

April 16, 2021

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

—Via Electronic Filing—

RE: NOTIFICATION OF ACQUISITION AFFECTING OWNERSHIP OF THE LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM SITE PERMIT FOR THE 98.9 MW MOWER COUNTY WIND FACILITY REPOWER PROJECT IN MOWER COUNTY, MN

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF THE SITE PERMIT FOR THE LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM FOR THE 98.9 MW MOWER COUNTY WIND FACILITY REPOWER PROJECT IN DOCKET NO. IP-6557/WS-06-91

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Pursuant to Minn. Rule 7854.1400 and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's August 14, 2020 Order Approving Site Permit Amendment and Limited Modification to Wind Access Buffer for Certain Turbines in Docket No. IP-6557/WS-06-91 and November 5, 2020 Order Approving Acquisition of Mower County Wind Facility, Approving Variance, and Taking Other Action in Docket No. E002/PA-19-553, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM or the Company), submits this Notice of Acquisition of FPL Energy Mower County, LLC by NSPM. FPL Energy Mower County, LLC (Permitee) and NSPM jointly submit this Request to transfer the Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) Site Permit issued for the 98.9 megawatts (MW) Mower County Wind Facility Repower Project in Mower County, Minnesota.

The Company requests the following persons be placed on the Commission's official service list for this docket:

Matt Harris
Lead Assistant General Counsel
Xcel Energy Services Inc.
414 Nicollet Mall – 401 8th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55401
matt.b.harris@xcelenergy.com

Lynnette Sweet Regulatory Affairs 414 Nicollet Mall – 401 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Minneapolis, MN 55401 regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com

### **BACKGROUND**

On February 10, 2006, High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC filed a Site Permit application in Docket No. PT-6528/WS-06-91 with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 116C.694.

On May 26, 2006, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission entered an Order in Docket No. PT-6528/WS-06-91 issuing a Site Permit to High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC to construct and operate a 98.9 megawatts Large Wind Energy Conversion System (High Prairie Wind Farm) and associated facilities in Mower County, Minnesota.

On December 12, 2007, the Commission entered an Order in Docket No. PT-6528/WS-06-91 approving a transfer of the Mower County Wind Energy Center (formerly High Prairie Wind Farm) Site Permit from High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC to FPL Energy Mower County, LLC.

On August 14, 2020, the Commission entered an Order in Docket No. IP-6557/WS-06-91 approving an amended Site Permit authorizing FPL Energy Mower County, LLC to repower all 43 project turbines to extend the life of the Mower County Wind Farm, maintaining the nameplate capacity of 98.9 megawatts.

# **NOTICE OF ACQUISITION**

The Mower County Wind Facility Repower Project is a repowering of an existing wind facility and was built on approximately 11,300 acres of agricultural land in Lodi, Clayton and Bennington Townships in Mower County, Minnesota.

Pursuant to Section 14 of the Site Permit, FPL Energy Mower County, LLC, as Permittee, is required to notify the Commission of a change in the owner(s) of the majority financial or governance interests in the Permittee.

With this filing, NSPM and FPL Energy Mower County, LLC provide notice to the Commission that, on March 23, 2021, NSPM closed on the sale of the Mower County Wind Facility Repower Project to NSPM, and as such, NSPM has assumed ownership of FPL Energy Mower County, LLC and its development assets, including the Mower County Wind Facility Repower Project.

## REQUEST TO TRANSFER SITE PERMIT

Pursuant to Minn. Rule 7854.1400 and Section 14 of the Site Permit, FPL Energy Mower County, LLC, as Permittee for the LWECS, requests approval to transfer the Site Permit to NSPM. In support of this request, FPL Energy Mower County, LLC provides the following information:

- Name of the existing permittee: FPL Energy Mower County, LLC
- Name and description of the person to whom the permit is to be transferred: Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, which is a public utility operating subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., a registered public utility holding company.
- Reasons for the transfer. On March 23, 2021, NSPM and ESI Energy, LLC closed on the sale of the Mower County Wind Facility Repower Project. In connection with that transaction, NSPM and FPL Energy Mower County, LLC are seeking to transfer the Site Permit to NSPM.
- Description of the facilities affected: All facilities described in Sections 2.0-2.2 of the Site Permit.
- Requested date of the transfer. May 14, 2021

As supported by the Affidavit of Christopher B. Clark submitted herewith, NSPM, as Transferee for the LWECS, states that it can and will comply with the conditions of the Site Permit.

FPL Energy Mower County, LLC and NSPM state that they will provide notice of this request to those persons identified by the Commission as persons interested in the matter.

Please contact Mary Martinka at <u>mary.a.martinka@xcelenergy.com</u> or (612) 330-6737 or Bria Shea at <u>bria.e.shea@xcelenergy.com</u> or (612) 330-6064 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Date: April 16, 2021

FPL Energy Mower County, LLC

Northern States Power Company

c: Service List

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF THE SITE PERMIT FOR THE LARGE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM FOR THE 98.9 MEGAWATT MOWER COUNTY WIND FACILITY REPOWER PROJECT

#### AFFIDAVIT OF CHRISTOPHER B. CLARK

Christopher B. Clark, under oath, states:

- 1. I am employed by Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSP or the Company), which is a public utility operating subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., a registered public utility holding company. My business address is 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401. My title is President - Northern States Power Company – Minnesota.
- 2. I have more than 20 years of experience in the public utility industry and have worked extensively in connection with the Company's purchases, construction and operation of wind energy generation facilities. The Company's engineering and construction team has extensive experience in the field of engineering and construction of electric power infrastructure, and the Company's renewable operations team is seasoned in the management and operation of its owned facilities.
- 3. I am submitting this Affidavit in support of the Company's request for the transfer of the Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit issued for the 98.9 megawatt Mower County Wind Facility Repower Project (Site Permit), which was originally granted by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in Docket No. IP-6557/WS-06-91 to FPL Energy Mower County Wind, LLC.
  - 4. I have reviewed all of the terms and conditions of the Site Permit.
- 5. The Company agrees to abide by all of the terms and conditions of the Site Permit and stands ready, willing and able to perform the obligations stated therein.

6. I have authority to bind the Company in the commitments made in this Affidavit.

Dated this 14th day of April 2021.

Christopher B. Clark

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President – NSPM

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of April, 2021.

Joy Dianne Johnson

JOY DIANNE JOHNSON NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 01/31/24

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: January 31, 2024

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Paget Pengelly, hereby certify that I have this day served copies or summaries of the foregoing documents on the attached list(s) of persons.

xx by depositing a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage paid in the United States Mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota

xx electronic filing

Docket No. IP-6557/WS-06-91

Dated this 16th day of April 2021

/s/

Paget Pengelly Regulatory Administrator

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Sarah	Beimers	sarah.beimers@state.mn.u s	Department of Administration - State Historic Preservation Office	50 Sherburne Avenue Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55155	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Generic Notice	Commerce Attorneys	commerce.attorneys@ag.st ate.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-DOC	445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
awrence	Dernulc II	Lawrence.Dernulc@NextEr aEnergy.com	FPL Energy Mower County, LLC	700 Universe Boulevard  Juno Beach, FL 33408	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Sharon	Ferguson	sharon.ferguson@state.mn .us	Department of Commerce	85 7th Place E Ste 280  Saint Paul,  MN  551012198	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Andrew	Gibbons	andrew.gibbons@stinson.c om	Stinson LLP	50 South Sixth St Ste 2600  Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Brian	Meloy	brian.meloy@stinson.com	STINSON LLP	50 S 6th St Ste 2600 Minneapolis, MN 55402	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Brian J	Murphy	Brian.J.Murphy@nee.com	Nextera Energy Resources, LLC	700 Universe Blvd LAW-JB Juno Beach, FL 33408	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Carol A.	Overland	overland@legalectric.org	Legalectric - Overland Law Office	1110 West Avenue  Red Wing, MN 55066	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Seneric Notice	Residential Utilities Division	residential.utilities@ag.stat e.mn.us	Office of the Attorney General-RUD	1400 BRM Tower 445 Minnesota St St. Paul, MN 551012131	Electronic Service	No	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Vill	Seuffert	Will.Seuffert@state.mn.us	Public Utilities Commission	121 7th PI E Ste 350  Saint Paul,  MN  55101	Electronic Service	Yes	OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List

First Name	Last Name	Email	Company Name	Address	Delivery Method	View Trade Secret	Service List Name
Lynnette	Sweet	Regulatory.records@xcele nergy.com	Xcel Energy	414 Nicollet Mall FL 7  Minneapolis, MN 554011993	Electronic Service		OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List
Cynthia	Warzecha	cynthia.warzecha@state.m n.us	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road Box 25 St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4040	Electronic Service		OFF_SL_6-91_Official Service List