



January 16, 2006



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

Comments due on February 15, 2006

Cedar Point Commons

Description: The Cedar Point Commons project is a 30-acre redevelopment project at the northwest quadrant of Trunk Highway 77 (TH 77) and 66th Street in Richfield, Minnesota. The project will include 350,000+/- square feet of retail, general merchandise, restaurant and home improvement tenants.

RGU: City of Richfield

Contact: Christine Costello, Community Development Specialist, 6700 Portland Ave, Richfield, MN 55423-2560; 612-861-9700; fax: 612-861-9749; e-mail: ccostello@cityofrichfield.org

Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion

Description: The Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District is proposing to improve, replace, and add equipment to their existing wastewater treatment facility that will increase the capacity to an average wet weather flow (AWWF) of 4.7 million gallons per day (mgpd). Currently, the facility has an AWWF capacity of 3.75 mgpd. In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit will also be available for public comment concurrently, beginning January 17. The contact person for the Discharge Permit is Holly Borash at (218) 846-0775.

Comments will be accepted on the EAW until February 15, 2006, and Discharge permit until February 16, 2006. A public information meeting will be held on January 25, 2006, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Alexandria Technical College, located at 1601 Jefferson Street, Main Building.

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

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Susan Heffron, Project Manager, Environmental Review and Operations Section, Regional Division, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-297-1766

ABOUT THE EQB MONITOR

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/>

Vol. 30 , No. 2

Next issue: January 30, 2006

Submittal deadline: January 23, 2006



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EA/DRAFT 4(f) EVALUATION AVAILABLE

Northstar Corridor Rail Project Environmental Assessment/Draft 4(f) Evaluation Corrected Address for Coon Rapids Civic Center

The EA/Draft 4(f) Evaluation has been prepared under 23 CFR 771.129 and 23 CFR 771.130 by Mn/DOT, the NCDA and Met Council to update information found in the *Northstar Corridor Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Draft and FEIS)* dated December 2000 and March 2002, respectively, and the *Record of Decision* (December 2002). The Northstar Rail Project under evaluation in the EA runs from downtown Minneapolis to Big Lake, Minnesota (40.1 mile system). This document evaluates whether there have been significant changes to the proposed action, the affected environment, the anticipated impacts or the proposed mitigation measures required since the *Record of Decision (ROD)* was issued for the project. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is the lead federal agency for the Northstar Corridor project.

Copies of the EA are being distributed to those agencies on the current Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MnEQB) distribution list and others with interest in the proposed project. The EA/Draft 4(f) Evaluation review period will begin upon notification in the January 2, 2006 *EQB Monitor*. Comments will be accepted by Mn/DOT through February 16, 2006 (45-day review and comment period). Copies of the EA will be available at libraries in the Northstar Corridor (listed below) and at the Northstar Project Office (see address below).

Minneapolis Northeast Library
Technology and Science Library
Columbia Heights Library
Crooked Lake Branch Library
Northtown Central Library
Rum River Branch Library
Elk River Branch Library
Great River Regional Library – Big Lake and St. Cloud
Legislative Reference Library

Comments on the Northstar Corridor Rail Project EA/Draft 4(f) Evaluation should be submitted to:

Bryan Dodds
Northstar Project Office
155 Fifth Avenue South
Suite 755
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: 612-215-8200
Fax: 612-215-8210
e-mail: bryan.dodds@mnrail.org

To afford an opportunity for all interested parties, agencies, groups to comment on the proposed project, Mn/DOT and its local partnering agencies, the NCDA and Met Council will be hosting three open house/public hearings as follows:

January 25, 2006
5:30 PM Open House/7:00 PM Presentation and Comments
Coon Rapids Civic Center, Room B
11155 Robinson Drive
Coon Rapids



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January 26, 2006
5:00 PM Open House/6:30 PM Presentation and Comments
Heywood Facility
560 Sixth Avenue North
Minneapolis

January 30, 2006
6:00 PM Open House/7:30 PM Presentation and Comments
Big Lake High School Cafeteria
501 Minnesota Avenue
Big Lake

Individuals with a disability, who need reasonable accommodation to participate in the public hearings, please contact Bryan Dodds at 612-215-8200. The EA/Draft 4(f) Evaluation document is available in alternate formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529.

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparations of an EIS. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the EAW notice was published in the EQB Monitor.

- Detroit Lakes City Council, River Hills RV Park, January 3, 2006 (September 25, 2005)
- Douglas County, Taylor Sunset Shores, December 27, 2005
- Todd County Planning Commission, The Sanctuary, December 1, 2005
- Becker County Board of Commissioners, Bambi Resort, CIC Conversion, Toad Lake, December 27, 2005 (February 28, 2005)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Rum River Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension, December 22, 2005 (September 12, 2005)
- Burnsville City Council, Woodland Enclave, January 3, 2006
- Meeker County Board of Commissioners, Fitterer Feedlot Expansion, January 3, 2006 (September 12, 2005)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Exetare Partnership, LLP, Wood View Sow Site, December 12, 2005 (November 7, 2005)
- Metropolitan Airports Commission, 2015 Terminal Expansion Project, December 22, 2005
- City of Mankato, Mankato Regional Airport Expansion, December 14, 2005 (October 24, 2005)

EIS PREPARATION NOTICE

Blue Heron Bay Residential Cluster Development Dead Lake (56-383), Otter Tail County

Otter Tail County will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposal by Blue Heron Bay Land Company LLC (developer) for a residential cluster development on a 257 acre parcel consisting of a large peninsula, a small peninsula, and an island located on Dead Lake.



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The EIS will address the following issues: Onsite nitrate levels, impact on aquatic vegetation, impact on fish & wildlife species (especially endangered, threatened, or special concern species), current and historic lake elevations, existing development, forestry plan, lake depth, onsite water wells not identified in the EAW, impact of additional watercraft, onsite surface water runoff, onsite waste water treatment, onsite solid waste, hazardous waste, or storage tanks not identified in the EAW, impact of additional vehicular traffic, onsite odors, noise, and dust, appropriate onsite archeological assessment(s), and onsite lighting. In addition, EIS will evaluate the local economic & sociological impacts of the proposed project and/or alternatives.

The EIS will also evaluate the following alternatives: The proposed residential cluster development, a conventional lot/block residential subdivision, a residential development comprised of a combination of clustered units & conventional lot/block subdivision, and a no build alternative.

The tentative EIS schedule includes release of the Draft EIS in January/February 2006, issuing the Final EIS in March 2006, and a determination of EIS adequacy in April 2006.

Otter Tail County's contact for this project is Bill Kalar, Administrator, Land & Resource Management, Government Services Center, 540 West Fir, Fergus Falls, MN 56537; 218-998-8095

FINAL EIS NOTICE

Elk River Landfill Expansion

Description: Notice is hereby given that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Elk River Landfill (Project), for which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is the Responsible Government Unit (RGU), is available for public review. Pursuant to Minn. R. 4410.2800, subp. 2, publication of this notice begins a ten-day public review period during which any person may submit comments on the adequacy of the Final EIS to MPCA. This comment period will expire at the end of the day on January 30, 2006.

In addition, a press release is being made available to media in the area of the Project pursuant to Minn. R. 4410.2700, subps. 4-6.

The Final EIS packet includes the MPCA's responses to the timely substantive comments submitted to the MPCA on the Draft EIS on the Project, as required by Minn. R. 4410.2700, subp. 1. Copies of all timely comment letters received by MPCA are attached to the Final EIS.

The response to comments document, the Draft EIS that was mailed October 21, 2005, and the revisions made to the Draft EIS in the form of an errata sheet, together comprise the Final EIS on the Project, as provided in Minn. R. 4410.2700, subp. 2. The Final EIS/comment response document is being distributed pursuant to Minn. R. 4410.2700, subp. 3. Any person who does not have the Draft EIS may obtain a copy by contacting MPCA at the address below.

MPCA staff plan to present the Final EIS to the MPCA Citizens' Board (Board) for a determination of adequacy on or about February 28, 2006. Any person may appear at this meeting and address the Board on the subject of the adequacy of the Final EIS. All parties on the mailing list for this Project and any other interested parties who so request will be notified of the exact date, time, and location of this public meeting, and will also be mailed the Board memorandum and proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order that will be presented to the Board at that meeting for its approval and adoption.

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

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Debra Moynihan, Project Manager, Environmental Review and Operations Section, Regional Division, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155-4194; 651-296-8420



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FINAL SCOPING DECISION

Minnesota Urban Ballpark

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved the Final Scoping Decision Document for the Minnesota Urban Baseball Park mandatory Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on December 13, 2005. The Draft Scoping Decision Document and the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) – were originally published in the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) *Monitor* on October 24, 2005 and as revised on November 21, 2005. A public scoping meeting was held on December 5, 2005, at the Hennepin County Environmental Services building in Minneapolis. Public comments were accepted through December 9, 2005 at 4:30 p.m..

The following alternatives for the proposed 42,000-seat, open-air baseball park, to be located one block northwest of the Target Center between 5th Street North and 7th Street North in Minneapolis, were identified in the Final Scoping Decision Document and will be carried forward in the EIS: No Build Alternative (Minnesota Twins continue to use Metrodome); Scale or Magnitude Alternative (1,000 additional seats); Modified Design or Layout (86 additional parking spaces); and Incorporation of Mitigation Measures Identified Through Public Comment. The following issues were identified for special study: Transportation and Parking; Air Quality; Noise; Visual Quality; Cultural Resource; Soils/Groundwater Contamination (to extent necessary); and Cumulative Impacts.

Copies of this Final Scoping Decision Document approval notice will be distributed to the EAW Distribution list and those who provided public comments during the scoping period. The full version of the Final Scoping Decision Document can be viewed at the following locations:

- Hennepin County Housing, Community Works and Transit Department (417 North 5th Street, Suite 332, Minneapolis, MN)
- Legislative Reference Library (645 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN)
- Hennepin County webpage (www.hennepin.us)
- Minneapolis Public Library branches at:
 - Northeast (2200 Central Ave. NE)
 - Sumner (611 Van White Memorial Blvd)
 - Franklin (1314 East Franklin Ave)
 - Washburn (5244 Lyndale Ave S)

Preparation of the EIS will begin at such point as the Minnesota Twins Baseball Club (the project proposer) and the RGU determine it is prudent to proceed. At such time, an EIS Preparation Notice will be distributed to the EAW Distribution list and those who provided public comments during the scoping period.

RGU: Hennepin County

Contact: Chuck Ballentine, Department Director, Housing, Community Works and Transit Department, 417 North 5th Street, Suite 332, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1362; 612-348-4216; fax: 612-348-9710; email: chuck.ballentine@co.hennepin.mn.us

NOTICES

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Notice of Filings and Prehearing Conference in the Matters of the Applications of Otter Tail Power Company and Others for Need and Routing Certification of Transmission Facilities in Western Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission Docket Nos. ET-6131, ET-2, ET-6130, ET-10, ET-6444, E-017, ET-9/CN-05-619 and TR-05-1275

On October 3, 2005, Otter Tail Power Company; Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency; Great River Energy; Heartland Consumers Power District; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.; Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency; and Western Minnesota



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Municipal Power Agency (collectively, the "Applicants") filed a certificate of need application for a proposed transmission project in western Minnesota. According to the Applicants, the proposed facilities are needed to provide transmission outlet capacity for a new coal-fired unit at the Big Stone Power Plant in South Dakota to strengthen the regional power grid.

On December 9, 2005, the Applicants filed an application for a route permit in Minnesota for the same transmission facilities.

The proposed transmission facilities fall under the definition of "large energy facility" in Minn. Stat. § 216B.2141, subd. 2 (2). Therefore, in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 2, the facility cannot be constructed or sited in Minnesota unless the Commission issues a certificate of need to the Applicants.

The proposed Project includes the following components:

- a new 230-kilovolt (kV) line from the Big Stone Power Plant to Ortonville, of which 2 miles would be in Minnesota;
- a rebuild of an existing 115-kV line to 230 kV from Ortonville to Morris, approximately 16 miles long;
- a new line designed and capable of operating at 345 kV from Big Stone Power Plant south to the Canby area, approximately 51 miles long, the majority of which is likely to be proposed for construction in South Dakota; and
- the conversion of an existing 115-kV line from Canby to Granite Falls to a line designed for and capable of operating at 345 kV, approximately 39 miles long.

The Applicants have identified a line from Ortonville to Willmar as a possible system alternative to the second line segment listed above.

Also, the Applicants indicated that the Granite Falls line would be operated at 230 kV until the line could connect with a planned 345 kV line extending from the Buffalo Ridge area to the Twin Cities area.

Routing considerations and proceedings in Minnesota and South Dakota could alter some of the line lengths indicated above.

Both applications have now been accepted by the Commission.

The applicable certificate of need rules are Minn. Rules, parts 7849.0010 to 7849.0400. The applicable routing rules are Minn. Rules, parts 4400.0200 to 4400.8000.

Administrative Law Judge Steve M. Mihalchick has been assigned to conduct the hearings in these proceedings. His address and telephone number are as follows: Office of Administrative Hearings, Suite 1700, 100 Washington Square, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2138; 612-349-2544.

A prehearing conference will be held for these applications at 9:00 a.m. on February 8, 2006 in the Small Hearing Room, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147. Persons wishing to participate in either of these dockets as an official party should attend this conference. Among the issues to be discussed are times and places for public hearings, the extent to which the evidentiary hearings for the two processes will be joined, dates for prefilings of testimony, and discovery procedures.

Questions regarding this project and these dockets may be directed to Commission staff members David Jacobson at 651-201-2238, david.jacobson@state.mn.us and Bob Cupit at 651-201-2255, bob.cupit@state.mn.us

Notice of Public Information Meetings

**In the Matter of the Application
for a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit
for Two New High Voltage Transmission Lines
in Western Minnesota
(Big Stone Transmission Project)**



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MPUC Docket Number E-017/TR-05-1275

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct public information meetings in the locations listed below, concerning a proposal by seven utilities to construct two new transmission lines between the Big Stone Substation in South Dakota and different termination points in Minnesota (the Project). The purposes of the meetings are to provide information to the public about the proposed project, answer questions, and scope an Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared by the Department addressing potential impacts and alternatives.

Public Information Meeting Dates

Benson DS Lageson's	Tuesday, January 24 4:00-7:00 pm	The open house will start at 4:00 pm. A short presentation will begin at 5:30 pm.
Morris Prairie Inn Hwy. 28	Wednesday, January 25 12:00-3:00 pm	The open house will start at 12:00 pm. A short presentation will begin at 12:30 pm.
Ortonville Matador Supper Club	Wednesday, January 25 4:00-7:00 pm	The open house will start at 4:00 pm. A short presentation will begin at 5:30 pm.
Canby Council Chambers	Thursday, January 26 12:00-3:00 pm	The open house will start at 12:00 pm. A short presentation will begin at 12:30 pm.
Granite Falls Minnesota West College	Thursday, January 26 4:00-7:00 pm	The open house will start at 4:00 pm. A short presentation will begin at 5:30 pm.

The Applicants

Seven utilities (collectively the Applicants) have submitted an Application for a Certificate of Need and an Application for a Route Permit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for two new high voltage transmission lines (HVTLs). The utilities include: Otter Tail Power Company (Project lead), Great River Energy, Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Heartland Consumers Power District, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (as represented by Missouri River Energy Services).

Project Description

The Applicants are proposing to construct two new high voltage transmission lines in Western Minnesota. The new transmission lines will serve two purposes: (1) provide an outlet for power to be generated at a proposed new 600 megawatt unit to be constructed at the Big Stone Power Plant in South Dakota and (2) increase the transmission capacity and improve reliability of the electric transmission system in the Buffalo Ridge area in Minnesota and South Dakota.



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One new transmission line would run from the Big Stone Substation to the Morris Substation near Morris, Minnesota, a total of approximately 48 miles, about 43 miles of which are in Minnesota. The other transmission line would run from Big Stone Substation to the Granite Falls Substation in Granite Falls, Minnesota, a distance of approximately 90 miles, 54 miles of which would be in Minnesota. The Morris line would be constructed at 230 kilovolts. The Granite Falls line would be constructed at 345 kV but operated initially at 230 kV. In addition, modification of several substations and existing transmission facilities will also be required as part of the Project. Also, in its Certificate of Need Application the Applicants identified an alternative to the Morris line – a 230 kV line to the Willmar Substation at Willmar, Minnesota. This line would be approximately 80 miles long.

The Applicants have identified both a preferred route for each transmission line and at least one alternative route. Two different border crossings have been identified for the Granite Falls line. A map showing the routes under consideration is attached.

In accordance with their authority under state law, the Applicants may be required to exercise the power of eminent domain.

PUC Review Process

On October 3, 2005, the Applicants submitted an Application to the PUC for a Certificate of Need for the two new transmission lines. On November 10, 2005, the PUC decided to consolidate the certificate of need proceeding with the upcoming route permit proceeding. The Applicants submitted the Route Permit Application on December 9, 2005.

The rules applicable to the processing of the Route Permit Application are found in Minn. Rules Chapter 4400. These rules were originally promulgated by the Environmental Quality Board, but effective July 1, 2005, the Legislature transferred the authority over routing of new transmission lines to the PUC. In addition, the Minnesota DOC has been assigned the responsibility to conduct environmental review of proposed transmission lines.

The DOC will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) before the PUC may determine the need for the project and approve a specific route for each transmission line. The EIS will consider issues relating both to the need for the Project, such as size, type, timing, voltage and system configurations, and also to issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, and impacts on homeowners. To help determine what impacts and alternatives to study in the EIS, these five public meetings are being held to solicit public input.

The meetings will follow an open-house format. The public is invited to review the Applications and proposed routes, learn more about the PUC process and ask questions. These meetings will also serve as EIS “scoping” meetings where the public can propose additional routes to be considered for the new transmission lines and comment on what issues should be addressed in the EIS. Members of the public are welcome anytime during the hours of the open-house meetings. There will be a short presentation shortly after the start of the meeting. The DOC will also accept written comments on the Project and the scope of the EIS until February 13, 2006. Written comments should be mailed or e-mailed to the Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager, at 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198.

After completion of the EIS, the PUC will hold a public hearing presided over by an administrative law judge. Notice of that public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names with the Department. Persons interested in adding their names to the mailing list should contact the project manager or register on the webpage cited below. By statute, the PUC has one year from November 4, 2005, to make a final decision on the certificate of need and one year from December 20, 2005, to make a final decision on the route permit.

Copies of both Applications and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Rules governing the process, are available at:



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<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

or

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18215>

Project Contacts and Information

The Commission has designated DOC staff member David Birkholz as project manager and Deborah Pile as the public advisor in this matter. Inquiries about this project and the review process should be directed to Mr. Birkholz (Tel: 651-296-2878 or david.birkholz@state.mn.us) or Ms. Pile, (Tel: 651-297-2375 or deborah.pile@state.mn.us) Department of Commerce, 85 7th place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Current information about the Project and the Applications is also available online at <http://www.bigstoneii.com/>. Click on the “Big Stone Transmission Project” link on the home page. Copies of the CON Application and the Route Permit Application are also available at the following public libraries:

Benson Public Library 200 13 th St. S. Benson, MN 56215	Canby Public Library 110 Oscar Ave. Canby, MN 56220
Granite Falls Public Library 155 7 th Ave. Granite Falls, MN 56241	Madison Public Library 401 6 th Ave. Madison, MN 56256
Morris Public Library 102 East 6 th St. Morris, MN 56267	Ortonville Public Library 412 2 nd St. NW Ortonville, MN 56278
Willmar Public Library 410 5 th St. SW Willmar, MN 56201	

General project information may also be obtained by emailing sschultz@otpc.com or writing to Mr. Steve Schultz, Big Stone Public Relations Manager, at Otter Tail Power Company, 215 South Cascade Street, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538 or by calling Mr. Schultz at Tel: 218-739-8916.

NOTICE OF ROUTE PERMIT FOR EASTWOOD 115 kV-115 kV HVTL

PUC grants a Route Permit to Xcel Energy for a double-circuit 115 kilovolt High Voltage Transmission Line in Blue Earth County. (PUC Docket No. E002/TR-05-1192)

The Public Utilities Commission voted unanimously to designate a route and issue a route permit for the proposed double-circuit 115 kV high voltage transmission line from the Summit-Loon Lake line in Lime Township to the Eastwood Substation in Mankato Township in Blue Earth County. The Commission officially issued the Order and Permit on January 4, 2006.



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Northern States Power, d/b/a Xcel Energy, was granted a route permit that specifies a new 115 kilovolt-115 kilovolt line approximately 3.5 miles long. The line taps into the Summit-Loon Lake line just south of Mankato Municipal Airport. It runs south along CR 12 and 589th Avenue, runs west along Thompson Ravine Road (CR 3), turns south along Power Drive and terminates at the existing Eastwood Substation.

The proposed transmission line project will require a new right-of-way of 45 feet when paralleling road or other existing rights-of-way and 80 feet when entirely new right-of-way is required. Structures will be single-shaft, steel davit arm poles averaging 85-90 feet in height with an average span length of 650 feet. The proposed transmission line is expected to be in service by the summer of 2006.

The Route Permit for the project contains conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, electrical performance standards, and other restrictions. The Permit and other information about this project may be reviewed on the PUC website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=17001>

If you have any questions about this project or would like more information, please contact David Birkholz, Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; 651-296-2878; TTY: 1-800-657-3794; fax: 651-297-7891; e-mail: david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Transgenic Corn Rootworm Resistant and Herbicide Tolerant Corn – Commercial Use Exemption

Monsanto Company has requested an exemption from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permit for an insect resistant and herbicide tolerant corn line designated as transformation event MON 88017. This line contains the stably integrated genes, *cry3Bb1*, which confers resistance to the corn rootworm complex, and the *cp4 epsps* gene, which confers tolerance to the herbicide, glyphosate. The *cry3Bb1* gene, isolated from the bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kumamotoensis*, encodes the protein, CryBb1, which is toxic to corn rootworms. The second gene encodes the 5-enolpyruvylshikiate-3-phosphate synthase protein from *Agrobacterium* sp. strain CP4. This corn line is no longer regulated under USDA/APHIS guidelines. Under this exemption from state permit, Monsanto Company will be allowed to commercially use this insect resistant and herbicide tolerant corn line without further regulation. For additional information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651-201-6277.

Transgenic Corn Rootworm Resistant, Corn Borer Resistant, and Herbicide Tolerant Corn – Commercial Use Exemption

Monsanto Company has requested an exemption from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permit for a corn borer and corn rootworm resistant and herbicide tolerant corn line resulting from a cross of transformation events MON 88017 and MON 810. The designated MON88017 contains the stably integrated genes, *cry3Bb1*, which confers resistance to the corn rootworm complex, and the *cp4 epsps* gene, which confers tolerance to the herbicide, glyphosate. The *cry3Bb1* gene, isolated from the bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kumamotoensis*, encodes the protein, Cry3Bb1, which is toxic to corn rootworms. The second gene encodes the 5-enolpyruvylshikiate-3-phosphate synthase protein from *Agrobacterium* sp. strain CP4. The line designated MON810 produces the Cry1Ab protein from *Bacillus thuringiensis* subs. *Kurstaki*, which is toxic to corn borers. This event (MON810) had been previously exempted individually from state permit on March 3, 1997. This corn line is no longer regulated under USDA/APHIS guidelines. Under this exemption from state permit, Monsanto Camonay will be allowed to commercially use this insect resistant and herbicide tolerant corn line without further regulation. For additional information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651-201-6277.



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EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2006

Deadline for Submission	Publication Date	EAW Comment Deadline
December 23, 2005	January 2	February 1
January 9	January 16	February 15
January 23	January 30	March 1
February 6	February 13	March 15
February 17 (Friday)	February 27	March 29
March 6	March 13	April 12
March 20	March 27	April 26
April 3	April 10	May 10
April 17	April 24	May 24
May 1	May 8	June 7
May 15	May 22	June 21
May 26 (Friday)	June 5	July 5
June 12	June 19	July 19
June 26	July 3	August 2
July 10	July 17	August 16
July 24	July 31	August 30
August 7	August 14	September 13
August 21	August 28	September 27
September 1 (Friday)	September 11	October 11
September 18	September 25	October 25
October 2	October 9	November 8
October 16	October 23	November 22
October 30	November 6	December 6
November 13	November 20	December 20
November 27	December 4	January 3, 2007
December 11	December 18	January 17, 2007
December 22 (Friday)	January 1, 2007	January 31, 2007



Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Department of Administration

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Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial, 658 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1388

Phone: 651-201-2480

Fax: 651-296-3698

E-mail: <mailto:eqb.monitor@state.mn.us>
