

**North Dakota Public Service Commission**  
**INFORMAL HEARING**  
**August 27, 2008**

**PPM Energy, Inc.**  
**Rugby Wind Farm – Pierce County**  
**Siting Application**

**PU-05-47**

**Summary of Proposal:** Iberdrola Renewables f/k/a PPM Energy, Inc. requests approval of a revised turban layout using 71 Suzlon 2.1 MW turbines instead of the 100 G.E. 1.5 MW turbines contemplated when Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 5 was issued. Iberdrola Renewables plans to start construction on or about October 1, 2008.

**Discussion:** N.D.C.C. Section 49-22-17 provides that the utility needs to certify to the Commission that the site continues to meet the conditions upon which the certificate was issued if it has not begun construction within four years. Therefore, it appears the existing certificate issued October 3, 2005 is still valid.

***49-22-17. Improvement of sites or locations.** Utilities which have acquired an energy conversion facility site or transmission line route in accordance with the provisions of this chapter may proceed to construct or improve such site or route for the intended purposes at any time, subject to subsections 2 and 3 of section 49-22-16; provided, that if such construction and improvement commences more than four years after a certificate or permit for the site or route has been issued, then the utility must certify to the commission that such site or route continues to meet the conditions upon which the certificate of site compatibility or transmission facility construction permit was issued.*

Ordering paragraph #3 of the Commission's October 3, 2005 Order provided flexibility to use the larger Suzlon 2.1 MW turbines:

*3. Within the permitted area, PPM is authorized to site and construct up to 150 MW of wind turbines ranging in size from 1.5 to 3.0 MW as identified in the proposed and alternate locations map filed with the Commission on August 24, 2005, and electrical collection and communication lines, access roads, an operation and maintenance building, meteorological towers, and associated facilities identified in the Application for the Rugby Wind Farm.*

Thus it appears the only Commission action needed is approval of the changes in the turbine layout. Ordering paragraph 27 stated:

*27. PPM shall obtain approval from the Commission or from Commission staff prior to any changes in structure locations.*

As shown on Iberdrola's revised turbine layout map, the use of larger turbines resulted in the abandonment of some and slight movements of several other previously approved turbine locations. Additionally, there were two more significant changes where structure numbers RU-6021 and RU-8907 appear in new locations in the southern portion of the project area.

**Prepared by:** Jerry Lein