



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Summer Strand, Chairperson
 Kristy Nieto, Commissioner
 Marcus Hawkins, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
 P.O. Box 7854
 Madison, WI 53707-7854

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
 RECEIVED: 11/21/2024 9:45:01 AM

November 21, 2024

Re: Application of Badger Hollow Wind Farm LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a Wind Electric Generation Facility Capable of Generating Up to 118 MW, a Collector Substation, and a 345 kV Generator Tie Line in the Towns of Clifton, Eden, Linden, Mifflin, and Wingville in Iowa and Grant Counties, Wisconsin 9827-CE-100

To the Person Addressed,

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) received an application from Badger Hollow Wind Farm LLC (Badger Hollow Wind) for the construction of a new wind electric generation facility and associated facilities in the Towns of Clifton, Eden, Linden, Mifflin, and Wingville in Iowa and Grant Counties, Wisconsin. The proposed project would construct up to 19 wind turbines with a total capacity of 118 MW. Badger Hollow Wind has identified 19 primary turbine sites and 6 alternative turbine sites. The turbines would be located in a project area of approximately 15,704 acres, of which the leased acreage for the project makes up 13,261 acres. Approximately 570 acres of temporary ground disturbance impacts are expected during construction of the project, and approximately 28 acres would host the long-term operational facilities of the proposed project.

The Commission is sending this letter to property owners near the proposed wind facility site or associated facilities, as well as individuals who have asked to be placed on our mailing list or have expressed interest in the project. This letter is also being sent to public officials in the project area. If you are a municipal clerk and receive this letter, please post it in a location where it can be viewed by the public.

Commission and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff are now analyzing the application and conducting a review of the environmental impacts of the proposed project. As part of this effort, the agencies are requesting comments from the public to help the state agencies determine the potential impacts associated with the project and the scope of the environmental assessment (EA). The agencies encourage persons with local information or environmental concerns to provide comments.

Comments on the scope of the EA can be submitted:

1. By letter addressed to the environmental assessment coordinator for the docket (see contacts at the end of this letter); or

2. Through the Commission's website at <https://psc.wi.gov> where you can click "file a comment" on the lower left-hand side of the page, then locate docket 9827-CE-100.

The deadline for submitting environmental review scoping comments is Friday, December 20, 2024.

Please note that comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's Electronic Records Filing System. Personal identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

There will be additional public comment periods throughout the review process, including comments on the preliminary determination of the EA, and comments submitted as part of the public hearing.

Comments for the EA scoping are most effective when they discuss:

- Any potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed wind generation project; or
- Any specific actions or changes to the proposed project that might minimize or mitigate the potential impacts of the project.

Project Description

Badger Hollow Wind is proposing construction of a new wind electric generation facility for 118 MW of alternating current (AC) power. The project would be located within an approximately 15,704-acre area of land in the towns of Clifton, Eden, Linden, Mifflin, and Wingville in Iowa and Grant Counties, Wisconsin. The project area is comprised predominantly of agricultural land. Approximately 28 acres of land would host the long-term operational facilities of the project. Major components of the project include up to 19 wind turbines, approximately 44 miles of underground 34.5 kilovolt (kV) collector circuits, a 34.5 kV to 345 kV collector substation, an approximately 0.26-mile 345 kV gen-tie transmission line to connect to the existing 345 kV Hill Valley Substation, up to two meteorological towers, up to two aircraft detection lighting system towers, access roads, temporary laydown yards, and an operation and maintenance (O&M) building. The project proposal includes a total of 25 turbine locations, with 19 proposed wind turbine locations and six alternative wind turbine locations. The turbine unit consists of a generator housing located atop a tubular steel tower up to 119 meters tall and a three-bladed turbine. The turbine blade tips would reach up to 200 meters above the ground. Total height will depend upon the model of turbine selected. Wind turbine locations can be identified by their identification number, as seen in the attached map.

State and Federal Agency Jurisdiction

The proposed project requires a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the Commission before construction can begin. Based on the record of analysis of potential environmental and societal impacts, the Commission will decide whether to approve, modify, or

deny the applicant's proposal. DNR will consider the application for wetland and waterway permits, if applicable under Wis. Stat. ch. 30, potential impacts to rare species, and other affected resources under its jurisdiction. Other reviews, approvals, or permits may be necessary from local, state, or federal entities.

Environmental Assessment

This a Type II action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(2). The Commission will prepare an EA for this project jointly with DNR that will evaluate the location of the project and its potential environmental, community, and private property impacts. There will be a preliminary determination when the EA is complete that will determine whether the preparation of an EIS is necessary. Comments on this preliminary determination will be accepted and considered before a final determination is made. At the time of the preliminary determination, the Commission shall make copies of the EA available to those persons that request it.

Public Hearings and Commission Decision

The Commission intends to hold technical and public hearings (date and times have not yet been determined) on the proposed project. At least 30 days before the hearings, the Commission will issue a Notice of Hearing (Notice) for this proposed project and notify the local news media. The Notice will include the time, date, and location of the hearings, as well as instructions regarding how to provide testimony for the hearing record. If you have any concerns about the project, you should attend the hearing to make the Commission aware of your concerns. People can speak and submit comments about the project at the hearing. The Commission must base its decisions about the project, in part, on the record of the hearing. The Commission will discuss the record for this project at a meeting open to the public where it will make its decision on the project.

Additional opportunities for public participation include the opportunity to comment on the preliminary determination on the need to prepare an EIS for the project, and the public hearing comment period. Notification for the preliminary determination will be sent to the mailing list for this project and you can be added to this mailing list by contacting the Environmental Assessment Coordinator for this project listed below under project contacts.

For more information on becoming involved in the Commission review of construction cases, please visit our [public participation page](#) or contact one of the project contacts listed below.

Information and Contacts

To review project application materials and additional related documents

- Public Service Commission website (<https://psc.wi.gov>) under the docket's "E-Services" tab, docket search number 9827-CE-100.
- Also on the Public Service Commission website, type "Badger Hollow Wind Project" in the search field to navigate to the project-specific webpage.
- An interactive web-map of the project is available via the project-specific webpage.

Contacts

- PSC Docket Coordinator
Ava Wales
(608) 261-8544
ava.wales@wisconsin.gov
P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854
- PSC Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Olivia Poelmann
(608) 266-5528
olivia.poelmann@wisconsin.gov
P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854
- DNR Contact
Weston Matthews
(608) 228-9164
weston.matthews@wisconsin.gov
- PSC Media Contact
Meghan Sovey
608-267-3871
meghan.ovey1@wisconsin.gov

Sincerely,

/s/ Olivia Poelmann

Environmental Analyst and Review Specialist – Adv.
Division of Digital Access, Consumer, and Environmental Affairs

OP:bs DL:02038468

Attachment: Project Map

Badger Hollow Wind Project 9827-CE-100

