



February 27, 2006



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

Comments due on March 29, 2006

Highlands of Red Wing

Description: A Developer is proposing to develop a 52 acre area site that is currently mostly vacant land for a development to be known as the Highlands of Red Wing consisting of 21.2 acres of residential development (84 single family homes, 56 town home condominiums and, 6.0 acres of connecting city streets); 2.4 acres mixed use neighborhood business, 14.7 acres set aside for future development, and 7.7 acres preserved as open space.

RGU: City of Red Wing

Contact: Brian C. Peterson, AICP, Planning Director, Planning Department, 419 Bush Street, Red Wing, MN 55066; 651-385-3617; fax: 651-385-0554; e-mail: Brian.Peterson@ci.red-wing.mn.us

White Tail Ridge Residential Subdivision, Montrose

Description: White Tail Ridge is a proposed residential development for single and multi-family residences located on 170.1 acres of farmland in the City of Montrose. It involves the construction of approximately 313 single-family homes, 50 twin homes, and supporting infrastructure. City sewer and water will serve all homes.

RGU: City of Montrose

Contact: Bradley C. DeWolf, P.E., City Engineer, Bolton & Menk, Inc., P.O. Box 895, Willmar, MN 56201; 320-231-3956; fax: 320-231-9710

Laveau Excavating Sand and Gravel Mine, Carlton County, MN

Description: The project calls for extraction of sand and gravel from 30 acres on a 70 acre parcel to a maximum depth of 60 feet as measured from the surface elevation. There will be truck traffic to and from the site during the seven month operating year. The project will extract approximately 30,000 cubic yards of material on an average annual basis and operate for approximately 15 years. The project will impact .477 acres of type 1, 2, 5 and 6 wetlands.

RGU: Carlton County, MN

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. 5

Next issue: March 13, 2006
Submittal deadline: March 6, 2006



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Contact: Bruce E. Benson, Zoning Administrator, P.O. Box 220, 301 Walnut Ave, Room 101, Carlton, MN 55811; 218-384-9174; fax: 218-384-9121

North Paynesville Development

Description: The proposed project includes development of approximately 238 acres on the north side of the City of Paynesville. The development would include residential, commercial, and industrial lots as well as open space/parkland. The site is located south of 185th Street between 293rd Avenue and CSAH 33/283rd Avenue in Stearns County, Minnesota.

RGU: City of Paynesville

Contact: Ron Mergen, Interim City Administrator, 221 Washburne Avenue, Paynesville, MN 56362-1642; 320-243-3714; fax: 320-243-3713; e-mail: ron@paynesvillemn.com

Anoka Interceptor #7707 and Lift Station L-42 Improvements Project

Description: The Metropolitan Council proposes to construct improvements to portions of its existing Anoka Interceptor #7707 and Lift Station L-42 that serve part of the city of Anoka and the entire city of Ramsey. The project will consist of the replacement/upgrade of equipment within L-42 and replacement of force main pipe within the city of Anoka road right of way from L-42 to Trunk Highway 169.

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: Jessica Ebertz, Project Manager, Environmental Review and Operations Section, Regional Division, 520 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-8011

Del Webb Community

Description: Pulte/Del Webb is proposing to construct a residential development east of Highway 61 and west of Oneka Lake in Hugo, Minnesota. The development will include 975 single family and multi-family residential units on 369 acres. Roads, municipal sewer and water and other utilities will be extended to serve the development.

RGU: City of Hugo

Contact: Mr. Bryan Bear, 14669 Fitzgerald Avenue N, Hugo, MN 55038

EA AVAILABLE

Trunk Highway 10 Reconstruction, City of Staples, Todd County, Minnesota

Description: The proposed action will involve the reconstruction of approximately 3.85 miles of Trunk Highway 10 in the City of Staples, Todd County, Minnesota. The project will involve expanding the existing roadway from two to four-lanes and include both rural and urban designs. The rural section will consist of right and left turn lanes, shoulders, a depressed grass median and a frontage road to consolidate access. The urban section will be moved from its current location to a new alignment on existing 1st Avenue North. The urban section will consist of right and left turn lanes, shoulders, a raised concrete median, curb, gutter and storm sewer.



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Public Review: Copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) are being distributed to those agencies on the current MEQB document review list and others. The comment period will begin on **February 27, 2006** and will extend through **April 13, 2006**. Comments should be directed to Terry Humbert, Project Manager (contact information is listed below).

The EA which documents the purpose and need of the project along with the anticipated social economic, and environmental impacts, is available for public review at the following locations:

Minnesota Department of Transportation
District 3 Office
3725 12th Street North
St. Cloud, MN 56303

City of Staples
611 Iowa Avenue
Staples, MN 56479

Kitchigami Regional Library
(Region 5 Regional Development Library)
403 Barclay Avenue
Pine River, MN 56474

Staples Public Library
611 Iowa Avenue
Staples, MN 56479

The above referenced document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Project Manager at 320-654-5520, or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529.

Public Hearing: To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EA, a public hearing/open house meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2006 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Freshwater Education District Building, located at 1100 5th Street Northeast in Staples, Minnesota. The Freshwater Education District Building is handicapped accessible. Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event please contact the Project Manager at the phone number listed above or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 by March 10, 2006.

The purpose of the public hearing is to share information with the public about the project, and encourages the public to comment and ask questions. This hearing will also satisfy the environmental review legal requirements for the project.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Terry Humbert, Project Manager, Mn/DOT District 3, 3725 12th Street North, St. Cloud, MN 56303; 320-654-5520 or 1-800-657-3961; e-mail: terry.humbert@dot.state.mn.us

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

In the Matter of the Biennial Transmission Projects Report prepared by Minnesota Power (MP) and Great River Energy (GRE) and filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) seeking Certification of two High-Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) projects in northern Minnesota.

PUC Docket Number E015/TL-05-867.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Report (ER) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, §216B.243 and 216B.2425, for the aforementioned matter has been completed. In the Environmental Report the DOC evaluates the general potential impacts from construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed HVTL along the broad corridor(s) proposed by the applicant and discusses ways to mitigate these potential impacts.

Project Description. The two projects are referred to as "Tower" and "Badoura". The Badoura project would be approximately 56 miles of upgraded and new transmission lines interconnecting five existing substations located in Crow Wing, Cass and Hubbard Counties to meet the needs of MP and GRE customers in north central Minnesota. The Tower project would be approximately 15 miles of new transmission lines, a new Embarrass switching station, and a new Tower substation located in Saint Louis County to meet the needs of MP and GRE customers in north eastern Minnesota.



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Regulatory Framework. The Minnesota Legislature transferred the authority to permit high voltage transmission lines from the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on July 1, 2005. EQB Energy Facility Permitting staff was transferred to the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), where they continue to coordinate the routing process through to the PUC final decision.

The DOC must conduct environmental review of large energy projects seeking PUC certification pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, §216B.243 and 216B.2425. Minnesota Rules, Parts 4410.7010 to 4410.7070, establish the process and requirements for conducting this review.

Under this process the DOC is required to hold a public meeting, prepare an environmental report (ER) and perform the associated administrative tasks.

On December 7, 2005, and December 8, 2005, staff from the DOC's Energy Facility Permitting Unit held public meetings in the Badoura and Tower areas, respectively. The purpose of the public meetings was to provide the public with information about the two projects, afford the public an opportunity to ask questions and present comments, and to solicit input on the content of the ER. The comment period was held open until 5:00 pm January 10, 2006. On January 11, 2006, after consideration of the public comments, the Commissioner of the DOC issued an Order outlining the content of the environmental report.

The DOC released the ER on March 1, 2006. Copies of the permit application and the ER are available for public review at the Tower City Hall, the Park Rapids City Hall and the Pequot Lakes City Hall. The ER and other project-related documents may also be found on the PUC web at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=17803>

More Information. Questions about the ER or the process can be directed to Bill Storm at the Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, St. Paul, MN 55101; 651-296-9535; e-mail: Bill.Storm@state.mn.us or to the public advisor, Deborah Pile, at the same address; 651-297-2375; e-mail: Deborah.Pile@state.mn.us. Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained for mailing regarding this project. Names can be added to the list by contact Mr. Storm or by visiting the sign-in section of the PUC webpage:

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

Public Hearing. A Public Hearing will be held on this matter in late March. A separate notice will be sent out to the mailing list when the time and place for the Hearing have been established.

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.

- City of St. Paul, Shadow Falls I project
- Douglas County, Poplar Ridge project

EAW NEED DECISION

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

- Breezy Point City Council, Sunrise Point, Denied.



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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.

- St. Louis County Planning Commission, Two Harbors Wilderness Acres, February 9, 2006 (January 2, 2006)
- Benton County Board of Commissioners, Two Rivers Campground and Tubing Expansion, February 7, 2006 (January 2, 2006)
- City of Anoka, North Central Business District (NCBD) Redevelopment Project, January 17, 2006 (November 7, 2005)
- Minneapolis City Council, Loring Park Development Project, November 18, 2005 (September 26, 2005)
- St. Joseph City Council, Riverbats, February 2, 2006 (December 19, 2005)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Plainview-Elgin Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements, February 10, 2006 (November 7, 2005)
- Department of Natural Resources, Old Mill Stream Tributary Habitat Restoration/Improvement Project, February 8, 2006 (November 21, 2005)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Center Creek Pork, Inc. Swine Feedlot, February 17, 2006 (January 2, 2006)
- Carver City Council, Grove at Spring Creek Residential Development, February 6, 2006 (December 19, 2005)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Barracks Expansion Project at the Minnesota Corrections Facility-Willow River Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) Camp

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) codified at 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for a proposed Barracks Expansion Project at the Minnesota Corrections Facility-Willow River Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) Camp in Willow River, Minnesota. This project is subject to NEPA review because it is being funded, in part, with federal funding available under the Violent Offender Incarceration/Truth-in-Sentencing Initiative Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Proposed Action

The proposed action consists of the construction of a new 180-bed barracks building and the renovation of the existing barracks into program space.

Project Location

The proposed new barracks building would be constructed within the grounds of the existing Minnesota Corrections Facility-Willow River CIP Camp, which is located 28 acres east of Highway 61, 3 miles north of the town of Willow River, Minnesota.

Findings

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Assistance have determined that the proposed Barracks Expansion Project, would not significantly affect the quality of the human or physical environment. Therefore, it is not expected that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for this proposal.



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Public Comments

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the Environmental Assessment from the Hinckley Public Library, the Hinckley City Hall and may submit written comments relating to this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact to the following address:

Bill Montgomery
Department of Administration
301 Centennial Building – 658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Proposed Perimeter Dike and Runway Safety Area Improvement Project

The Federal Aviation Administration has approved the Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) on the Final Environmental Assessment dated January 2006 for the proposed Perimeter Dike and Runway Safety Area Improvement Project at St. Paul Downtown Airport, St. Paul, Minnesota. The proposed project is more fully described as the construction of a perimeter dike around St. Paul Downtown Airport to allow the airport to stay operational during a Mississippi River flood event up to a 100-year frequency; and to address runway safety area deficiencies at four of the six runway ends to achieve current FAA standards; and unconditional approval of the revised Airport Layout Plan for the proposed projects.

The Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision indicates the project is consistent with existing environmental policies and objectives as set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and will not significantly affect the quality of the environment.

Additional copies of the Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision and Environmental Assessment are available upon request in writing to:

Glen Orcutt
Federal Aviation Administration
Airports District Office
6020 28th Avenue South, Rm 102
Minneapolis, MN 55450

FINAL AUAR ADOPTED

Southeast Waconia Final AUAR

The Southeast Waconia AUAR area consists of 552 acres on the southeast side of the City of Waconia. It is proposed to include low and medium density residential development and commercial development. The project includes construction of roads, homes, businesses, trails, parks, ponds, and utilities such as storm water, wastewater, and water supply piping. The project and the environmental review process are described more fully in the AUAR, which is available in its final form at www.waconia.org. Go to "City Departments" on the left sidebar, then "Planning and Zoning." The Traffic file is too large to post on the website, so a copy is available for viewing at City Hall.

The City of Waconia has conducted a thorough analysis of the project and its impacts. Through this analysis, coordination with affected agencies, public involvement, and comment letters, the City of Waconia has determined that any potential for significant environmental impacts will be appropriately mitigated. Therefore, the City of Waconia approved the Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan on February 6, 2006.



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Inver Grove Heights Northwest Expansion Area Final AUAR

The Inver Grove Heights City Council adopted the Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan for the Northwest Expansion Area on February 13, 2006. The Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan document was mailed to the EQB and reviewing agencies on January 16, 2006, and no objections were received to the document, which included the responses to comments, Final Mitigation Plan, and supplemental traffic analysis. The City is committed to working with state and local agencies, other local governments, and private developers to implement the Mitigation Plan as the area develops.

If you have questions regarding the AUAR, please contact:

Tom Link, Community Development Director
City of Inver Grove Heights
8150 Barbara Avenue
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077-3410

AMENDMENT TO EIS SCOPING DECISION

Ispat Inland Mining

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the East Reserve project. The project is a new open-pit mine area proposed by Ispat Inland Mining that is located between the towns of Biwabik and McKinley in St. Louis County, Minnesota. The Final Scoping Decision was issued on August 24, 2005, and the EIS preparation notice was published in the November 7, 2005 EQB Monitor (Vol. 29, No. 16).

The project proposer has agreed to amend the Final Scoping Decision to include a wetland cumulative impact analysis. The analysis will evaluate impacts related to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions through a quantitative summary of the number of acres of various wetland types that may have been affected in the past, and may be affected in the future, and the magnitude of those effects within the study area. The geographic area of analysis will include the 38 square mile Pike River subwatershed and the Embarrass River watershed, both of which cover approximately 180 square miles extending from the cities of Gilbert to Babbitt, Minnesota.

RGU Contact: Scott Ek, Principal Planner, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025; 651-259-5156; e-mail: scott.ek@dnr.state.mn.us

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREPARATION NOTICE

Minnesota Steel Itasca County, Minnesota

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a taconite mine, concentrator, pellet plant, direct reduced iron plant, and steel mill proposed by Minnesota Steel, located near Nashwauk in Itasca County, Minnesota.

The DNR distributed a Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and Draft Scoping Decision Document on July 11, 2005, to all agencies listed on the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) distribution list and all interested parties. Availability of the Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document were noticed in the July 18, 2005 EQB Monitor (Vol. 29, No. 15). The DNR held a public scoping meeting in Nashwauk, Minnesota on August 10, 2005, and accepted comments during a 30-day public comment period concluding on August 17, 2005.



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The DNR considered comments on the proposed scope, made revisions to the Draft Scoping Decision Document, and issued a Final Scoping Decision Document on October 13, 2005. The Scoping Decision Document identifies those project alternatives and issues that will be addressed in the EIS and presents a tentative schedule for EIS completion.

Summary of Scoping Decision. The EIS will address the following issues: land use; cover types; threatened and endangered species; water-related land use management district; erosion and sedimentation; geologic hazards and soil conditions; traffic; vehicle related air emissions; archaeology; visual impacts; infrastructure; socioeconomics; mineland reclamation; 1855 Ceded Territory Treaty; physical impacts on water resources; water appropriations; surface water runoff; wastewater; solid waste; stationary source air emissions; cumulative impacts: air quality in Class I areas, acid deposition and ecosystem acidification in Class I areas, mercury emissions, visibility impairment, loss of threatened and endangered plant species, loss of wetlands, and wildlife habitat loss/fragmentation and travel corridor obstruction. A more detailed description of each of these major areas can be found in the Final Scoping Decision Document. A copy of the Final Scoping Decision Document is posted on the DNR website, at the following: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/minnsteel/index.html>.

The EIS will evaluate the following alternatives:

Proposed Alternative. Minnesota Steel proposes to reactivate the former Butler Taconite mine and tailings basin near Nashwauk, Minnesota. As proposed, the project will include the dewatering of existing mine pits in the area and open pit mining operations to remove ore and waste rock. Waste rock would be stockpiled near the mine pit and ore would be hauled to the proposed crusher, concentrator, and pellet plant. Tailings from the concentrator are proposed to be discharged to the existing Butler Taconite State I Tailings Basin. Taconite pellets would be delivered to the direct reduced iron (DRI) plant and the DRI product would be delivered to the proposed steel mill that would consist of two electric arc furnaces, two ladle furnaces, two thin slab casters, and a hot strip rolling mill to produce sheet steel.

No Action Alternative. The EIS will describe the expected condition if the proposed project is not developed.

Site Alternatives. The EIS will evaluate the benefits, feasibility and impacts of locating a tailings basin to the northwest of the mine site. The location of this tailings basin has been identified as a potential site by Minnesota Steel. Unlike the proposed Existing Stage 1 Tailings Basin, this location has not been previously disturbed by mining activities.

Technology Alternatives. The EIS will evaluate the following technology alternatives for the proposed project:

Ore Processing – There are currently two available pellet induration processes that are commercially available – straight grate furnaces and grate kiln furnaces. The EIS will evaluate fuel use and air emissions for both types of indurating furnaces to determine which type will have the least impact on the environment.

Air Pollution Control Technology – The EIS will evaluate alternative air pollution control technologies for both ore processing and the steel mill.

Modified Designs or Layouts. The EIS will evaluate the following modified design or layout alternatives to the proposed project:

Processing Plant – The general site of the processing plant has been proposed to minimize transportation and maximize efficiency of the mining/processing operations. However, slight modifications to the overall footprint of the processing plant could result in reduced impacts to wetlands in the area. These modifications will be evaluated for feasibility, benefits, and impacts.

Waste Rock Stockpiles – Alternative design and location of stockpiles will be evaluated for feasibility, benefits, and impacts. Alternative designs could include in-pit stockpiling to create shallow water aquatic habitat or other designs that could have significant environmental benefits.



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On-Site Sanitary Wastewater Treatment – The EIS will evaluate the feasibility and environmental benefits associated with an on-site sanitary wastewater treatment system/plant and the potential to reduce nutrient loading to Swan Lake.

Incorporation of Mitigation Measures. The EIS will consider all mitigations suggested through public comment.

EIS Schedule. The tentative EIS schedule includes Draft EIS publication in August 2006, Final EIS publication in December 2006, and determination of EIS adequacy in January 2007.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact: Scott Ek, Principal Planner, Environmental Policy and Review, 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025; 651-259-5156; e-mail: scott.ek@dnr.state.mn.us

NOTICE OF FINAL EIS AVAILABILITY

Aggregate Industries Rollag Area Sand and Gravel Mine Expansion

Becker County has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for proposed expansion of an existing sand and gravel mining operation. Aggregate Industries proposed to expand its existing "Rollag" mine onto approximately 1,722 acres of land located in Cormorant Township, Becker County; Parke Township, Clay County and Scambler Township, Otter Tail County. The proposed expansion would take place over approximately 30 years.

Copies of the Final EIS are available for review during regular business hours at:

Becker County Zoning Office, 835 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
Detroit Lakes Public Library, 1000 Washington Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Fergus Falls Public Library, 205 E Hampden, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Scambler Town Hall, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
Clay County Planning Office, 807 11th Street N, Moorhead, MN 56560

The Final EIS is also available online at www.co.becker.mn.us

The public comment period on the adequacy of the Final EIS ends at 4:30 PM C.S.T., March 13, 2006. Comments can be submitted to:

Patricia L. Johnson
Becker County Zoning Administrator
835 Lake Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
Phone: 218-846-7314
Fax: 218-846-7266

NOTICES

Flying Cloud Airport Expansion Environmental Impact Statement Adequacy Decision

At the regular monthly meeting of the Environmental Quality Board on February 16, 2006 the EQB passed a resolution finding the Environmental Impact Statement for the Expansion of Flying Cloud Airport, prepared by Metropolitan Airports Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration, to be adequate.



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Notifications of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
06-NO-004	Monsanto	Corn	Insect Resistance and Herbicide Tolerance	Clay (2), Goodhue (2), Dakota, Rice (2), Kandiyohi, Renville
06-NO-005	Monsanto	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Freeborn (3)
06-NO-006	Univ. of MN	Wheat	Disease Resistance	Polk

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 .

**Minnesota Department of Commerce
 Notice of
 Pipeline Routing Permit Application Acceptance
 and
 Public Information Meetings
 on the
 MinnCan Pipeline Project**

PUC Docket No. PL/PPL-05-2003

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will hold public information meetings/open houses in the locations listed below, concerning a proposal by Minnesota Pipe Line Company (MPL) to expand its existing crude oil pipeline system in Minnesota. The new expansion project is named the MinnCan Project and involves construction of a 295 mile crude oil pipeline in central Minnesota.

Staff of the DOC will conduct the meetings and review the state’s permitting process for pipelines. Please note that the authority for pipeline routing was transferred to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board on July 1, 2005, and responsibility for conducting the public review process was assigned to the DOC.

Public Information Meeting/Open House Dates

The Department of Commerce will hold information meetings on the application of MPL for a pipeline routing permit for the MinnCan Project at times and places identified below. DOC staff will review the state’s permitting process for pipelines and how the public may be involved. In conjunction with the DOC information meetings, MPL will hold an open house prior to each public information meeting to answer questions and provide the public with information about the project.

INFORMATION MEETING & OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES AFTER THE START OF EACH OPEN HOUSE, A DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PRESENTATION WILL BEGIN
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County	City	Meeting Location	Date and Time
Clearwater	Bagley	County Courthouse	March 13, 2006 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Hubbard	Park Rapids	Park Rapids Public Library	March 13, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Wadena	Menahga	Green Pine Acres Senior Center	March 14, 2006 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Todd	Staples	Central Lakes College, Assembly Room C168	March 14, 2006 4-7 p.m.
Morrison	Randall	Park Building	March 15, 2006 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Stearns	Albany	Community Center	March 15, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Meeker	Litchfield	County Courthouse, Rooms A and B	March 16, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Wright	Cokato	City Hall Auditorium	March 20, 2006 11 a.m. – 2p.m.
McLeod	Glencoe	Lincoln Junior High School Gymnasium	March 20, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Carver	Norwood Young America	Clay Community Building	March 21, 2006 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Sibley	Green Isle	Fire Hall	March 21, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Scott	New Prague	New Prague Middle School- Cafeteria	March 22, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Dakota	Farmington	Rambling River Center- Dining Room	March 23, 2006 6-9 p.m.

Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference has been scheduled for both the Certificate of Need (**PUC Docket No. PL-5/CN-06-02**) and the Pipeline Routing Permit Application (**PUC Docket No. PL-5/PPL-05-2003**) proceeding. The prehearing conference is scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in the PUC Large Hearing Room, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147. Beverly J. Heydinger is the Administrative Law Judge.

Background

MPL filed Certificate of Need (CON) and Pipeline Routing Permit (PRP) applications with the PUC in early January 2006. In its Order dated February 16, 2006, the PUC accepted the CON and PRP applications file by MPL. Acceptance of the applications initiates the regulatory review process requirements for the CON and PRP.

Project Overview



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MPL is proposing the construction of a new 24-inch diameter crude petroleum pipeline originating at the existing interconnection between the applicant's pipeline system and Enbridge's (formerly Lakehead Pipeline) crude oil pipeline located near Clearbrook, Minnesota, in Clearwater County in northwestern Minnesota. See project map.

The proposed route for the MinnCan Project generally follows (parallels) and uses a portion of MPL's existing 65 to 70 foot wide pipeline right-of-way southward from the Clearbrook Station for about 112 or the 119 miles in the counties of Clearwater, Hubbard, Wadena, Todd and Morrison. Near Cushing, Minnesota, in Morrison County, the MPL proposed route leaves the existing multiple line crude oil pipeline right-of-way. From that point, the proposed pipeline requires a new route and new permanent right-of-way approximately 50 feet in width for another 176 miles (generally west and south of the Twin Cities metropolitan area), in the counties of Morrison, Stearns, Meeker, Wright, McLeod, Carver, Sibley, Scott and Dakota.

The project terminates at the Flint Hills Resources refinery in Rosemount, Minnesota, in Dakota County. The Rosemount terminus will provide a direct interconnection with the Flint Hills Resources refinery and a direct interconnection through existing pipeline facilities with the Marathon Petroleum Company's St. Paul Park Refinery. In addition, two new pump stations are planned for the project. The originating station will be located inside MPL's Clearbrook Station in Clearwater County. The mid-point pump station is planned to be constructed between Milepost 140 and 146 in Morrison County.

The proposed 295 mile crude oil petroleum pipeline will have an outside diameter of 24-inches with a nominal wall thickness of .35 to .5 inches. The maximum allowable operating pressure will be 1,462 pounds per square inch (psi). The proposed pipeline will have a design capacity ranging from 60,000 to 165,000 barrels per day.

Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to require a 100-foot-wide construction right-of-way at most locations. Where new permanent easements are required, MPL is planning to maintain a right-of-way of 50 feet in width. MPL intends to negotiate with affected landowners for both permanent and temporary easements.

PUC Certificate of Need and Pipeline Routing Permit Requirements

CON Process – determines the size, type and timing of the proposed pipeline and determines whether there is a better alternative for meeting the applicant's identified need.

Pipeline Routing Permit – designates the route for the pipeline and associated facilities, conditions for right-of-way preparation, construction, clean-up and restoration. This process examines alternative routes and route segments for the pipeline. Interested persons may propose alternative routes or route segments as described below.

MPL PROPOSED PIPELINE ROUTE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PROPOSE ALTERNATE ROUTES OR ROUTE SEGMENTS

MPL Pipeline Route – Minn. Rules, Chapter 4415 require the applicant to identify a preferred route. Minn. Rules 4415.0010 Subp. 32 defines route as having a variable width from the minimum required for the pipeline right-of-way (approximately 50 feet) up to 1.25 miles. Subp. 33 defines route segment as a portion of a route. MPL has proposed a route, approximately 1.25 miles in width or five-eighths of a mile on either side of the MPL proposed location alignment. Within its preferred route MPL has identified a preliminary location alignment, which is subject to change throughout the permitting process and public hearings. The permitting process will take several months to complete.

Proposing Alternate Routes or Route Segments – Any person may propose an alternate route or route segment. If you would like to make a proposal (new route or route segment) that is more than five-eighths of a mile from MPL's alignment, you should contact the staff at the Department of Commerce identified in this notice for guidance on how to submit a proposal. Please note the deadline for submitting proposals below.



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If you are interested in only a minor location change or alignment modification within the MPL proposed 1.25 mile wide route, you do not need to submit a new route or route segment proposal to the PUC. Recommendations for minor location changes or alignment modifications may be presented directly to the Administrative Law Judge at the public hearings which will be held later this year.

All new route proposals must be approved of by the PUC for consideration at the public hearing. New route or route segment proposals offered at the public hearing will not be accepted because they will not have been authorized by the PUC. Persons may submit new route proposals either by mail or fax (651-297-1959) any time on or before 4:30 p.m. on May 30, 2006. **Please include the PUC docket number (PL5/PPL-05-2003) on the submittal.** Written submittals should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

PROJECT CONTACTS

Department of Commerce – The Commission has designated DOC staff member Larry Hartman (Tel: 651-296-5089 or larry.hartman@state.mn.us) as project manager and Deborah Pile (Tel: 651-297-2375 or deborah.pile@state.mn.us) as the public advisor for the PRP proceeding. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Public Utilities Commission – The Commission has designated Bret Eknes (Tel: 651-201-2236 or bret.eknes@puc.state.mn.us) of the PUC staff as its project manager and Ken Wolf (Tel: 651-201-2257 or ken.wolf@state.mn.us) as its public advisor for the CON proceeding. They may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Minnesota Pipe Line Company – Contact Tom Harwell at harwell@minncanproject.com or call the toll-free number at 877-796-7846.

Project Mailing Lists

If you would like to have your name added to the PUC PRP proceeding mailing list for the MinnCan Project (PUC Docket PL5/PPL-05-2003), you may register at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18337> or contact the DOC staff at the address above.

The PUC maintains a separate service list for the CON proceeding. To be placed on that list (PUC Docket PL5/CN-06-2) mail, fax or e-mail Robin Benson at Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147 or fax: 651-297-7073 or robin.benson@state.mn.us

PROJECT INFORMATION AVAILABILITY

PUC Online Information Locations

Information regarding the PUC proceedings on the MinnCan Project will be available on several websites. Information on the PRP will be available at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18339> or on eDockets at: <http://www.edockets.state.mn.us/>. Type in 05-2003 for information on the route proceedings or 06-2 for information on the CON proceedings.

Minnesota Pipe Line Company Online Information

MinnCann Project information will also be available on the Minnesota Pipe Line Company website at: <http://www.minncanproject.com>. The MPL website provides links to the PUC websites.

Application Availability

Minnesota Pipe Line Company has provided a copy of its applications (Pipeline Routing Permit and CON) and a set of pipeline route maps to each regional development commission, soil and water conservation district, watershed district, auditor of each county, and to



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the clerk of each township and city crossed by the proposed pipeline. Please contact the appropriate office or person the review the applications.

Both applications and a set of pipeline route maps are also available for review at the public libraries in the cities of Bagley, Park Rapids, Wadena, Staples, Swanville, Upsala, Albany, Richmond, Dassel, Cokato, Glencoe, Hutchinson, Norwood Young America, Belle Plaine, New Market, New Prague, Farmington and Lakeville.

Minnesota Pipe Line Company will provide a CD or print copy of the CON and PRP applications to any person upon request. See contact information above.

MINNESOTA LAWS AND RULES GOVERNING PIPELINES

Certificate of Need. The proposed project falls under the definition of “large energy facility” in Minn. Statute, section 216B.2421, subd. 2 (4). Therefore, in accordance with Minn. Statute, section 216B.243, subd. 2, the facility cannot be sited or constructed in Minnesota unless the PUC issues a Certificate of Need to the Applicant.

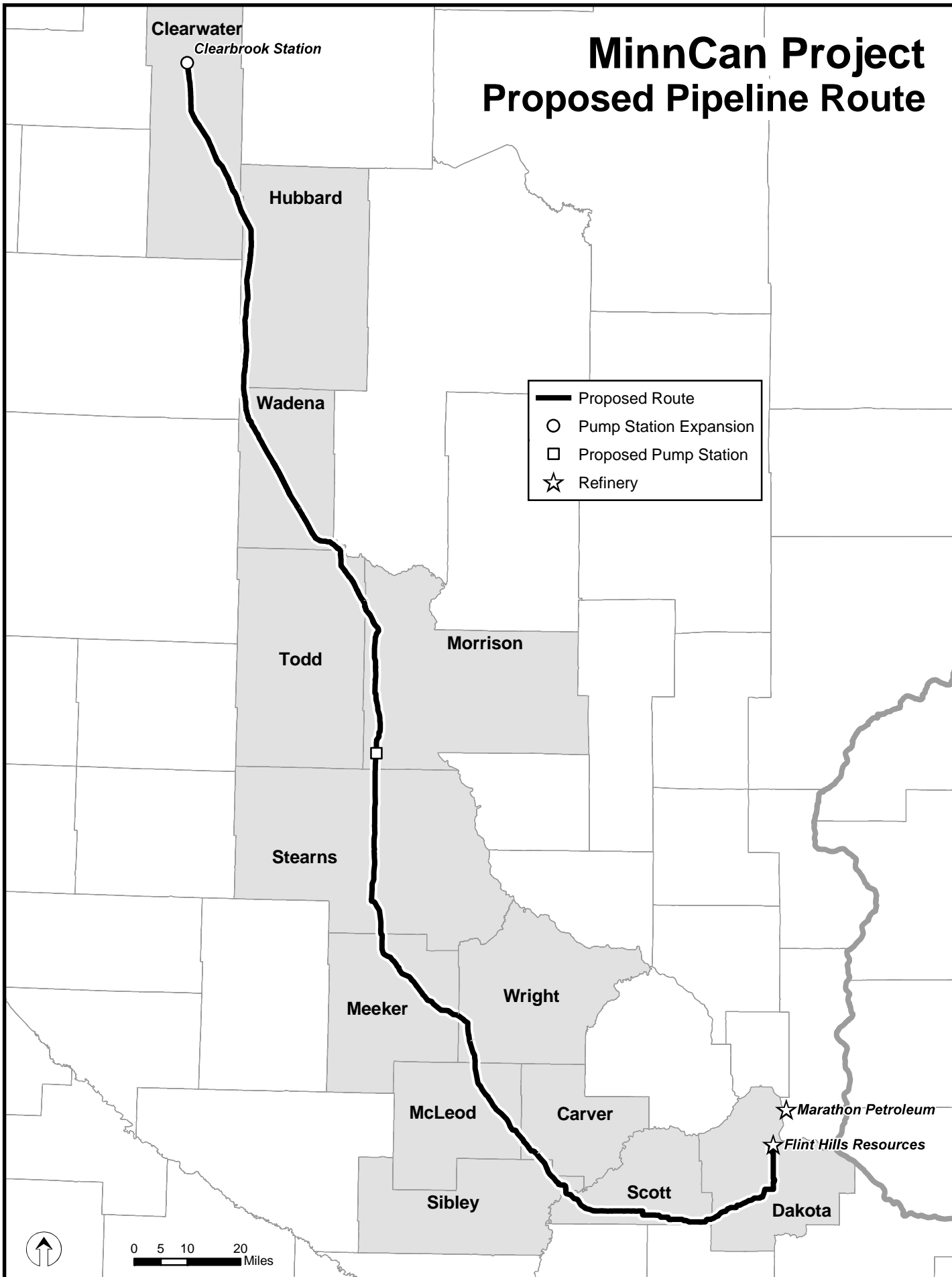
The certificate of need rules pertinent to this filing are Minn. Rules, Parts 7553.0010 to 7853.0800. More specifically, the application requirements for petroleum pipeline facilities are given by Parts 7853.0230 to 7853.0270 and 7853.0500 to 7853.0640.

Pipeline Routing Permit. The proposed project falls under the definition “pipeline” in Minn. Stat. section 116I.015, subd. 1. Therefore, in accordance with Minn. Stat. section 116I.015, the proposed facility cannot be sited or constructed unless the PUC issues a Pipeline Routing Permit to the Applicant.

The pipeline routing rules are in Minn. Rules, Chapter 4415. More specifically, the PRP application is being reviewed pursuant to Minn. Rules, parts 4415.0045 to 4415.0100.

Eminent Domain. In the event that MPL cannot reach an agreement with a landowner for an easement, MPL will have the authority upon issuance of a Pipeline Routing Permit under Minnesota laws (Minn. Stat, section 117.48) to acquire the right-of-way necessary to construct and operate the proposed pipeline and associated facilities.

MinnCan Project Proposed Pipeline Route





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Department of Administration

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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
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>
