

**Exhibit A**

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

**General Wind Turbine Permit Setbacks and Standards for Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) Permitted Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216F.08**

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>General Permit Setback</b>	<b>Minimum Setback</b>
<b>Wind Access Buffer (setback from lands and/or wind rights not under permittee's control)</b>	Wind turbine towers shall not be placed less than 5 rotor diameters (RD) from all boundaries of developer's site control area (wind and land rights) on the predominant wind axis (typically north-south axis) and 3 rotor diameters (RD) on the secondary wind axis (typically east-west axis), without the approval of the permitting authority. This setback applies to all parcels for which the permittee does not control land and wind rights, including all public lands.	3 RD (760 – 985 ft) on east-west axis and 5 RD (1280 – 1640 ft) on north-south using turbines with 78 – 100 meter rotor diameters.
<b>Internal Turbine Spacing</b>	The turbine towers shall be spaced no closer than 3 rotor diameters (RD) for crosswind spacing (distance between towers) and 5 RD downwind spacing (distance between strings of towers). If required during final micro siting of the turbine towers to account for topographic conditions, up to 20 percent of the towers may be sited closer than the above spacing but the permittee shall minimize the need to site the turbine towers closer.	5 rotor diameters downwind spacing 3 rotor diameters apart for crosswind spacing
<b>Noise Standard</b>	Project must meet Minnesota Noise Standards, Minnesota Rules Chapter 7030, at all residential receivers (homes). Residential noise standard NAC 1, L50 50 dBA during overnight hours. Setback distance calculated based on site layout and turbine for each residential receiver.	Typically 750 – 1500 ft is required to meet noise standards depending on turbine model, layout, site specific conditions.
<b>Homes</b>	At least 500 ft <u>and</u> sufficient distance to meet state noise standard.	500 feet + distance required to meet state noise standard.
<b>Public Roads and Recreational Trails</b>	The turbine towers shall be placed no closer than 250 feet from the edge of public road rights-of-way. Setbacks from state trails and other recreational trails shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.	Minimum 250 ft
<b>Meteorological Towers</b>	Meteorological towers shall be placed no closer than 250 foot from the edge of road rights-of-way and from the boundaries of developer's site control (wind and land rights). Setbacks from state trails and other recreational trails shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.	Minimum 250 ft
<b>Wetlands</b>	No turbines, towers or associated facilities shall be located in public waters wetlands. However, electric collector and feeder lines may cross or be placed in public waters or public water wetlands subject to DNR, FWS and/or USACOE permits.	No setback required pending further PUC action.

<b>Native Prairie</b>	Turbines and associated facilities shall not be placed in native prairie unless approved in native prairie protection plan (see native prairie standard below). Native prairie protection plan shall be submitted if native prairie is present.	No setback required.
<b>Sand and Gravel Operations</b>	No turbines, towers or associated facilities in active sand and gravel operations, unless negotiated with the landowner.	
<b>Aviation (public and private airports)</b>	No turbines, towers or associated facilities shall be located so as to create an obstruction to navigable airspace of public and private airports in Minnesota or adjacent states and/or providences.	Setbacks or other limitations determined in accordance with MNDOT Department of Aviation and Federal Aviation Administration requirements.

### **Additional General Permit Standards**

#### **Pre-Application Project Size Determination.**

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216F.011, applications to a county for a LWECS permit are not complete without a project size determination provided by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Requests for size determination shall be submitted on forms provided by the Department of Commerce. Upon written request of a project developer and receipt of any supplemental information requested by the commissioner, the commissioner of commerce shall provide a written size determination within 30 days. In the case of a dispute, the chair of the Public Utilities Commission shall make the final size determination.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216F.011, the total size of a combination of wind energy conversion systems for the purpose of determining what jurisdiction has siting authority must be determined according to the criteria below:

The nameplate capacity of one wind energy conversion system must be combined with the nameplate capacity of any other wind energy conversion system that:

- (1) is located within five miles of the wind energy conversion system;
- (2) is constructed within the same 12-month period as the wind energy conversion system; and
- (3) exhibits characteristics of being a single development, including, but not limited to, ownership structure, an umbrella sales arrangement, shared interconnection, revenue sharing arrangements, and common debt or equity financing.