



To: Michigan residents interested in the Scandia/Havgul wind energy development proposal
From: Michael Klepinger, Staff Director, Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council
Date: February 18, 2010
Subject: Scandia/Havgul wind energy development proposal

The Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council has received numerous communications about the Scandia/Havgul offshore wind energy development proposal in Lake Michigan. Please note that the council does not review applications or make recommendations related to site-specific development proposals. Site review is currently conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) in tandem with federal agencies; these agencies would conduct an extensive environmental review and provide opportunities for public input. As of this date, the MDNRE has not received a permit application for the Scandia/Havgul project.

As you may know, the council is an advisory panel of Michigan stakeholders. It was established by Governor Granholm to identify issues and consider opportunities related to offshore wind power development. The broadly representative council was asked to carefully consider the interests of all Michigan citizens and to make recommendations for the sustainable development of Michigan's world-class Great Lakes wind resources.

The first of these recommendations, as well as criteria for identifying the most and least favorable areas for wind energy development in Michigan's Great Lakes, are included in the council's report of September 1, 2009, which is available for your review on our website www.michiganlowcouncil.org. The Scandia project, as it is currently being described, would not fall within the areas identified as most favorable for wind energy development, based on the criteria developed by the council.

The September report recommends that the legislature create a new regulatory framework and a robust public participation process for the proper review of any offshore wind energy proposal. The council believes new law is necessary because it found that our existing laws, which were written to address smaller-scale construction in very shallow riparian areas, are inadequate for regulating offshore wind. New law is needed to allow an acceptable and sustainable level of offshore wind development while protecting all Great Lakes values.

Finally, any plan for offshore wind development would require federal approvals and review under the National Environmental Policy Act. The federal review process also includes processes for public involvement and input.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue. I hope you will follow the council's progress on our website.