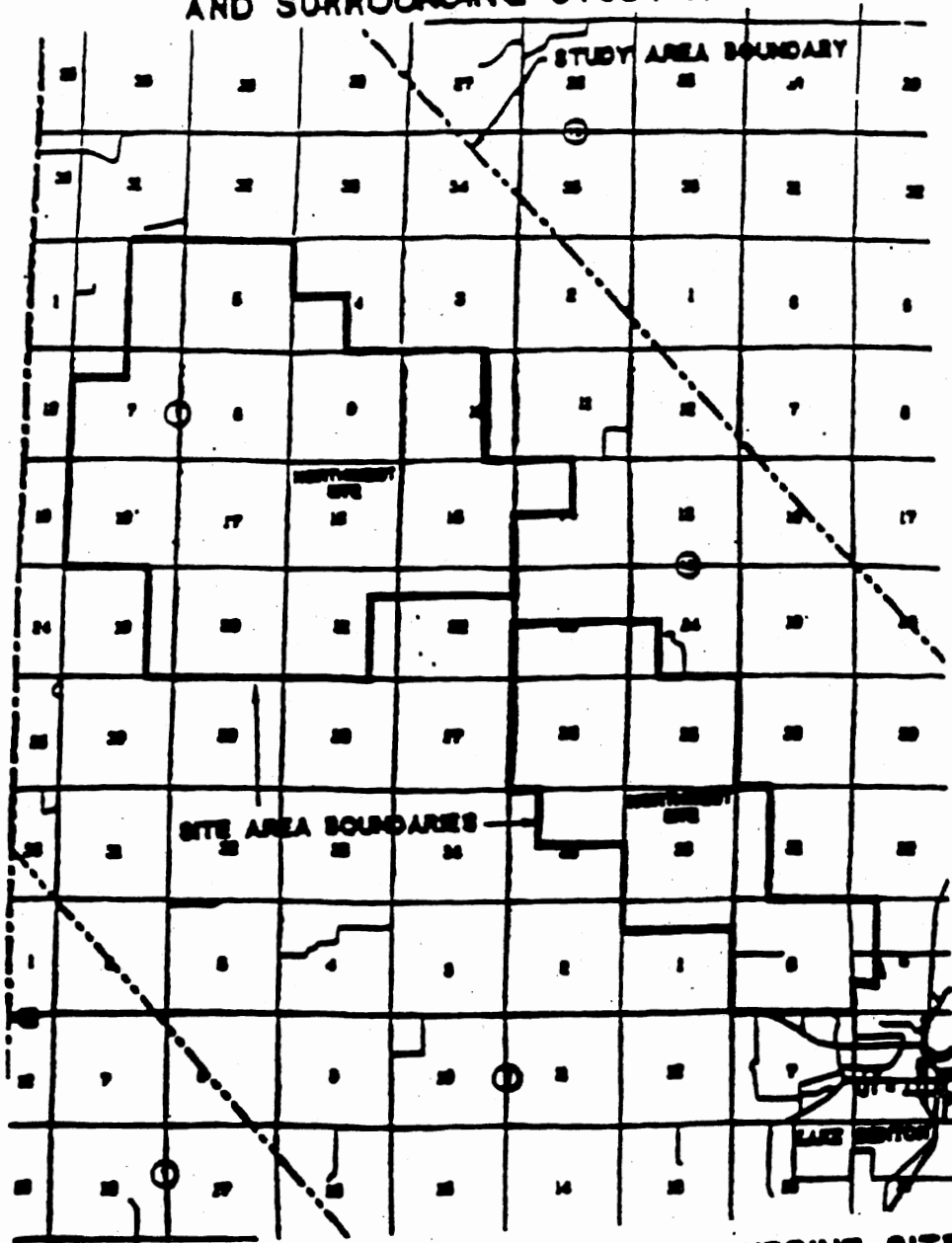
(d) To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this permit.

11. OTHER LAWS. The MEQB's issuance of this permit does not release the permittees from any obligation imposed by any federal or state or local law except the obligation to obtain this permit.

12. MORE STRINGENT RULES. The MEQB's issuance of this permit does not prevent the future adoption by the MEQB of rules or orders more stringent than those now in existence and does not prevent the enforcement of these more stringent rules and orders against the Permittee.

K. EXPIRATION DATE. This permit shall expire on November 1, 2029.

NORTHWEST SITE AND SURROUNDING STUDY AREA



NORTHWEST PHASE II 100 MW WIND TURBINE SITE

ALL DIMENSIONS IN FEET AND DECIMAL FEET

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
COMPLAINT REPORT PROCEDURES FOR
LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS

1. Purpose

To establish a uniform and timely method for reporting complaints received by the permittees concerning the permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup and restoration, and for resolution of such complaints.

2. Scope

This reporting plan encompasses complaint report procedures and frequency.

3. Applicability

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittees.

4. Definitions

Complaint - A statement presented by a person expressing dissatisfaction, resentment, or discontent as a direct result of the LWECS and associated facilities. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

Substantial Complaint - Any complaints submitted to the permittees in writing that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

Person - An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

5. Responsibilities

Everyone involved with any phase of the LWECS is responsible to ensure timely and fair resolution of all complaints. It is therefore necessary to establish a uniform method for documenting and handling complaints related to this LWECS project. The following procedures will satisfy this requirement:

- A. The permittees shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
1. Name of permittee and project.
 2. Name, address and telephone number of complainant.
 3. Precise property description or tract number (where applicable).
 4. Nature of complaint.
 5. Response given.
 6. Name of person receiving complaint and date of receipt.
 7. Name and telephone number of person reporting complaint to the MEQB.
 8. Final disposition and date.
- B. The permittees shall assign an individual to summarize complaints for reporting to the EQB.

6. Requirements

The permittees shall report all complaints to the EQB according to the following schedule:

Immediate Reports

All substantial complaints shall be reported to the EQB by telephone the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to Wind Permit Compliance at the following: (612)-296-2871 or (612)-296-5089 or (800)-657-3794. Voice messages are acceptable.

Monthly Reports

By the 15th of each month, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, and a copy of each complaint shall be sent to Wind Permit Compliance, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, 300 Centennial Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155.

7. Complaints Received by the EQB

Copies of complaints received directly by the EQB regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the permittees.