



March 13, 2006



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

Comments due on April 12, 2006

Baxter Town Center

Description: The 98-acre Baxter Town Center development is proposed in the City of Baxter and will include up to 335,000 square feet of commercial and 40,000 square feet of office space and up to 144 units of multi-family residential housing. Sewer and water services to the development will be provided by the City of Baxter. The development will be connected to the City of Baxter road system.

RGU: City of Baxter

Contact: Mr. Dennis Coryell, City Administrator, 13190 Memorywood Drive, Baxter, MN 56425; 218-855-5100; fax: 218-855-5103

Minnesota Correctional Facility – Faribault (MCF-FRB) – Facilities Replacement and Expansion Project

Description: The project is another next step in converting the existing former state hospital and treatment center into a modern state correctional facility. Older vacant buildings that cannot be feasibly reused are to be removed, and new or renovated buildings for offender housing and programs are to be created following ACA and state correctional standards. The project also includes improvements to security. Overall offender housing capacity will be increased from 1,236 to 1,927; and campus square footage will be decreased by 49,429 square feet.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Administration

Contact: Bill Montgomery, Project Manager, 301 Centennial Office, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155-1625; 651-201-2386; fax: 651-296-7650; e-mail: bill.montgomery@state.mn.us

The Hamlets of Lakeshire Residential & Equestrian Development

Description: The Hamlets of Lakeshire project proposes to develop a residential neighborhood with approximately 235 detached and twinhome lots and an equestrian facility in Chaska. The 265-acre sit currently contains cropland, a residential estate, and lake-related natural resources. Conservation design and rural residential cluster development techniques will preserve natural resource areas.

RGU: City of Chaska

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. 6

Next issue: March 27, 2006
Submittal deadline: March 20, 2006



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Contact: Kevin Ringwald, City Planning Director, One City Hall Plaza, Chaska, MN 55318; 952-448-9200; fax: 952-448-9300; e-mail: kringwald@chaskamn.com

Summer Haven on Gull Lake Common Interest Community

Description: DDMS Properties, LLC is proposing an expansion and conversion of an existing recreational vehicle and mobile home park to a single use, seasonal, recreational vehicle Common Interested Community (CIC) located in Beltrami County, Minnesota. The proposed name of this CIC is Summer Haven on Gull.

Legal Description/Location of Project:

The SW ¼ of the NW ¼, and Government Lots 2 and 3, Section 34, Township 149 North, Range 32 West, less that part of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ lying northwesterly of the northwesterly right-of-way of CSAH No. 23 as established in 2003.

Copies of the EAW are available for review at Freeberg & Grund, Inc., 208 Fourth Street NW, Bemidji, MN and the Kitchigami Regional Library, 509 America Ave West, Bemidji, MN beginning March 13, 2006.

RGU: Beltrami County

Contact: Mr. William Patnaude, Environmental Services Director, Beltrami County Administration Building, 701 Minnesota Avenue NW, Suite 113, Bemidji, MN 56601-3064

Bridge Square Mixed Use Development

Description: Mendota Homes (a private developer) is proposing to construct a four-story mixed use building at 25 Bridge Square in the Northfield downtown Historic District. The project will remove a non-contributing one-story bank building constructed in 1966 and the rear portion of the Aldsworth Building, a contributing structure built in 1893 and added to in 1913.

RGU: City of Northfield

Contact: Dan Olson, Senior Planner, 801 Washington Street, Northfield, MN 55057; 507-645-3056; fax: 507-645-3055; e-mail: dan.olson@ci.northfield.mn.us

Carver Crossing of Maplewood-Senior Housing Development project

Description: The purpose of the proposed project is to create a housing development for seniors over the age of 55 in the City of Maplewood. This development would include a variety of housing types including detached homes, attached townhomes, and condominiums. The variety of housing choices will give residents several options to choose from and select a style that best fits their needs.

The proposed site is located in southern Maplewood, south of Carver Avenue and west of I-494. The proposed project includes 299 senior residential units and all necessary infrastructure improvements to develop the 73 acre site.

The City of Maplewood is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) and CoPar Development, LLC is the project proposer for the proposed action.

Copies of the EAW are being distributed to those agencies on the current Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) EAW distribution list and others with interest in the proposed project. Copies of the EAW are available for public review during regular business hours at the City of Maplewood (address below), and at the Ramsey County Library – Maplewood Branch, at 1670 Beam Avenue in Maplewood. The State EAW review period will begin upon notification in the March 13, 2006 *EQB Monitor*. Comments will be accepted by the City of Maplewood through April 12, 2006.

RGU: City of Maplewood



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Contact: Charles Ahl, PE, Public Works Director/City Engineer, 1902 County Road B East, Maplewood, MN 55109; 651-249-2400; fax: 651-249-2409; e-mail: chuck.ahl@ci.maplewood.mn.us

Vreeman Construction Sites

Description: The project includes mining and processing of granular materials, a bituminous hot mix plant, and recycling of concrete and bituminous products with a life expectancy of approximately 25 years. Site One is 20 acres; Site Two is a 35-acre site. They are approximately 4-6 miles southwest of New London, MN.

RGU: Kandiyohi County

Contact: Gary Geer, Planning and Zoning Administrator, 400 Benson Avenue SW, Willmar, MN 56201; 320-231-6229; fax: 320-231-6564; e-mail: gary_geer@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Grant County CSAH 6 Improvement Project

Description: The proposed project is to upgrade approximately 3.9 miles of CSAH 6 in Grant County to MNDOT standards. The improvements will include regarding, horizontal and vertical alignment corrections, shoulder widening, modifying side-slopes and ditches, culvert repair, replacement, and extension, and bituminous surfacing. The purpose of the project is to improve the existing roadway, increase public safety, increase road design load, and reduce maintenance costs.

RGU: Grant County Highway Department

Contact: Luthard Hagen, County Highway Engineer, P.O. Box 1005, Elbow Lake, MN 56531; 218-685-4481; fax: 218-685-5347

Locust Hills

Description: The Locust Hills Development is proposed on 68.6 acres in the eastern portion of the City of Wayzata and western portion of Minnetonka. It includes 47 residential units and a potential 3,000 square-foot community center. The project is situated along the north shore of Grays Bay, Lake Minnetonka.

RGU: City of Wayzata

Contact: Loren Gordon, AICP, City Planner, 600 Rice Street East, Wayzata, MN 55391; 952-404-5306; fax: 952-404-5318; e-mail: loren@wayzata.org

Boulder Creek Residential Development

Description: The Project consists of developing approximately 221 acres of agricultural and fallow land into a 659-unit residential subdivision. The homes will be serviced with municipal water and sanitary sewer services.

RGU: City of Otsego

Contact: Judy Hudson, City Clerk, 8899 Nashua Avenue NE, Otsego, MN 55330; 763-441-4414; fax: 763-441-8823; e-mail: cityhall@ci.otsego.mn.us

Antler Ridge Residential Subdivision, Cass County, MN



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Description: Antler Ridge is a proposed planned unit development that will contain 40 detached single family residence unit lots to be served by common waste water treatment and 3 outlots dedicated for open space. A portion of the proposed open space contains an existing harbor on Leech Lake designated to contain one slip for not more than 23 of the residences. The total project area contains 91 acres located in 25-142-31 and 30-142-30 of Cass County.

RGU: Cass County, MN

Contact: Paul Z. Fairbanks, Environmental Services Department (ESD), Cass County Courthouse, PO Box 3000, Walker MN 56484; 218-547-7287; fax: 218-547-7429; paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

High Prairie Wind Farm 161 kV Substation and 161 kV Transmission Line

Description: High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC, along with FPL Energy Mower County, LLC are planning to construct and own a new 161 kV substation in Section 23 of Clayton Township in Mower County, Minnesota. The two companies, along with High Prairie Wind Farm II, LLC also propose to construct, own and operate an approximately seven (7) mile 161 kV transmission line from the new substation in Section 23 of Clayton Township to property in Sections 7 & 18 of Lodi Township to the Adams Substation. The Adams Substation is currently owned and operated by Interstate Power Company and Xcel Energy. The substation is connected to a 161 kV bus owned by Interstate Power Company within the Adams Substation. These new facilities are part of the High Prairie Wind Farm which also includes the construction of additional wind turbines in Mower County. These new facilities will facilitate the transmission of electricity to the substation for distribution to the other needed areas.

RGU: Mower County

Contact: Daryl W. Franklin, Director, Mower County Environmental Services, 1105 ½ 8th Avenue NE, Austin, MN 55912; 507-437-9560; e-mail: darylwf@co.mower.mn.us

Note: Notice of a Public Information Meeting on the High Prairie Wind Farm is in the “Notices” section at the end of the Monitor.

PETITIONS 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 Lake Shore, “the Grand” project
- City of St. Cloud, Arctic Cat ATV Test Facility project
- City of Lilydale, Mendota Homes, Inc. Project
- City of Sartell, Sartell Partners LLC property project
- Douglas County, Little Mary Estates projects
- Otter Tail County, Walker Lake Preserve project

EIS NEED DECISIONS



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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.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens' Board, James O'Connor Hog Feedlot, February 28, 2006 (November 21, 2005)
- Lake County Highway Department, Reconstruction of Lake County CSAH 2 between CSAH 14 and Forest Highway 11, Lake County, Minnesota, February 22, 2006 (November 7, 2005)
- Brown County Board of Commissioners, Improvements to County State Aid Highways 27 and 12, in the city of New Ulm and Brown County, February 24, 2006 (August 15, 2005)
- North Branch City Council, Lucht's Crossing, February 27, 2006 (January 2, 2006)
- St. Michael City Council, Kasper Property, February 14, 2006 (January 2, 2006)

DRAFT AUAR AVAILABLE

Lower Poplar River Draft AUAR

Description: Future development scenarios are evaluated in the 1,317-acre Lower Poplar River watershed. Scenarios evaluated include approved development, potential development (non-approved), full residential buildout, and full commercial buildout. The study area is generally north of the intersection of State Highway 61 and CR 5, west of the Town of Lutsen.

RGU: Cook County

Contact: Tim Nelson, Planning Director, 411 West 2nd Street, P.O. Box 1150, Grand Marais, MN 55604; 218-387-3000; fax: 218-387-3042

NOTICES

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Notice of Filings and Prehearing Conference in the Matters of the Applications of Minnesota Pipe Line Company for Need and Routing Certification of Petroleum Pipeline Facilities

Public Utilities Commission Docket Nos. PL-5/CN-06-02 and PL-5/PPL-05-2003

On January 3, 2005, Minnesota Pipe Line Company filed a certificate of need application for a proposed crude oil pipeline project from Clearbrook, Minnesota to the Twin Cities area refineries. According to the Applicant, the proposed facilities are needed to provide the region with greater capacity and flexibility to meet expanding demand for gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, asphalt, and other petroleum products.

On January 5, 2005, the Applicant filed an application for a route permit in Minnesota for the same pipeline facilities.

The proposed pipeline facilities fall under the definition of "large energy facility" in Minn. Stat. §216B.2421, subd. 2 (4). 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 Applicant.



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The Applicant is proposing the construction of a new 295 mile, 24-inch diameter circle 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. For the initial 119 miles, the proposed route is generally adjacent to the Applicant's existing pipeline. Near Cushing, Minnesota the proposed route leaves the existing pipeline and requires a new 50 foot wide right-of-way for the continuing distance of 176 miles to its terminus southeast of the Twin Cities at the Flint Hills Resources refinery in Rosemount, Minnesota. Two new pump stations are planned, at Clearbrook and at the mid-point in Morrison County.

Both applications have now been accepted by the Commission.

The applicable certificate of need rules are Minn. Rules, parts 7853.0010 to 7853.0800. The applicable routing rules are Minn. Rules, parts 4415.0045 to 4415.0095.

Administrative Law Judge Beverly Jones Heydinger has been assigned to conduct the hearings in both of these proceedings. Her address and telephone number are as follows: Office of Administrative Hearings, Suite 1700, 100 Washington Square, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2138; 612-341-7606.

A joint prehearing conference will be held for these applications at 9:30 a.m. on March 17, 2006 in the Large 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 pre-filing of testimony, and discovery procedures.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is responsible for conducting the route review process. A notice describing the process, announcing upcoming public information meetings, and listing staff contact information is available at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>. The route application may also be viewed at this website.

Questions regarding this project and these dockets may be directed to Commission staff members Bret Eknes at 651-201-2236, bret.eknes@state.mn.us and Bob Cupit at 651-201-2255, bob.cupit@state.mn.us

OAH Docket No. 12-2000-17017-2

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
FOR THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the matter of the Restoration Orders to Fabio and Kathleen Lopez

**NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
PREHEARING CONFERENCE
AND HEARING**

TO: Fabio and Kathleen Lopez, and their attorney Steven Lodge, Nash & Lodge, P.L.L.P., 2705 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Suite 107, Andover, MN 55304

FABIO AND KATHLEEN LOPEZ ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ("Department") has initiated this action pursuant to the Lopezes' appeal of the Department's Findings of Fact and Order issued May 3, 2005, and Restoration Order issued June 18, 2005.



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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a prehearing conference will be held on March 30, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and that a hearing in this matter will be held at a time and place to be decided by the Administrative Law Judge at the prehearing conference.

The Chief Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, has assigned this matter to Steve. M. Mihalchick, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2138, telephone 612-341-7609.

The prehearing conference will be conducted pursuant to the contested case procedures set out in Chapter 14 of Minnesota Statutes, the Rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minn. Rules 1400.5010-.8500 (2003), and Minn. Stat. §§103G.251, .311, and .315 (2004). A copy of these materials may be purchased from the Minnesota Book Store, telephone 651-297-3000, or are available at www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us. Copies of the rules are also available at www.oah.state.mn.us.

The purposes of the prehearing conference include simplifying and narrowing the issues, establishing a discovery and motion schedule, establishing hearing dates and locations, and exploring the possibilities for resolving the issues without the necessity of a hearing.

The attorney for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Jill Schlick, Assistant Attorney General, 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 900, St. Paul, MN 55101-2127, 651-296-2377, may be contacted to discuss discovery or informal disposition of this matter.

After the hearing in this matter, the record and the Administrative Law Judge's recommendations will be forwarded to the Commissioner of Natural Resources to make a final decision. Department staff involved in the hearing will not participate in the Commissioner's deliberations in this matter. In addition, the Commissioner will be advised by an attorney other than Jill Schlick.

ALLEGATIONS

1. On July 28, 2004, the Department issued a Cease and Desist Order to Fabio and Kathleen Lopez pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§103G.2372 and 103G.615 (2004) relating to their property located at 27929 145th Street, Zimmerman, MN 55398.
2. On August 5, 2004, Department staff investigated the Lopez property. The Department concluded that fill material had been placed and vegetation removed in an approximately 9,981 square foot area below the ordinary high water level of Whitefish Lake. Department staff also concluded that aquatic vegetation had been removed from a 46,000 square foot area of Whitefish Lake and in addition floating sedge had been removed from a 5,625 square foot area of the lake.
3. On May 3, 2005, the Department issued its Findings of Fact and Order, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §103G.251 (2004) and Minn. R. 6115.0255 (2003), to the Lopezes requiring them to remove all fill and restore the fill area. The Department's issuance of the Findings of Fact and Order is proper for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:
 - A. The placement of fill is prohibited by Minn. R. 6115.0190, subp. 3(A) (2003) because it was placed to achieve vegetation control.
 - B. The placement of fill is prohibited by Minn. R. 6115.0190, subp. 3(B) (2003) because it created an upland area not authorized under Minnesota Rules chapter 6115.
 - C. The placement of fill does not comply with Minn. R. 6115.0190, subp. 5(A) or (G) (2003) because it exceeds a minimum encroachment, change or damage to the environment.
 - D. The placement of fill does not comply with Minn. R. 6115.0190, subp. 5(E) (2003) because it does not represent the minimal impact solution for creating access to the lake with respect to all other reasonable alternatives.
 - E. The placement of fill does not comply with Minn. R. 6115.0190, subp. 5(H) or (I) (2003) because it is inconsistent with applicable shoreland management standards or ordinances, and applicable land management plans and programs of local governments.



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F. The placement of fill is inconsistent with the goal of the State's public water program to minimize damage to the environment, and maintain consistency with floodplain, shoreland, and wild and scenic river management standards, as set forth in Minn. R. 6115.0190, subp. 1 (2003).

4. On June 18, 2005, the Department issued a Restoration Order to the Lopezes pursuant to the aquatic plants management regulatory authority found in Minn. Stat. §103G.615 (2004). The Order required the Lopezes to allow re-growth of, or replant, wild rice and yellow and white water lilies, and to replace a sedge mat. The Department's issuance of the Restoration Order is proper for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

A. The removal of aquatic vegetation does not comply with Minn. R. 6280.0250, subp. 3 (2003) because the reasonable need of the Lopezes to gain access to public waters fails to justify the scope of the removal of aquatic vegetation described in paragraph 2 above.

B. The removal of aquatic vegetation does not comply with Minn. R. 6280.0250, subp. 4(B) (2003) because it was undertaken to improve the appearance of the shoreline.

5. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§103G.251 and 103G.311 (2004), the Lopezes appealed the Department's issuance of the Findings of Fact and Order regarding violation of the requirements of the public waters program and requested a contested case hearing.

6. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §103G.615 (2004), the Lopezes appealed the Department's issuance of the Restoration Order regarding violations of the requirements of the aquatic plant management program and requested review by the Commissioner. The Commissioner upheld the issuance of the Restoration Order, and the Lopezes then requested a contested case hearing pursuant to Minn. Stat. §103G.615 (2004).

ISSUE

Whether the Findings of Fact and Order and Restoration Order are consistent with the applicable Minnesota statutes and rules, specifically Minnesota Rules 6115.0190 and 6280.0250 (2003)?

The relevant laws and rules include, but are not limited to, Minn. Stat. §§103A.201, 103G.245, 103G.311, 103G.315, and 103G.615 (2004), Minn. R. 6115.0170-.0255 (2003), and Minn. R. 6280.0100-.1200 (2003).

ADDITIONAL NOTICE

1. Respondent's failure to appear at the hearing may result in a finding that the Respondent is in default, that the Department's allegations contained in this Notice and Order may be accepted as true, and its proposed action may be upheld.

2. If any party has good cause for requesting a delay of the hearing, the request must be made in writing to the Administrative Law Judge at least five days prior to the hearing. A copy of the request must be served on the other party.

3. Any party intending to appear at the hearing must file a Notice of Appearance form and return it to the Administrative Law Judge within 20 days of the date of service of this Notice and Order. A copy must be served on the Department's attorney.

4. At the hearing, all parties have the right to be represented by legal counsel, by themselves, or by a person of their choice if not otherwise prohibited as the unauthorized practice of law. The parties are entitled to the issuance of subpoenas to compel witnesses to attend the hearing. The parties will have the opportunity to be heard orally, to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses, and to submit evidence and argument. Ordinarily the hearing is tape-recorded. The parties may request that a court reporter record the testimony at their expense.



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5. Persons attending the hearing should bring all evidence bearing on the case, including any records or other documents. Be advised that if data that is not public is admitted into the record, it may become public data unless an objection is made and relief is requested under Minn. Stat. §14.60, subd. 2.

6. Requests for subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents at the hearing shall be made in writing to the Administrative Law Judge pursuant to Minn. R. 1400.7000. A copy of the subpoena request shall be served on the other parties. A subpoena request form is available at www.oah.state.mn.us or by calling 612-341-7600.

7. This case may be appropriate for mediation. The parties are encouraged to consider requesting the Chief Administrative Law Judge to assign a mediator so that mediation can be scheduled promptly.

8. The Office of Administrative Hearings conducts contested case proceedings in accordance with the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct and the Professionalism Aspirations adopted by the Minnesota Supreme Court. A Guide to Participating in Contested Case Proceedings at the Office of Administrative Hearings is available at www.oah.state.mn.us or by calling 612-341-7600.

9. Any party who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this hearing process may request one. Examples of reasonable accommodations include wheelchair accessibility, an interpreter, or Braille or large-print materials. If any party requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, the Administrative Law Judge must be promptly notified. To arrange for an accommodation or an interpreter, contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401, or may call 612-341-7610 (voice) or 612-341-7346 (TTY).

Public Meeting Notice – Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Riparian Science Technical Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on April 7, 2006 at the Natural Resources Research Institute in Duluth located at 5013 Miller Trunk Highway.

For more information please contact Jenna Fletcher at 651-603-0109 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>

Notifications of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

| File Number | Company | Crop | Project | County |
|-------------|-------------|---------|--|--|
| 06-NO-007 | Monsanto | Soybean | Herbicide Tolerance | Polk, Renville |
| 06-NO-008 | Monsanto | Soybean | Herbicide Tolerance | Redwood (3), Clay |
| 06-NO-009 | Univ. of MN | Potato | Disease Resistance | Dakota |
| 06-NO-010 | Pioneer | Soybean | Multiple phenotypes and combinations of: increased yield; altered maturity and stem attributes; increased yield stability; disease, nematode, and insect resistance; herbicide tolerance; selectable and visible markers; improved | Redwood, Clay (2), Stearns, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Wright, Freeborn, Steele, Goodhue |



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|-----------|----------------------|---------|--|---|
| | | | food, feed, and fiber quality; and novel protein production | |
| 06-NO-011 | Univ. of MN | Wheat | Disease Resistance | Polk |
| 06-NO-012 | Stine Seeds | Corn | Herbicide Tolerance | Renville |
| 06-NO-013 | M.S. Technologies | Soybean | Herbicide Tolerance | Jackson, Martin, Rice, Blue Earth, Mower, Dodge, Kandiyohi, Grant, Traverse, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Renville |

For more information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert Street N, St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-201-6277; e-mail: mary.hanks@state.mn.us

**Minnesota Department of Commerce
 Notice of Public Information Meeting
 March 27, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
 Adams American Legion Hall
 Adams, MN
 Draft Site Permit Available
 for the
 High Prairie Wind Farm
 in
 Mower County
 PUC Docket No. PT6528/WS-06-91**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public information meeting will be held on the application by High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC, to build up to a 101.2 megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS). The public meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, March 27, 2006, at the Adams American Legion Hall, 321 West Main St., Adams, MN 55909.

Staff of the Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct the meeting and review the state’s wind energy site permitting process. Please note that the authority for wind permits 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. Representatives of the applicant (High Prairie Wind) will be at the meeting to describe the proposed project and answer questions.

Project Description

The High Prairie Wind Farm (Project) is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of approximately 101.2 MW and will consist of up to 44 wind turbines. The turbines will be either the Siemens 2.3-MW Mk II or similar wind turbine mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The towers will be 80 meters (262 feet) in height. The blades on the wind turbines are 45 meters (148 feet) long, resulting in a maximum overall height of 125 meters (410 feet) when one blade is in the vertical position. The rotor diameter will be 93 meters (305 feet). The electrical collector system will consist of underground 34.5 kV collection lines and facilities



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providing step-up transformation. Power from the project will be delivered and sold to Xcel Energy at the Adams Substation. A new project substation, located in Section 23 of Clayton Township and a new 161 kV transmission line, approximately seven miles long, will be built to carry the power from the Project to the Adams Substation. The 161 kV transmission line project is being reviewed and permitted by Mower County and does not require a route permit from the PUC. The Project will include an underground 34.5 kV electrical collection system to deliver power from each turbine to the Project Substation as described above. Other Project associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and access roads.

Proposed Site Location

As shown on the map below, the proposed project site is located in Mower County; portions of the project will be located in parts of Bennington, Clayton, and Lodi townships. The total project site area including the wind plant and land easements is approximately 10,000 acres. The total development consists of approximately 60 acres.

PUC Site Permit Review Process

High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC (High Prairie) filed a site permit application, with the Public Utilities Commission for the 101.2 MW LWES project on February 10, 2006, which was accepted by the PUC on March 7, 2006. The DOC is reviewing the High Prairie site permit application under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, sections 116C.691-116C.697) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4401). Upon completion of the review requirements, the DOC will present the record of this matter to the PUC for a final decision.

Public Comments

The site permit application, Draft Site Permit and the agency rules guiding the review process are available on the PUC website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18456>

Interested persons may comment on the site permit application and Draft Site Permit at the public meeting or may submit written or fax (651-297-1959) comments by 4:30 p.m. on **April 12, 2006**. **Please include the following docket number (PT6528/WS-06-91)**. Written or fax comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

DOC Project Contacts

Questions about the project and the PUC permitting process may be directed to: Larry B. Hartman, Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; 651-296-5089; fax: 651-297-7891; e-mail: larry.hartman@state.mn.us. Jeffrey Haase, with the DOC staff, has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. He can be contacted at 651-297-5648 or e-mail: jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us and the mailing address above.

Questions about the High Prairie Wind Farm I, LLC, Site Permit Application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Robert L. Crowell at 713-571-6640 or bob.crowell@horizon.com.

Hearing Request

Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Sharon Ferguson (address above) in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 12, 2006**. The person requesting the public hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reasons why a hearing is required to resolve those issues. The PUC shall order a



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contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the hearing will aid the PUC in making a final decision on the site permit application.

Project Background Information

Copies of the High Prairie Wind Farm site permit application have been distributed to affected landowners, and township, county and state officials. Copies of the application and Draft Site Permit are available for review at the Auditor's Offices in Mower County, and the city offices in Adams. All project documents are available on the PUC website at:

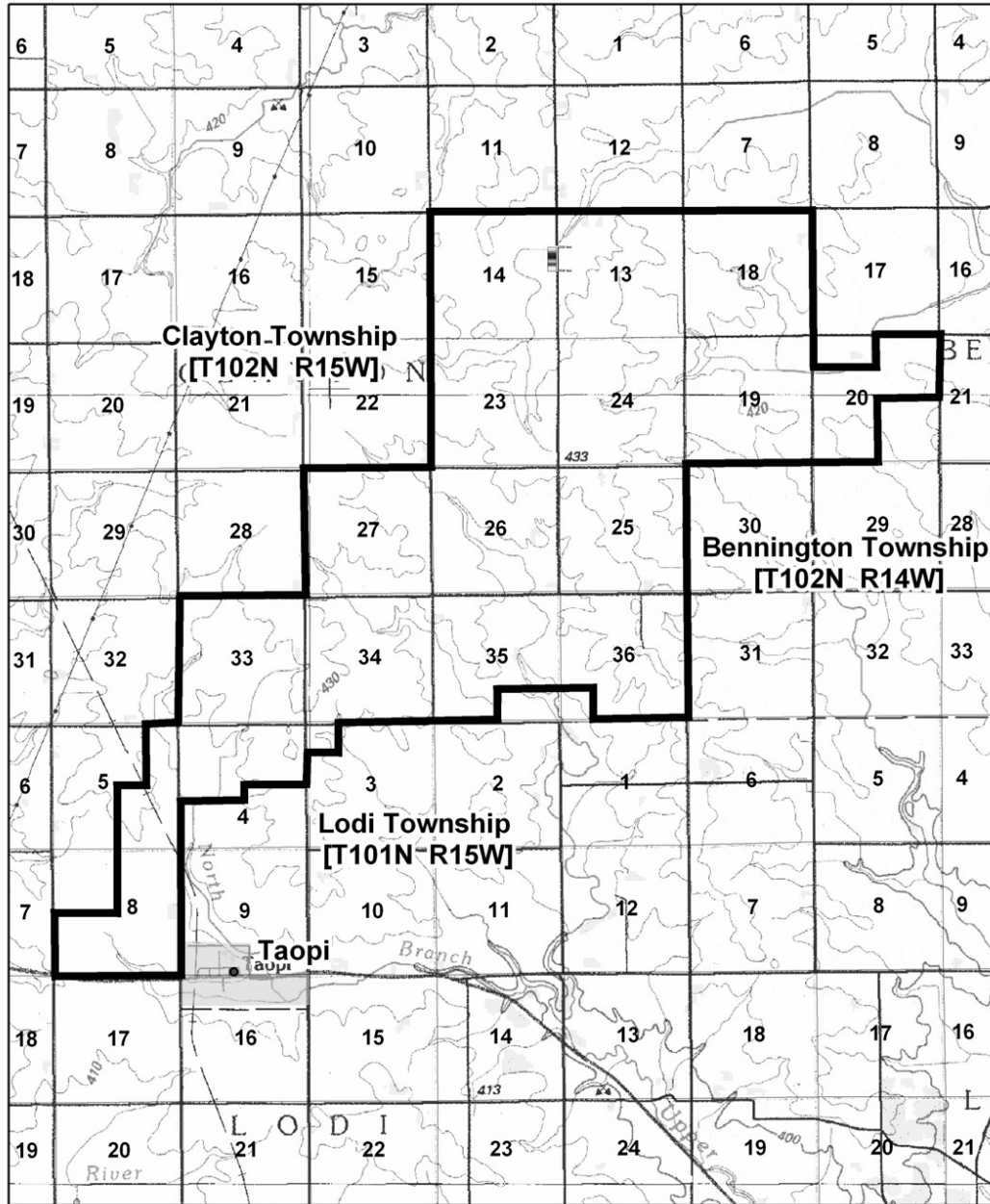
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18456>



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Exhibit 1



HIGH PRAIRIE WIND PROJECT
MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA



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