



Energy Facility Permitting
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February 27, 2012

TO: Jamie Schrenzel, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Rich Davis, United States Fish and Wildlife Service

FROM: Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager
Energy Facility Permitting

RE: Black Oak Wind Farm and Getty Wind Project
PUC Docket Nos. IP-6853/WS-10-1240 and IP-6866/WS-11-831

Attached please find a *Draft Avian and Bat Protection Plan* (Draft ABPP) for the Black Oak Wind Farm and Getty Wind Projects in Stearns County for your review and comment. EFP staff requests your comments on the plan generally, or as it relates to the individual projects.

The Draft ABPP was prepared jointly by Black Oak Wind, LLC and Getty Wind Company, LLC and addresses both projects. The projects are located adjacent to one another in Ashley, Raymond, Sauk Centre, and Getty townships of Stearns County. The Draft Site Permit for the Getty Wind Project, which contains the Draft ABPP, will be sent to you and other technical representatives for review under a separate cover. While there is no public comment period now open for the Black Oak Wind Farm, the hearing required for the joint Certificate of Need will consider comments related to both sites as well as the need for the project. EFP staff anticipates that a hearing on the projects will be held in April of this year.

Please submit written comments on the Draft ABPP to my attention by **April 4, 2012**.

Project Documents: Relevant documents and additional information can be found on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: Black Oak Wind Farm, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=30578> and Getty Wind Project, <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32297> and on the Commission's eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "10" and the number "1240" for the Black Oak Wind Farm and year "11" and the number "871" for Getty Wind).

Project Contact: If you need further information about this project or have a question, please contact me at the above address, by phone (651)296-2888, or e-mail, suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us .