

JULY 20, 2021 - PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING - 07-839
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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

MPUC DOCKET NO. IP6646/WS-07-839

Meeting held remotely via:

Webex and Telephone

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1 OPERATOR: Good day and thank you for
2 standing by. Welcome to the Grand Meadow Wind Farm
3 permit amendment virtual public meeting conference
4 call. At this time, all participants' lines are in
5 a listen-only mode. After the speakers'
6 presentation, there will be a question-and-answer
7 session, and to ask a question during the session,
8 you'll need to press star one on your telephone.

9 Please be advised that today's conference
10 is being recorded. If you require any further
11 assistance, please press star zero.

12 I would now like to hand the conference
13 over to your speaker today, Speaker
14 Michael Kaluzniak, Minnesota Public Utilities
15 Commission. Thank you, please go ahead, sir.

16 MR. MICHAEL KALUZNIAK: Thank you, Nora.

17 Good evening, everyone. My name is
18 Michael Kaluzniak, I'm a staff person with the
19 Public Utilities Commission. Thank you for joining
20 us tonight. We have a meeting on the Grand Meadow
21 Wind Farm repowering project.

22 Could I have the first slide, please,
23 Charley?

24 Briefly, this is an agenda of what we'll
25 be running through tonight. I'll be running an

1 overview of the meeting itself and discuss the
2 Public Utilities Commission's permitting amendment
3 process for reviewing this. I will be turning it
4 over to Matt Langan from Xcel Energy who will then
5 provide some discussion about the project itself.
6 After that, Mr. David Birkholz from the Department
7 of Commerce, our sister agency, will discuss his
8 role in the project and the draft site permit, and
9 take your questions, finally.

10 Next slide, please.

11 The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
12 regulates three service industries in Minnesota's
13 economy: The electricity, natural gas, and
14 telephone. We're a small group of about 50 people.
15 We have five Commissioners that are appointed by the
16 governor and approved by the legislature. We do our
17 meetings in public, we do not work behind closed
18 doors in making decisions. And we appreciate you
19 coming out here to help us develop a record for the
20 Commission's decision after the end of this process.

21 In addition to ensuring that we have
22 electrical reliability and proper rates protecting
23 consumers' interests, the Commission has the
24 authority and responsibility for energy facility
25 permitting within the State of Minnesota. This

1 includes things like power lines, transmission
2 lines, wind farms, solar facilities, pipelines,
3 nuclear energy, and other power plants.

4 When the Commission reviews its projects,
5 as I mentioned, we do this through a public process
6 that's open and transparent. And in a while, I'll
7 speak to how you can find all the information that
8 is before the Commission that they will use in
9 making their decision, and we would appreciate
10 having your input in helping them build a record on
11 which to make that decision.

12 Next slide, please.

13 I won't jump ahead to the description of
14 the wind farm itself, but I think if you're on the
15 call, you're probably familiar with the Grand Meadow
16 Wind Farm. We mailed out a notice to affected
17 landowners and people in the project area, as well
18 as the local governments and tribal, historic
19 preservation offices, and other state agencies
20 within Minnesota to help participate here tonight.

21 Briefly running through the application
22 review process, this is a project that has been
23 built already, and we're amending an existing site
24 permit that was issued back in 2008, and ultimately
25 transferred to Xcel Energy, the current owner of the

1 project.

2 The permit amendment provides a means for
3 them to modify the project after it goes forward.
4 The Commission can modify its permits at any time if
5 we have good cause to do so.

6 The permit amendment itself was filed,
7 the application was filed by Xcel Energy on May 27th
8 of this year. After that time, there was a -- the
9 Department of Commerce reviewed those materials and
10 provided a draft site permit for consideration to
11 the Commission on June 24th.

12 And the draft site permit does not
13 authorize any construction or modification of the
14 project. It simply provides an example for people
15 to consider when looking at what we might
16 incorporate into the site permit for the project.

17 There have been a number of changes in
18 the Commission's permitting practices since this
19 permit was issued 13 years ago, and the Department
20 of Commerce has provided the draft site permit to
21 update those provisions of the permit.

22 So on July 2nd of this year, we issued a
23 notice of public information and comment period. If
24 you haven't seen that, you can find it at our
25 website, which is mn.gov/PUC, and this is on several

1 of the slides here as well. And that should provide
2 you all the information on the comment period
3 itself.

4 If you take away nothing else from
5 today's meeting, please note that you have until
6 August 3rd as a member of the public to provide
7 comments for the Commission's consideration of the
8 permit amendment.

9 Last night we were in Dexter, Minnesota.
10 A beautiful town, wonderful people, very helpful,
11 and had a public information meeting at the
12 fire department, the fire hall/community
13 center/ambulance center that was combined.

14 We're doing a similar meeting tonight
15 here, it should be a fairly straightforward, open
16 process, turning it over for question-and-answer
17 after these brief introductions.

18 After the close of the comment period,
19 which again is August 3rd, we will get comments from
20 the applicant and the Department of Commerce Energy
21 Environmental Review and Analysis group
22 approximately sometime between August 17th and
23 August 27th, just on an estimate. And the
24 Commission will ultimately make a decision probably
25 sometime around September/October of this year

1 depending on our scheduling at the Commission.
2 We're working with several other projects, so it's
3 often a bit of a challenge to schedule some of these
4 things.

5 Next slide, please, Charley.

6 This slide talks about how to submit
7 comments. We have several ways for you to submit
8 comments. We want to hear your concerns and
9 questions about the project. We can do it online,
10 I've listed a URL for responding directly to the
11 Department of Commerce who we're having collect the
12 comments on behalf of the Commission.

13 Next is Mr. David Birkholz's e-mail.

14 David will be collecting the information and making
15 recommendations and summarizing your comments for us
16 later. You can also mail him or phone him.

17 Also, I note that we have a public
18 advisor on the project, Mr. Charley Bruce is here
19 tonight. I'll give his information out in a bit.
20 If you have questions about how to participate,
21 please contact him, he is a wonderful resource.
22 And, again, we have until August 3rd to accept your
23 comments, and he's happy to help you find a way to
24 enter your comments into the record.

25 Next slide, please.

1 Basically the types of comments that
2 we're looking at, so we have an existing permit for
3 the project that's been running and operating for
4 sometime. And we have a draft site permit for
5 consideration that's different from that project's
6 initial permit updating several of the provisions of
7 the permit itself, as well as the description of the
8 project.

9 Generally we'd like your thoughts on
10 this, what potential human and environmental impacts
11 should we consider, what are the changes that are
12 being made, and how do they affect you. What are
13 the possible methods to mitigate, minimize, or avoid
14 potential impacts of those changes? Should we
15 approve the project, are there unique
16 characteristics of the site or project that we need
17 to know about in order to make those decisions?
18 Again, August 3rd is the comment deadline.

19 Next slide, please.

20 So earlier I mentioned that the website
21 that we have available for you to review, the record
22 here, as I mentioned, we do our work publicly. We
23 have all the documents that are available to the
24 Commission, including the record of tonight's
25 meeting and your comments and any comments we

1 receive before August 3rd, that will be posted to
2 our website.

3 If you go to our website that's listed
4 here, mn.gov/PUC and select eDockets you can enter
5 this docket record, which is 07-839, as shown on the
6 notice. And you'll see a list of every document
7 that's been filed in the record, and there's
8 probably 60, 70 documents to date. There's a lot of
9 reading there. You can also subscribe to that
10 record and receive an e-mail each and every time a
11 record or a piece of information is entered into
12 that docket.

13 You can also sign up for a mailing list,
14 and there's information on how to do that. If you
15 received a notice of this meeting in the mail, it's
16 not necessarily -- it's not necessary for you to do
17 that as you would receive information already. And
18 as I mentioned, you can subscribe to eDockets
19 yourself.

20 Next slide, please.

21 Slide ten here shows my contact
22 information. You're welcome to contact me at any
23 time by e-mail or my office phone number here.
24 Charley Bruce, who is also on the line and is
25 forwarding these slides for us, is our public

1 advisor whose job it is to help the public
2 participate, and he will speak to any of the process
3 pieces of how to get your comments into the record.

4 So once again, thank you for being here.
5 We really appreciate it, and we'll have a Q-and-A
6 shortly after some presentations.

7 Next, I'd like to turn it over to
8 Mr. Matt Langan from Xcel Energy. Thank you.

9 MR. MATT LANGAN: Okay. Thank you, Mike.
10 Mike and Charley, are you able to hear me just fine?

11 MR. MICHAEL KALUZNIAK: Just fine, Matt.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. MATT LANGAN: Okay, thank you.

14 And for Christine, I'm Matt Langan,
15 that's spelled M-A-T-T, L-A-N-G-A-N.

16 And for the attendees, it's Matt Langan
17 here with Xcel Energy. I work with a group called
18 Siting and Land Rights with our company, and it's my
19 job to coordinate and file with the Commission our
20 application package for the Grand Meadow wind
21 repower project. And I'm going to get into the
22 details about what a repower is, what some of the
23 construction time lines are, some of the
24 construction methods that we're proposing, and just
25 various details about the project.

1 But first I thought, you know, I really
2 want to mention that while it's my job to work
3 directly with Mike and Charley and David, who you'll
4 hear from soon, this is not a one-person type of
5 job. I'm one part of a larger team at Xcel Energy,
6 and that, you know, we have folks from various
7 disciplines, such as project management,
8 engineering, siting and land rights -- excuse me --
9 environmental services, and importantly, our land
10 agents who are out in the community working directly
11 with landowners, local units of government at the
12 townships and county levels.

13 And all of those people that I just
14 mentioned that are part of the team are available
15 tonight. They're listening in. And so we're all
16 participating here so that if you have a question
17 this evening and care to ask it, or if you have a
18 comment that you'd like to make, we have folks from
19 a variety of disciplines here who can provide a
20 response.

21 And we'd really like to try to respond to
22 your question tonight, if possible. We're
23 appreciative of you making time to be part of this
24 presentation, this meeting tonight. If we aren't
25 able to provide a response tonight, I'll commit to

1 making sure that we do reply to your comment or
2 question on the record during the public comment
3 period that Mike Kaluzniak noted in his
4 presentation.

5 So I just wanted to set the stage that,
6 you know, it will be open to any questions or
7 comments you have, and we'll do our best to respond
8 to them on the spot this evening.

9 So, again, my name is Matt Langan. We're
10 here to talk about the Grand Meadow repower project.
11 The Grand Meadow Wind Farm, this was originally
12 called the Wapsipinicon Wind Farm proposed by enXco
13 and then acquired by Xcel Energy, and it has been
14 operating since 2008, 2008.

15 And so we're going to talk about that
16 project itself and some of the details, but first,
17 let's talk a little bit about the company's
18 objectives in this proposed project.

19 And Charley, thank you, you can go to the
20 next slide now.

21 At Xcel Energy, we have service territory
22 in eight different states. You can see on the map
23 there where our service territory and customers are
24 located. We serve 3.6 million customers with
25 electricity and 2 million customers across that

1 territory with natural gas. We are a recognized
2 leader in energy efficiency, carbon emissions
3 reductions, innovative technology, and storm
4 restoration, as well as wind energy.

5 Next slide, please.

6 So our wind portfolio is really a big
7 part of our energy future as we envision it. We
8 have an overall goal of reaching the year 2050 where
9 100 percent of our electricity is provided
10 carbon-free, and with an interim goal in 2030 to
11 reduce our carbon emissions by 80 percent as
12 compared to 2005 levels, and as I said, wind will
13 play a big role in those goals.

14 Next slide, please.

15 So in order to pursue additional wind
16 energy, additional generation sources, or these
17 repower projects, we need to make an initial filing
18 to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and
19 provide a petition for adding that -- those projects
20 to our generation portfolio.

21 So we did that, the company did do that
22 in 2020. We proposed upgrading or repowering four
23 of our existing wind farms here in the northern NSP
24 territory, three of which are in Minnesota, and one
25 of which is the Grand Meadow repower project.

1 When we made that petition to the PUC, we
2 asserted that these projects would save our
3 customers money, they would increase the energy
4 produced, and make it more efficient.

5 And that there would be benefits to, you
6 know, individual landowners, as well as the local
7 governments where we are operating the wind farm in
8 terms of tax and lease payments, and extending the
9 terms of those leases. This wind repower project
10 will extend the life of the Grand Meadow Wind Farm.

11 Next slide, please, Charley.

12 Okay. So hopefully everyone can see the
13 map that we have on the slide here. The red outline
14 shows the boundary of the Grand Meadow Wind Farm.
15 And within that boundary there are 67 turbines
16 currently in operation, and those have been in
17 operation, again, since 2008. These wind turbine
18 models are 1.5 megawatts a piece, and we intend to
19 repower all 67 wind turbines.

20 Now, importantly, while repowering those
21 turbines, they'll all stay in the same place. And
22 I'll talk about the components here that we're going
23 to change out, but folks on the line should know
24 that all of the 67 turbines currently in place will
25 remain in the same place. None are moving, no new

1 foundation, no new locations, all in the same place.
2 And once it's repowered, we'll repower them at a
3 1.6 megawatt turbine capacity level.

4 We intend to do the repower construction
5 in the year 2023. So the start of construction
6 would be, you know, late spring likely when road
7 restrictions are lifted, and then continuing up
8 until December of 2023 when we would be commercially
9 operable with the repowered wind farm.

10 Another thing worth noting here is that a
11 part of our proposal is to install an aircraft
12 detection lighting system, or ADLS as it's sometimes
13 referred to. And what that does, instead of the red
14 lights that are atop each of the wind turbine towers
15 currently that are either on or routinely blinking,
16 right now with an aircraft detection lighting system
17 those would only be triggered when aircraft are
18 flying over the area. So a substantive amount of
19 time the red lights would be off under this new ADLS
20 system.

21 If you could go to the next slide,
22 please, Charley.

23 Okay. So now into the more nuts and
24 bolts of what is involved in the repower. What the
25 proposal is, what we are proposing to do is install

1 longer blades on each of the turbines, replacing the
2 hub of each of the turbines. And so you can see by
3 the diagram what the hub is, the hub is the piece
4 that really connects the three blades. And then
5 replacing some of the components within the nacelle
6 that sits atop the tower at the hub of each turbine.

7 And so those are really the components
8 that will be replaced, and as you can see, that
9 results in a 60-percent increase in the rotor-swept
10 area. It helps us gain energy and, you know, wind
11 energy more efficiently. And, again, these are new
12 components, so those would extend the life of the
13 wind farm actually out until the year 2048.

14 The other piece of this diagram of note,
15 just to give you an idea of scale of what we're
16 proposing, the current blades are 77 meters in
17 diameter, in a rotor-swept diameter area. So 38 and
18 a half meters per blade is the length currently.

19 The majority of the 67 repowered turbines
20 would have 97-meter rotor diameters, so
21 48-and-a-half meter blades. So to break that down
22 for those of us looking for how many feet longer
23 they are, 35 feet longer per blade. The hub height
24 stays the same at 80 meters, and again, all of the
25 existing turbines remain in the same place after the

1 repower is complete.

2 We can go to the next slide, Charley.

3 So we talked about the construction
4 window here. We're looking at beginning
5 construction in the second quarter of 2023 and
6 wrapping up construction by the end of the year.

7 Restoration activities will occur into
8 the following spring in 2024. The restoration is
9 something that our company takes very seriously and
10 we work directly with individual landowners to
11 restore, you know, any construction impacts to the
12 previous condition before we began construction.
13 And so that's an activity that will extend into
14 2024, but the proposal is to have the repowered wind
15 farm commercially operable by the end of 2023.

16 The way that these components are
17 replaced is by use of a crane, and the crane that
18 we'll use will move from turbine to turbine
19 installing those new components.

20 And something that we hear very
21 frequently as we're constructing these projects or
22 even as we're proposing them from folks is the
23 importance of eliminating or reducing or minimizing
24 soil compaction as the cranes move across fields
25 from turbine to turbine, and also to protect to the

1 extent possible any tile lines that we know are so
2 important to agricultural practices.

3 And so what we're proposing with this
4 project is to lay construction matting anywhere
5 where there's a crane path, and we've found that
6 effective in minimizing the amount of soil
7 compaction and tile damage out in fields. And so we
8 are proposing that everywhere within this project,
9 everywhere we walk a crane, we're going to use
10 construction matting.

11 Now a couple notes about that, one is
12 that land agents that we have out in the area
13 working with landowners are really reaching out and
14 asking about what is the ideal crane path, what
15 works for your land operations, and how can we
16 minimize or avoid impacts to your parcel. And so
17 when you get that opportunity, please work with
18 those land agents to optimize those crane paths to
19 the extent possible.

20 And then also if there is -- if there
21 does happen to be damage to a tile line, if there is
22 soil compaction, Xcel Energy is committed to, again,
23 returning those -- you know, paying for any repairs
24 that are necessary and returning those land
25 conditions to the preconstruction condition. So

1 that's something that we're committed to, and as a
2 matter of fact, even if we weren't, we're obligated
3 to by the state's permit that we're talking about
4 tonight. So that's something that we're committed
5 to, and we will work with individual landowners on.

6 The last important piece that I want to
7 mention here is that when we're applying to the
8 state, we want to discuss the temporary impacts.
9 Not just any permanent impacts, but the temporary
10 impacts anticipated during construction.

11 And so what we have done is we have
12 looked at an area of about a 400-foot radius around
13 the foundation of every turbine and evaluated that
14 for any potential temporary impacts of construction.
15 This is for staging the new equipment that will be
16 put on the towers, this is for staging the existing
17 equipment that gets taken off of the towers, and
18 then room for construction personnel and the crane
19 to navigate there.

20 Just like the crane paths, as you're
21 working either with your land agents or even if you
22 want to reach out to me and if there's something,
23 there's, you know, a resource of concern for you
24 within a 400-foot radius of the turbine you might be
25 hosting, please reach out and let us know that. And

1 we can work with you to design that temporary work
2 space to accommodate, and either, you know, again,
3 eliminate or reduce the impacts of concern that you
4 have.

5 Okay. Charley, we can go to the next
6 slide.

7 Here are some ways to contact us at Xcel
8 Energy. We do have a project-specific e-mail
9 address for our repower projects, and if you send an
10 e-mail there, a project team member will respond to
11 you in short order. That is monitored routinely.

12 The same for the phone number that you
13 see in front of you on the screen, the 330-5583,
14 leave a message there and an appropriate team member
15 will be back in touch with you.

16 And then you can track the development of
17 this project at our project-specific website that
18 you see there, www.XcelEnergy.com/GrandMeadow.

19 What I will say is right now in the
20 project development process, we're really in the
21 middle of this permitting stage, as Mike described
22 and as David will speak about a little bit more in a
23 second. But these are numbers that even after the
24 permitting and the public review is complete, as
25 we -- you know, as we enter into later stages of the

1 project, these are still available resources to you,
2 still available ways to get in contact with a
3 project team member to ask a question, to make a
4 comment, whatever it may be. So I encourage you to
5 keep these handy if you ever do need to reach out
6 about the project to us.

7 Okay. And that concludes my remarks for
8 tonight. I know that David will speak next, and
9 then we will all be available for comments after
10 David's presentation. Thank you very much for your
11 time.

12 David, I'll turn it over to you.

13 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Okay. My phone just
14 told me I'm no longer muted, so I hope I'm coming
15 across. I'm David Birkholz, as you can see on the
16 screen, if you're with us also by web.

17 I am currently the Environmental Review
18 Manager from the Department of Commerce for this
19 project, but oddly enough I was also working on this
20 project back in 2007. So it's an interesting
21 continuation from me to see the beginnings of a full
22 process review and full information gathering and to
23 see how that's -- things have changed as we go
24 forward.

25 There are still a lot of new projects

1 being built in the state, and they go through a
2 process that takes anywhere from six to 12 months to
3 put together, but the process for doing a repower is
4 shortened for a number of reasons.

5 Where's the -- can you flip the slide,
6 Charley?

7 And Christine, did I spell my name?
8 Well, it was written on the screen if you saw it,
9 but the name is Birkholz, B-I-R-K-H-O-L-Z.

10 I do that because I'll be asking you all
11 as well to state your name for the record that the
12 court reporter is keeping of the meeting.

13 The reason the process can be accelerated
14 in this case is, number one, the main environmental
15 impacts of a project like this are actually siting
16 the turbines, and none of them will change. As Matt
17 has said, all of those will remain in place, and the
18 project will look much like it does today. But
19 there still are a number of changes we want to
20 check, if there's any variance in the impact, if
21 there's -- if anything has changed in the natural
22 environment in the area.

23 So when we ask for a permit
24 application -- amendment application, we ask for a
25 number of studies that pretty much replicate what

1 was gone through before, and especially if there are
2 any changes in the environmental impact for this.

3 Many of the changes could be
4 improvements, for instance, the aircraft detection
5 lighting system. Also, we do a number of studies,
6 we require the applicants to do a preconstruction
7 noise modeling exercise, and we want to be able to
8 anticipate and be assured that all of the permit --
9 all the turbine noise will stay underneath the state
10 requirement. So that all comes in in the
11 application, and if you haven't seen it, you'll want
12 to look for it.

13 So the Public Utilities Commission is
14 interested and the Department is interested in these
15 repowering projects especially because they're
16 economically sound and they're an environmentally
17 sound way of improving the availability of renewable
18 energy in the state, but that doesn't mean a free
19 pass, so there's a process to go through.

20 You can hit me again, Charley. Thanks.

21 Some of the things that we require --
22 okay, first off, we started with a permit that was
23 issued in 2008. We reviewed the application, we
24 reviewed the studies that the company has done in
25 between and the reports and compliance they've done

1 and the modeling they've done for the new project.

2 So the old permit isn't going to stand
3 for a couple reasons. One, because the whole
4 premise in 2008, already since then, the Commission
5 and others have established and learned better ways
6 or newer ways of dealing with the newer technology
7 of what needs to be required, what needs to be
8 included.

9 And so the first thing that I needed to
10 do when I took to the original permit is update it
11 to the modern standards that would go out if you
12 were building a new wind farm. And then we also
13 wanted to incorporate local requirements that match
14 the special needs of this area down in Southeast
15 Minnesota.

16 So we've added a number of specifics, and
17 I won't go through them all because they are
18 available, and I will recommend that you review
19 them, but -- in a minute. A couple things that will
20 be done that are fairly important is -- and I
21 mentioned that they did the preconstruction
22 modeling -- at the end we will be looking at and
23 doing a study of postconstruction monitoring to see
24 that the modeling has actually resulted in the level
25 of noise and sound that we anticipated and if

1 anything needs to be managed after that point.

2 We, again, have a whole, major increase
3 in the wind-swept area of the rotors. In the
4 application, the bird and bat strategic conservation
5 strategy has been updated, and after the fact we
6 will be doing -- or the company will be doing, but
7 the state will be monitoring, fatality monitoring.

8 And the last big piece of that -- and
9 that's also available in the application, in the
10 appendix is an updated decommissioning plan, real
11 specific about what it's going to cost and what it's
12 going to take. The state is real interested in
13 making sure that those are updated regularly and
14 should be reviewed every five years.

15 And then the major piece of that is
16 making sure that there's a financial mechanism to
17 make sure that the process -- the project is cleaned
18 up if it were to be shut down, so it can restore the
19 environment the best we can to what it was before
20 the wind farm existed.

21 Charley. Thank you.

22 Again, I went through and reviewed all
23 the studies and reviewed all the permits and
24 reviewed what I think -- how I evaluated what they
25 offered in their application amendment. And you'll

1 find those recommendations and the actual proposed
2 draft site permit on the eDockets site and on the
3 EERA website.

4 The draft is a complete set of what one
5 might expect the permit to be, but you will need to
6 look at it to know what all those features are and
7 the ones that you think might be of concern to you
8 and the ones that you think are best to be addressed
9 with additional information. So you'll want to go
10 over that application.

11 Okay. Charley.

12 All right. These, you don't need to
13 memorize these. These are links I've put into the
14 page itself, and this web presentation will be
15 posted on eDockets. The important thing to remember
16 about eDockets is, if you haven't used it, you can
17 call and we can explain, but it's fairly easy to
18 locate.

19 But the important thing to know is that
20 this project has a specific designation, it goes
21 under the docket number 07-839. If you have a pen,
22 that's what you'll want to write down. The rest you
23 can get off of this, and you can go to the links for
24 the information. But that was -- the original
25 docket was opened in 2007, and it was the 839th

1 docket for that year. So that's the key number that
2 you have to remember, and then you can find every
3 piece of information you should actually be looking
4 for, or a way to get to it. But, again, all of this
5 information that we're going through tonight will be
6 available there. So that hopefully will be helpful
7 to you.

8 I personally, again, recommend that you
9 go to this site and you look through the draft site
10 permit and make sure that it's satisfactory. And
11 also to point out, again, the pieces that you think
12 need to be added to it for the protection of the
13 area and to see if you have any other comments on
14 it.

15 So speaking of your comments, I think
16 that's probably a fair amount of you listening to us
17 when the meeting is supposed to be about the public
18 participation. So we want to give you a fair amount
19 of time to ask any questions you have that are
20 brought up in your mind tonight.

21 Go ahead and change, Charley, if you
22 would.

23 Okay. When we open this up, these are
24 the kind of things we are going to want to know,
25 these are the kind of things the Commission is going

1 to want to know to make an informed decision on,
2 first, whether the project should go forward as set
3 forth in the application, and whether the human and
4 environmental impacts are being addressed.

5 So, again, you can look, and the other
6 piece about tonight is you can just actually ask
7 questions. As Matt and Mike both mentioned, you can
8 actually have us here at the table and you can ask
9 some questions, but you don't need to only speak
10 tonight. There will be all those comment options
11 open to you.

12 So you'll want to either get your
13 information in tonight or get the information in to
14 us by August 3rd. That's key because we have to
15 start moving the decision-making process forward in
16 a reasonable timeline and so there are comments open
17 until the 3rd.

18 If you ask questions tonight and make
19 comments tonight, that doesn't mean you can't make
20 additional comments later. So, again, reference all
21 the information that you need or want to, and we'll
22 go ahead.

23 So human and environmental impacts need
24 to be addressed, permit conditions need to be
25 modified, anything that you think needs to be added,

1 and in the end whether or not you think the project
2 should go ahead as the application is presented.

3 So that's what we're about here tonight
4 and I think a very key piece to the entire puzzle.
5 Because we're looking at it from remote studies and
6 from local studies, but we also want to know from
7 the people who are on the ground and who are
8 affected, so yeah.

9 Go one down the next way, Charley. Yeah,
10 okay.

11 So without further ado, and we just
12 typically post a sign when we're open for Q and A
13 and back and forth in public comments, but the crowd
14 is not particularly huge, it's a good crowd, but
15 it's not particularly huge, so I don't think we're
16 going to have a time problem. So we just follow
17 common courtesy, and I think the leader will explain
18 how to go ahead about getting in the queue to
19 answer. You'll get in the queue, again, by pressing
20 star one on your phone, and then the moderator for
21 the project will bring you up.

22 You'll want to -- when you come up,
23 again, state your name for the court reporter, and
24 go ahead and present your ideas and ask your
25 questions.

1 And with that, I'm signing off, Charley.

2 MR. MICHAEL KALUZNIAK: Hello, Nora?

3 OPERATOR: Yes, sir.

4 MR. MICHAEL KALUZNIAK: This is
5 Mike Kaluzniak, go ahead and start the A and Q, if
6 you would, thank you.

7 OPERATOR: Okay. Once again as a
8 reminder to ask a question, you'll need to press
9 star one on your telephone. Again, press star one
10 on your telephone. And if you require a question,
11 please press the pound key. Please stand by while
12 we compile the Q-and-A roster. Once again if you'd
13 like to ask a question, please press star one on
14 your telephone.

15 There are no questions at this time. You
16 may proceed, presenters.

17 MR. MICHAEL KALUZNIAK: Thank you, Nora.

18 This is Mike Kaluzniak. Once again,
19 everybody, I'd just like to remind you of the
20 opportunity to comment here tonight. If you have
21 questions or concerns, we're happy to hear them.
22 Otherwise we can take your comments orally, written,
23 or e-mailed electronically. If you have questions
24 tonight, we'd sure appreciate hearing from you.
25 We'll just wait a couple minutes here.

1 David or Matt, do you have anything to
2 add to your presentation?

3 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: No, I think -- this
4 is David, I think I took up my time. But, again, I
5 would recommend that if you have even a slight
6 question or any concerns whatsoever, now is a good
7 time because you have the Commission present, you
8 have the Department present, and you have the
9 Applicant present at the table. So if there's
10 something we can direct information towards at this
11 time, that's great.

12 But otherwise, I repeat what Michael said
13 that you do have opportunities to comment through
14 August 3rd. So yeah, I'll just hold here, I'm not
15 going anywhere. This is a remote meeting, so I'm
16 still here, the dog is fed, you know, so we're good
17 to go.

18 Matthew.

19 MR. MATT LANGAN: I think I took up even
20 more time than Mr. Birkholz with my remarks, so I
21 won't say much. I know being part of these meetings
22 often, you know, the public information part is a
23 big part where folks want to listen in and
24 understand the project a little bit and then take
25 some time to formulate any questions or comments

1 that they have. And I think, Mike, you and David
2 have done a good job, you know, highlighting the
3 fact that there's -- we have until August 3rd to
4 make those comments. If folks want to take some
5 time to consider them, so that's perfectly okay, but
6 I too will hang out here for a few more minutes in
7 case any comments come through.

8 Nora, thank you.

9 MR. MICHAEL KALUZNIAK: This is
10 Mike Kaluzniak. Once again, given the notice we
11 will be ending the meeting if there are no other
12 matters to be conducted. We're happy to have any
13 comments or questions you have at this time, and
14 we'll just wait a minute or two to give you a chance
15 to change your mind. If anyone cares to speak up,
16 please do so. I'll wait about another minute here
17 and then we'll sign off. Thank you. If you have
18 questions, just hit star one and Nora will help you.

19 Hello, this is Mike again. I guess we
20 did a very good job explaining our project today and
21 answering any possible questions that anyone may
22 have had. Seriously though, if anybody has any
23 questions, feel free to get in touch with us.
24 Please look at the notice and our contact
25 information. Charley Bruce will help you on behalf

1 of the Commission to find ways to comment. If you
2 have any questions, feel free to reach out to any of
3 the project contacts that are identified.

4 Once again, we thank you for coming here
5 tonight, and I'll just give one final last call if
6 anybody has questions, please hit star one.

7 Do we have any questions, Nora?

8 OPERATOR: There are no further -- there
9 are no questions at this time, sir.

10 MR. MICHAEL KALUZNIAK: Thank you. All
11 right. I guess we'll sign off then. For the
12 speakers, we'll be on here for about a few minutes
13 afterwards to debrief and if you have any questions
14 or followup. Otherwise, thank you very much,
15 people, for being here. Once again, August 3 is the
16 cutoff date for public comment, and we sure
17 appreciate your attendance. Thank you.

18 MR. DAVID BIRKHOLZ: Thanks for signing
19 on with us.

20 OPERATOR: This concludes today's
21 conference call. Thank you for participating, you
22 may now disconnect.

23 (Public comment concluded.)
24
25

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