

From: [Valerie Sheedy](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#); [Davis, Richard \(COMM\)](#)
Cc: [Michal Hanson](#); [Angie Lipelt](#); [Polly Glynn](#); [Trish Harren](#)
Subject: Rose Creek Wind; PUC Docket Number: IP-7065/WS-21-643
Date: Monday, August 15, 2022 3:51:07 PM
Attachments: [Rose Wind Repower Comment.pdf](#)

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Please see attached comments from Mower County

Thank you,

Valerie Sheedy, P.G.

Assistant Public Works Director

Mower County, MN

1105 8th Ave NE | Austin, MN 55912

Direct: 507-434-2639



Public Works / Environmental Services
1105 8th Avenue NE,
Austin, Minnesota 55912
Phone: 507-437-7718 Fax: 507-437-7609

August 12, 2022

Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St Paul, MN 55101
consumer.puc@state.mn.us; richard.davis@state.mn.us

Re: Rose Creek Wind, LLC LWECS Site Permit; PUC Docket Number: IP-7065/WS-21-643

Dear Richard Davis,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this project prior to PUC issuance of a Permit.

8.6.3 Mitigation Measures, Roads and Railroads

Mower County has provided a Road Use Agreement template to Gokhan Andi of ConEdison. In utilizing the local road system, County Roads and Township Roads, Mower County will require a road use agreement with the applicant or their representative to ensure that the local road network is appropriately prepared for any increased use and restored to a condition at least as good as before the project was initiated.

Should the PUC issue a Site Permit for this project, early coordination with Mower County's Public Works staff is strongly encouraged. Any new access points from local roads are subject to approval from the road authority – Mower County or the representative Township. Any necessary driveway or access permits applied for as a part of the Rose Creek Wind Project will not be issued until the PUC has issued an approved, Site Permit for this project. All applicable permitting, traffic control and construction coordination efforts should be made through Mower County's Highway Department: Michal Hanson, Public Works Director, michal@co.mower.mn.us, 507-437-7718. Mower County should be given the opportunity to participate in pre-construction meetings as they apply to County or Township owned property.

5.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT LAYOUT

Rose Wind was originally permitted by Mower County under Mower County Zoning Ordinance effective 1/1/2003. Section 5.1 of the current application indicates, "Prior to constructing the Repower Project, Rose Wind will decommission the 11 Rose Wind turbines pursuant to the terms of relevant conditional use permits." Standards for decommissioning are set by Mower Zoning Ordinance, Section 14-18.6 (3):

Decommissioning. Provisions shall ensure that facilities are properly decommissioned upon end of project life or facility abandonment. Decommissioning shall include: removal of all structures and debris to a depth of 3 feet, restoration of the soil; and restoration of vegetation (consistent and compatible with surrounding

vegetation) shall also be required. The decommissioning plan shall include a \$3,000 non-refundable fee per turbine to be held in escrow by Mower County. This money would be held in escrow by the County and could only be withdrawn with accumulated interest upon a successful implementation of a decommissioning plan. Should the implementation of decommissioning plan fail to meet the goals and objectives of said plan, then the County can use all or a portion of the money in escrow to implement or finish said plan. If the cost of the decommissioning exceeds the escrow amount, the County has the right to collect or assess the cost to the property owner through property taxes or a special assessment.

We understand some temporary staging of decommissioned parts may be necessary during the removal of the existing towers, however, all materials shall be properly disposed of within 12 months of initiating the work. Pursuant to Mower County Zoning Ordinance, laydown yards and staging areas may require a Conditional Use Permit from Mower County.

Questions regarding decommissioning or land use permitting can be directed to Angela Lipelt, Environmental Services Supervisor, angiel@co.mower.mn.us, 507-437-7718

8.6 1 Potential Impacts – Communication Systems

There are microwave beam path (communication) corridors in the project area. The proposed towers must not interfere with either the registered beam path routes or the reserve beam path routes.

Questions regarding beam path routes and potential interference can be directed to Angela Lipelt, Environmental Services Supervisor, angiel@co.mower.mn.us, 507-437-7718

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. We look forward to working with ConEdison to complete a successful project.

Sincerely,

Valerie Sheedy

Valerie Sheedy, P.G.

Assistant Public Works Director

Email: valeries@co.mower.mn.us

Direct: 507-434-2639

CC: Mike Hanson, Public Works Director; Angie Lipelt, Environmental Services Supervisor; Polly Glynn, County Commissioner; Trish Harren, County Administrator