

Office of Land Management
395 John Ireland Boulevard MS 678
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651-366-4635
Fax: 651-366-3450
stacy.kotch@state.mn.us

August 3, 2021

David Birkholz
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for an Amendment to the Site Permit for the Grand Meadow Wind Farm Repower Project in Mower County
PUC Docket Number: IP-6646/WS-07-839

Dear Mr. Birkholz,

On July 2nd, 2021, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued a Notice of Public Information Meeting and Comment Period on the Site Permit Amendment Application Xcel Energy's (Applicant) proposed modifications to the Grand Meadow Wind Farm in Mower County. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has reviewed the information regarding the Site Amendment Application and submits the following comments in response to the Notice.

In addition to comments previously provided to the Applicant and included in Appendix D of the Amendment Application, MnDOT offers these expanded comments for consideration.

Any temporary roadway signage used during project construction should be made and placed in a way that can withstand winter wear, if applicable. MnDOT has been made aware of failing/falling signage during winter months on several large energy projects within the state. MnDOT's District Traffic Engineers can assist the Applicant with this process when construction coordination efforts commence.

Should the Applicant find that changes/upgrades to the existing collection system crossing I-90 or Trunk Highway (TH) 16 need to occur, appropriate permit applications would need to be submitted in a timely manner.

As always, the Applicant should familiarize themselves with MnDOT construction projects within the project and anticipated delivery areas. Future state projects for this area can be found by visiting [MnDOT District 6 Projects](#). Because MnDOT's highway construction activities could impact the Applicant's plans to haul oversize loads to the proposed site, the Applicant will need to coordinate with MnDOT when planning such loads.

Should the PUC issue an amended Site Permit for this project, early coordination with MnDOT staff is strongly encouraged. Any MnDOT permits applied for as a part of the Grand Meadow Wind Farm Project will not be issued until the PUC has issued an approved, amended Site Permit for this project. All applicable permitting, traffic control and construction coordination efforts should be made through MnDOT's District 6 Engineering Specialists, Jonathan Keranen (6B) at 507-456-5347 or jonathan.keranen@state.mn.us AND Dave Evans (6A) at 507-517-4000 or david.evans@state.mn.us.

MnDOT District Specialists should be given the opportunity to participate in pre-construction meetings as they apply to MnDOT owned property.

MnDOT has a continuing interest in working with the PUC, the DOC EERA and the Applicant to ensure that possible impacts to the entire state trunk highway system, traveling public and environmentally significant areas of concern are adequately addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kotch Egstad

Utility Routing and Siting Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Office of Land Management
stacy.kotch@state.mn.us

cc: Jonathan Keranen – District 6 Permits

Dave Evans – District 6 Permits

Equal Opportunity Employer