

**State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land & Water**

Public Notice

- Eva Creek Wind Farm**
ADL 418853: Proposed site lease to GVEA
AS 38.05.810(e)
ADL 419216: Application for public easement for GVEA
AS 38.05.850
ADL 419221: Application for public easement for ADOT
AS 38.05.850
ADL 419234: Proposed material sale to GVEA
AS 38.05.115

Golden Valley Electric Association has applied to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land & Water (DMLW), Northern Region Lands Section (NRO Lands) for the authorization to install and operate a 24 Megawatt wind farm on the ridges above the Eva Creek valley, located east of the Nenana River approximately 15 miles northeast of Healy, Alaska. Power generated by the wind farm would feed into GVEA's 230 kilovolt(kV) Northern Intertie transmission line, which bisects the proposed project area. The project will consist of up to 16 wind towers, a substation, an Operations and Maintenance building, three microwave communication towers, and a meteorological tower. Access to the site will require upgrades to the Ferry road, a connection road from the Ferry road to and within the site, and development of multiple material sites for gravel for the project. Additionally, a rail siding yard and warm storage building will be constructed on private land at the beginning of the Ferry road.

ADL 418853: NRO Lands proposes to issue a public and charitable lease under AS 38.05.810(e) to GVEA for a 25 year period. This lease is for up to 16 individual turbine locations (300' by 300'), 3 communications sites (ranging from 200' by 200' to 350' by 350'), a meteorological tower (50' by 50'), a substation (360' by 500'), and an Operations and Maintenance building (200' by 200'). All footprints are approximate. Site control, such as a fence, may be constructed at each lease location. The lease would encompass a total of 42.869 acres, and would be located within the following lands.

Portions of Sections 3, 4, 9-11, 15, 22, 23, and 27-30, Township 10 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian;

And portions of Sections 17, 25-28, 34, and 35, Township 10 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian.

ADL 419216: GVEA has applied for a public access easement that would connect the proposed wind turbines/infrastructure to the Ferry Road system. This includes access for vehicle/equipment travel between turbine sites and for burial of power and communications cable adjacent to the proposed roadway. Much of the proposed road system for the turbines already exists as road/trails but may need to be upgraded to support the project. In addition, an easement will be necessary for an access road to a proposed project communications site near the Parks Highway.

The proposed easement for the access roads to and between the wind turbine sites are located within Sections 3,4, 9-11, 14, 15, 22, and 23, Township 10 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian. The proposed easement for the access road to the communication site west of the Parks lies within Section 17, Township 10 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian. The requested access road easements are 60 feet in width by approximately 42,822 feet in total length for a use of 59.98 acres of state land.

ADL 419221: GVEA has applied for a public easement to upgrade and realign portions of the Ferry Road. This road is an Omnibus Road (FAS Route No. 6392, Ferry-Eva-Moose Creek) and is owned and managed by DOT. GVEA will realign and upgrade the road to accommodate necessary transportation of equipment from the Alaska Railroad to the wind turbine farm area. The realignment would consist primarily of minor centerline modifications to accommodate long loads, and this easement would ensure the easement is a minimum of 50' from the centerline. Because the Ferry road is managed by DOT, NRO Lands may issue this public easement to DOT rather than GVEA. This easement would be functionally irrevocable. GVEA will be entering into a third party use agreement with DOT for operation and maintenance of this route.

This easement is within Sections 14, 22, 23, and 27-30, Township 10 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian, and Sections 25-27, Township 10 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian.

ADL 419234: GVEA has applied for, and NRO Lands proposes to issue, a material sale for 309,730 cubic yards of material. These are remote, non-highway accessible material sites, therefore the representative sale price is \$1.50 per cubic yard. The volume requested requires that the sale be offered competitively at an auction that will be advertised at a later date. GVEA desires the material for road upgrades and site development (building pads, foundations, etc.). There are 8 proposed sites totaling 562 acres, however, between all of the sites, no more than 40 acres will be disturbed. It is likely that not all sites will be developed. The proposed material sites are located within Sections 25-27, Township 10 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian, and Sections 11, 14, 22, 29, and 30, Township 10 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed actions. Copies of the Preliminary Decision, where applicable, are available at the DNR/DMLW, Northern Region Lands Section, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709. Copies are also available at the department's Public Information Center in Fairbanks or at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/hottopics/eva>.

This notice meets the requirements spelled out in AS 38.050.945 for the material sale (ADL 419234) and the lease (ADL 418853), as well as the requirements specified in a memo from the Director of the DMLW dated 6/6/2011, limiting appeal and reconsideration request eligibility for the easements (ADLs 419216 and 419221) to those who meaningfully participate during this public notice process. Comments must be submitted in writing and received on or before **5:00 pm on Monday, August 15, 2011** to ensure consideration at one of the following: DNR/DMLW – Northern Regional Office, Attn; Eva Creek Wind Project, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709. Comments may also be submitted via email to dnr.evacreek@alaska.gov. Only persons who provide timely written comments during the comment period will be considered in this decision and be eligible to file an administrative appeal of the decisions AS 38.05.035(i)-(m). **Note: This project is proposed to be authorized via four separate decisions, each limited in scope to specific project components. Appeal eligibility will be limited to the applicable project components for which you submitted comments during this public notice. To ensure your comments are properly attributed to the appropriate decision, please make certain each issue raised is explicitly associated by ADL to the authorization you intended to address.**

For more information or to submit comments, please contact NRO Lands at 907-451-2740, or via email at dnr.evacreek@alaska.gov. Comments must be received by **5:00pm** on **August 15, 2011**.

If public comments in response to this notice indicate the need for significant changes in the above decision, additional public notice for the proposed area will be given on or after August 22, 2011. Changes such as removal or micro-siting of the turbines, reduction in the amount of gravel offered, or a decision not to develop portions of an easement do not constitute a significant change. If no significant change is required, a final decision will be issued without further noticed. A notice of the decision will be sent to any person who provided timely written comment.

All programs and services provided by the State of Alaska are available to all qualified individuals regardless of age, race, social and economic status or gender, or disability. The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The State is prepared to accommodate individuals with disabilities by providing auxiliary aids when requested. Individuals with audio impairments who wish to respond to this decision by telephone may call the DNR Public Information Center in Fairbanks between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., M-F at TDD 907-451-2770.

The Division of Mining, Land and Water reserves the right to waive technical defects in this publication.

Chris Milles, Northern Regional Manager
Division of Mining, Land and Water