



Publication Date: December 27, 2010  
Vol. 34, No. 26

Next Publication: January 10, 2011  
Submittal Deadline: January 3, 2011

# EQB MONITOR

**NOTICE: The EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2011 is included in this edition.**

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: January 26, 2011

### Project Title: Granite Falls Energy, LLC – Ethanol Plant Expansion Project

**Description:** Granite Falls Energy, LLC (GFE), is an existing fuel-ethanol production facility (Facility) located in Granite Falls, Minnesota. GFE proposes to expand its permitted undenatured ethanol production capacity from 49.9 million gallons per year (MMGY) to 70 MMGY. The expansion would be achieved by adding additional equipment to support ethanol production. This additional production equipment will be located within GFE's current property boundary. The primary source of fuel for the Facility is natural gas (propane can be used as a backup).

In addition to the EAW, the MPCA's draft Air Emissions Permit and draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Permit for the GFE Expansion Project will also be on public notice concurrently. The contact person for the draft Air Emissions Permit is Jim Robin (651-757-2739). The contact person for the draft NPDES/SDS Permit is Kate Frantz (651-757-2370).

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will host a public informational meeting on the EAW and permits. The meeting will be held on January 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the Minnesota West Community Technical College in Granite Falls. MPCA staff will also be available one hour prior to the meeting to answer questions in an open house format.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

The *EQB Monitor* is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The *EQB Monitor* is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>.

Upon request, the *EQB Monitor* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Department of Administration. For information on the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
658 Cedar St., 300 Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1388  
Phone: 651-201-2480  
Fax: 651-296-3698  
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**Contact Person:**

Steve Sommer  
Planner Principal  
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section  
Regional Division – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 651-757-2746

**Project Title: Big Stone Quarry**

**Description:** Strata Corporation is proposing to construct a granite quarry operation south of Ortonville in Ortonville Township, Big Stone County, MN. The project involves the development of a new granite aggregate mining and processing operation on a 95.55 acre quarry site plus related ancillary operations and features. Construction activities are planned to begin in 2011 with the site becoming fully operational in 2012.

**RGU:** Big Stone County

**Contact Person:**

Darren Wilke  
Environmental Services Director  
20 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE  
Ortonville, MN 56278  
Phone: 320-839-6376  
Fax: 320-839-6253  
Email: [darren\\_w@co.big-stone.mn.us](mailto:darren_w@co.big-stone.mn.us)

**Project Title: Interstate 494 (I-394 to East Fish Lake Road) Expansion Project EA/EAW (S.P.2785-330)**

**Description:**

The proposed project will construct a new travel lane on the inside shoulder of north- and southbound I-494 from I-394 to the East Fish Lake Road overpass in the Cities of Minnetonka, Plymouth, and Maple Grove. Auxiliary lane improvements will also be constructed in the southbound direction at the I-494 interchange with I-394. Existing I-494 bridges over the Canadian Pacific Railway will be redecked and widened. Existing I-494 bridges at Schmidt Lake Road and CSAH 47 will be either replaced or redecked and widened. The southbound I-494 bridge at I-394 will require widening on the right shoulder. The project also includes construction of stormwater ponds and noise barriers. All construction activity is anticipated to take place within existing I-494 right of way.

Copies of the EA/EAW, which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning **December 27, 2010**, at the following locations:

- Project Web site: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494plymouth>
- Mn/DOT Metro District Offices, 1500 West County Road B2, Roseville
- Maple Grove City Hall, 12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy., Maple Grove
- Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka
- Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth
- Hennepin County Library, 8001 Main St. N., Maple Grove
- Hennepin County Library, 17524 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka
- Hennepin County Library, 15700 36th Ave. N., Plymouth

To request this document in an alternative format, call Bruce Lattu at 651-366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to [bruce.lattu@state.mn.us](mailto:bruce.lattu@state.mn.us). (Please request at least one week in advance).

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EA/EAW, a public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at Plymouth City Hall – Medicine Lake Room (3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, Minnesota 55447-1482). The public hearing will be held in an open house format. To request an ASL interpreter or other reasonable accommodation, call Janet Miller at 651-366-4720 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to [janet.rae.miller@state.mn.us](mailto:janet.rae.miller@state.mn.us). (Please request at least one week in advance).

Copies of the EA/EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period for the EA/EAW will begin on Monday, December 27, 2010. Comments will be accepted through Wednesday, January 26, 2011. Written comments should be submitted to: Richard Dalton, Environmental Coordinator, Mn/DOT Metro District, 1500 W. County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113, Phone 651-234-7677, Email [Richard.Dalton@state.mn.us](mailto:Richard.Dalton@state.mn.us).

### **Project Proposer**

Minnesota Department of Transportation

### **RGU**

Minnesota Department of Transportation

### **Contact**

Scott Pedersen, Project Manager

Mn/DOT Metro District

1500 West County Road B2

Roseville, MN 55113

Phone: (651) 234-7726

Email: [Scott.Pedersen@state.mn.us](mailto:Scott.Pedersen@state.mn.us)

## **EIS ADEQUACY DECISIONS**

**Project Title: Trunk Highway 23 / U.S. Highway 71 Improvement Project, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota**

On December 16, 2010, the Minnesota Department of Transportation determined that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for improvements to Minnesota Trunk Highway 23/U.S. Highway 71 in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota is adequate. This decision completes the Minnesota environmental review process as found in Minnesota Rules 4410.

The record supporting the Adequacy Decision is available at the following web address: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/hwy23and71/index.html>. Those without internet access may obtain a hard copy by contacting the Project Manager Lowell Flaten, Mn/DOT District 8, 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar, MN 56201, phone: 320-214-6367.

## AUAR ADOPTED

### Project Title: Maple Grove Gravel Mining Area AUAR Update

At their meeting on Monday, December 6, 2010, the Maple Grove City Council adopted Resolution No. 10-141 designating and approving the 2010 Update of the 2005 Maple Grove Gravel Mining Area Alternative Urban Area Wide Review and Mitigation Plan dated August 23, 2010 (the "GMA AUAR Update"), and the Responses to Comments on an Amendments to the 2010 Update of the 2005 Maple Grove Gravel Mining Area AUAR and Mitigation Plan dated November 1, 2010, as the "Revised Environmental Analysis Document and Plan for Mitigation" in accordance with Minnesota Environmental Quality Board Rules 4410.3610, Subd.5.

## EAW NEED DECISIONS

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an EAW in response to a citizen petition.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Shamrock Environmental, LLC – Industrial Waste Landfill at Cloquet, Carlton County, Denied.

## PETITION FILED

The following petitions have been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Finlayson Demo LLC Landfill, Pine County

## NOTICES

### Minnesota Department of Administration

#### Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
11-NO-001	Monsanto	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance Altered Oil Composition	Redwood (4)

For more information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651/201-6277, [mary.hanks@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.hanks@state.mn.us).

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD  
STATE METALLIC MINERALS LEASE SALE**

**State Lands to be Offered for Metallic Minerals Exploration**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announces that plans are being developed to hold the state's 32nd sale of metallic minerals exploration and mining leases. The sale is tentatively scheduled for April 2011. The lease sale plans are being announced at this time in order to give mining companies, public interest groups and all other interested parties additional time to review the areas under consideration.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 - .0700) is to promote and regulate the exploration for, mining and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These rules, and the leases issued under these rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of rentals that increase with the passage of time, the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed, the submission of data and other reports, and the addressing of environmental considerations. In addition, the state lessee must comply with all applicable regulatory laws.

The areas under consideration for the lease sale cover portions of Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and Saint Louis Counties. Some of the lands being considered have been offered in previous metallic minerals lease sales, but based upon the interest shown by industry, new geologic data, and exploration techniques developed during the past few years, it is felt that within these lands there is significant potential for the discovery of mineral resources. Certain new lands of interest are also being considered for the lease sale.

The exact time and place of the lease sale will be announced by legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the sale. Mining unit books, listing the state lands to be offered at the lease sale, will be available for inspection or purchase at that time.

A map showing the general areas under consideration may be obtained from the Division of Lands and Minerals, Box 45, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155-4045, telephone 651-259-5959, or by visiting the DNR website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).

Dated: December 14, 2010

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Marty K. Yadis, Director  
Division of Lands and Minerals

**EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2011**

<b>Volume Number</b>	<b>Deadline for Submission</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>EAW Comment Deadline</b>
35-1	January 3	January 10	February 9
35-2	January 14 <b>(Friday)</b>	January 24	February 23
35-3	January 31	February 7	March 9
35-4	February 14	February 21	March 3
35-5	February 28	March 7	April 6
35-6	March 14	March 21	April 20
35-7	March 28	April 4	May 4
35-8	April 11	April 18	May 18
35-9	April 25	May 2	June 1
35-10	May 9	May 16	June 15
35-11	May 23	May 30	June 29
35-12	June 6	June 13	July 13
35-13	June 20	June 29	July 27
35-14	July 1 <b>(Friday)</b>	July 11	August 10
35-15	July 18	July 25	August 24
35-16	August 1	August 8	September 7
35-17	August 15	August 22	September 21
35-18	August 29	September 5	October 5
35-19	September 12	September 19	October 19
35-20	September 26	October 3	November 2
35-21	October 10	October 17	November 16
35-22	October 24	October 31	November 30
35-23	November 7	November 14	December 14
35-24	November 21	November 28	December 28
35-25	December 5	December 12	January 11, 2012
35-26	December 19	December 26	January 25, 2012