



December 1, 2011

TO: Minnesota Agency Technical Representatives

FROM: Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager  
Energy Facility Permitting

RE: Getty Wind Project  
PUC Docket No. IP6866/WS-11-831

Getty Wind Company, LLC (GWE or Applicant), has submitted a site permit application for the Getty Wind Project, a proposed 40 megawatt (MW) Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) in Stearns County. On November 14, 2011, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issued an order accepting the application.

The proposed site is comprised of 7,360 acres of agricultural land in Sauk Centre and Getty townships Stearns County, located approximately five miles southwest of Sauk Center. Getty, in their LWECS application, states that approximately 4,632 acres are under site control. Depending upon the turbine model selected and final layout, approximately 18 to 32 acres would be permanently converted to turbines and associated infrastructure.

Depending upon turbine models selected, towers would range from 262 to 328 feet (80 to 100 meters), with rotor diameters of 286 to 367 feet (87 to 112 meters), for a total height of 423 to 492 feet (129 to 150 meters). The project would also require the following associated facilities as identified in the permit application:

- Pad mount transformers, depending upon the turbine model selected
- Electric feeder and collection lines
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) communication lines
- A project substation
- Access roads
- Up to two permanent meteorological towers

**Review Process:** The Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff, on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the environmental review process for this Project under the Wind Siting Act (Minn. Stat. ch. 216F) and Wind Permitting Rules (Minn. Rules ch. 7854). Under the wind siting process, environmental review is incorporated in the development of the site permit application and the site permit itself; there is no separate environmental review document prepared on the Project.

The enclosed site permit application on CD is provided to assist your agency in your review of this application and to participate in the site permitting process. Please let me know if you prefer a hard copy of the application, and one will be mailed to you.

EFP staff solicits comments from agencies on issues to be considered in developing a draft site permit for this Project, such as unique characteristics of the proposed site or Project that should be considered and items that may be missing or mischaracterized in the site permit application. Please address comments to my attention no later than close of business on **December 30, 2011**.

Because of the financing arrangement with GWE and the proximity to the 42 MW Black Oak Wind Project, and the possibility that the two projects may come under joint ownership at a future date, Getty and Black Oak jointly submitted an Application for a Certificate of Need for the combined projects on October 11, 2011 (PUC Docket IP-6853 & IP-6866/CN-11-471). The Commission is scheduled to consider acceptance of the Certificate of Need application this month. Should the Commission accept the Certificate of Need Application, EFP staff will prepare an Environmental Report (ER) considering both projects. A separate ER scoping notice requesting comments on environmental issues to be considered for both projects will be issued as the Certificate of Need process moves forward.

Based on comments received, EFP staff will prepare and submit a draft site permit for the Project to the Commission for consideration. If the Commission determines that a draft site permit should be issued for public review and comment, then EFP will solicit comments on the draft permit from agencies and members of the public at the time of the draft permit issuance. A public meeting in the Project area will also be held and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and present comments. Upon completion of this process, the EFP will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision.

**Project Documents:** Relevant documents and additional information can be found on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: <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 "11" and the number "831").

**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.steinbauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinbauer@state.mn.us) .