



April 24, 2006



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

Comments due on May 24, 2006

Minnesota River Valley Public Utility Commission Wastewater Treatment Facility

Description: The Minnesota River Valley Public Utilities Commission is proposing a new mechanical activated sludge wastewater treatment facility with a treatment capacity of 1.84 million gallons per day in the city of Le Sueur, Le Sueur County, Minnesota, to treat wastewater from the cities of Le Sueur and Henderson. Treated effluent will be discharged to the Minnesota River.

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: Dana Vanderbosch, Project Manager, Environmental Review and Operations Section, Regional Division, 520 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-297-1796

Victoria Interceptor and Lift Station 15

Description: The City of Victoria is proposing to construct a new sanitary trunk sewer and lift station, and trunk watermain, in conjunction with the Krey Lakes Development, to serve a recently annexed portion of the City not currently served by utilities. The proposed sanitary sewer construction includes relocation and update of an existing lift station south of the intersection of State Highway 5 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 11. From the new lift station, a 21-inch gravity trunk main pipe will run west for a total of 5,600 linear feet to serve the future Krey Lakes Development. The sanitary forcemain pipe installed out of the lift station will be a 14-inch pipe, 2,100 linear feet in length, from the relocated lift station to a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) manhole on the north side of Steiger Lake Lane, about 1,000 feet east of the intersection of State Highway 5 and Steiger Lake Lane.

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,

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. 9

Next issue: May 8, 2006

Submittal deadline: May 1, 2006



April 24, 2006



520 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-8011

Braaten Quarry

Description: The project consists of the development of a quarrying operation to extract, including blasting, process and stockpile dolomite bedrock on approximately 76 acres of land described as the East ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 18, T106N, R15W, Olmsted County.

RGU: Salem Township

Contact: Roger Ihrke, Zoning Administrator, Township Cooperative Planning Association (TCPA), 3935 Hwy 14 E, P.O. Box 339, Rochester, MN 55903; 507-529-0774; fax: 507-288-9438

Jewett Creek Crossing

Description: Jewett Creek Crossing is a proposed residential subdivision comprised of 156 single-family homes on 151 acres of agricultural land adjacent to the City of Litchfield in Meeker County. The project includes streets, municipal water and sewer extensions, 12 ½ acres of parkland and green space, and 79 acres for future development.

A copy of the EAW is on file and can be reviewed at the City of Litchfield, 126 North Marshall Avenue, Litchfield, MN 55355

RGU: City of Litchfield

Contact: Bradley C. DeWolf, P.E., City Engineer, Bolton & Menk, Inc., 2040 Highway 12 East, Willmar, MN 56201; 320-231-3956

Natures Edge

Description: Natures Edge is a proposed residential subdivision comprised of 120 single-family homes on 43 acres of agricultural land adjacent to the City of Litchfield in Meeker County. The project includes streets, municipal water and sewer extensions and 7 ½ acres of parkland and green space.

A copy of the EAW is on file and can be reviewed at the City of Litchfield, 126 North Marshall Avenue, Litchfield, MN 55355

RGU: City of Litchfield

Contact: Bradley C. DeWolf, P.E., City Engineer, Bolton & Menk, Inc., 2040 Highway 12 East, Willmar, MN 56201; 320-231-3956

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.

- Itasca County, Sandy Point development
- Pope County, Hackberry Creek RV Park project



April 24, 2006



EAW NEED DECISIONS

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

- Ely City Council, Joint Public Works Garage, Denied.
- Lake Shore City Council, The Grand, Denied.

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.

- Richfield City Council, Cedar Point Commons, March 28, 2006 (January 16, 2006)
- Carlton County Board of Commissioners, John Laveau Trucking and Excavating Sand and Gravel Mine, April 11, 2006 (February 27, 2006)
- Minneapolis City Council, Bennett Lumber Parcels 1 and 2 Redevelopment, March 31, 2006 (January 30, 2006)
- Sherburne County Board of Commissioners, Boulder Crossing, April 4, 2006 (January 30, 2006)
- City of Waconia, Legacy Village at Waconia, April 3, 2006 (February 13, 2006)
- Hennepin County, Hennepin CSAH 61 (Shady Oak Road) Reconstruction, March 22, 2006 (January 30, 2006)
- City of Montrose, White Tail Residential Subdivision, April 11, 2006 (February 27, 2006)
- Lake of the Woods County, Waibel Estates Subdivision, April 11, 2006 (February 13, 2006)
- Red Wing City Council, Highlands of Red Wing, April 10, 2006 (February 27, 2006)

EIS PREPARATION NOTICE

PolyMet NorthMet Mine and Ore Processing Project

Located Near Cities of Babbitt and Hoyt Lakes, St. Louis County, Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in co-operation with the United States Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) will prepare a joint state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the NorthMet Mine and Ore Processing Facilities Project (NorthMet) proposed by PolyMet Mining Inc. (PolyMet) to extract copper, nickel, cobalt, and precious metals. The joint EIS will allow evaluation of the NorthMet project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The NorthMet mine is proposed approximately 6 miles south of the town of Babbitt while the ore processing facility is proposed at a currently inactive taconite processing facility, formerly owned and operated by LTV Steel Mining Company (LTVSMC) and now owned by Cliffs Erie, located 5 miles north of the town of Hoyt Lakes, all of which are located in St. Louis County, Minnesota.

In June 2005, the DNR distributed a Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document to all agencies listed on the EQB distribution list and all interested parties. Availability of the Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document were noticed the June 6, 2005 EQB *Monitor*. The DNR held a public scoping meeting in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota, and accepted comments during a 30-day public comment period concluding on July 6, 2005. The DNR considered comments on the proposed scope, made revisions



April 24, 2006



to the Draft Scoping Decision Document, and issued a Final Scoping Decision. The Scoping Decision 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: cover types; vehicle related air emissions; air emissions; odor and noise; archaeology; visibility; compatibility with plans and land use regulations; infrastructure; asbestiform fibers; 1854 ceded territory; fish and wildlife resources; threatened and endangered species; physical impacts on water resources; water appropriations; surface water runoff and erosion/sedimentation; wastewater; solid waste; cumulative effects (Hoyt Lakes area projects and air concentrations in Class II Areas; Class I Areas PM-10 increment; ecosystem acidification resulting from deposition of air pollutants; mercury deposition and bioaccumulation in fish; visibility impairment; loss of threatened and endangered plant species; loss of wetlands; loss or fragmentation of wildlife habitat; stream flow and lake level changes; water quality changes; economic impacts; social impacts); and reclamation.

The EIS will evaluate the following alternatives:

Proposed Alternative. The proposed project includes open pit mining operations with ore hauled to the processing facility on largely existing rail line owned by Cliffs Erie. Waste rock, lean ore, and deferred ore stockpiles from the mining operations are proposed near the mine pit. Stockpiles would be segregated into reactive and non-reactive stockpiles. Non-reactive stockpiles would be constructed and managed in a manner similar to those associated with taconite mining. These stockpiles would be designed and built to prevent sedimentation and erosion from stormwater runoff and provide beneficial use of these areas. Reactive stockpiles are proposed to be placed on engineered liner systems that capture any runoff and direct the runoff to a wastewater treatment system. Ore would be processed at a refurbished and modified taconite processing facility. The hydrometallurgical process of flotation and autoclave leach facilities would be used with refurbished crushing and grinding facilities to produce copper metal and precipitates of nickel, cobalt, palladium, platinum, and gold. Precipitates are proposed for shipment off-site to third party treatment. The flotation process will generate flotation tailings that are proposed for disposal on top of a portion of an existing taconite tailings disposal facility. The hydrometallurgical process would generate some waste residue that is proposed for disposal in lined cells on top of the existing taconite tailings adjacent to the area proposed for disposal of flotation tailings.

No-Build Alternative. The EIS will describe the effects of the no-build alternative.

Site Alternatives.

In-pit Reactive Waste Rock Disposal – The EIS will assess sub-aqueous placement of reactive waste rock in an existing taconite mine pit in an aqueous environment to retard oxidation of sulfide minerals and reduce the degree of associated water quality concerns. This could also reduce the magnitude of long-term treatment of water contacting reactive rock. Because land and mineral ownership issues could impact feasibility, they will be investigated first.

Off-site Non-reactive Waste Rock Disposal – The EIS will address whether it might be possible to reduce the total amount of land disturbance by stockpiling in existing areas already disturbed by mining activity. Because land and mineral ownership issues could impact feasibility, they will be investigated first.

In-pit Tailings Disposal – Sub-aqueous placement of tailings in existing taconite mine pits will be addressed. As part of this option, the use of various sub-aqueous cover materials to further restrict oxygen transport to the tailings will be evaluated. Because land and mineral ownership issues could impact feasibility, they will be investigated first.

Technology Alternative.

Mining Technologies. The EIS will evaluate the feasibility and environmental impacts associated with using underground mining techniques to mine the NorthMet ore deposit.



April 24, 2006



Modified Designs or Layouts.

Technical Design Evaluation Reports. These reports will be used to evaluate effectiveness, implementability, and cost of various project design components. The following reports will be included in the EIS: reactive residue facility and initial tailings facility; tailings basin geotechnical; wastewater treatment; air emission control (cross media effects); wetland mitigation; reactive waste segregation; tailings basin modification.

Two Mine Pits – The EIS will assess the alternative of mining the NorthMet deposit as two mine pits, with one pit being completely mined out before beginning the second pit.

Chemical Modification of Reactive Waste Rock Stockpiles – The EIS will evaluate geochemical modification by incorporation of material into reactive waste rock stockpiles to reduce reactivity or treat reactive water within the stockpile.

Co-disposal of Reactive Waste Rock and Tailings on a Lined Tailings Basin – The EIS will evaluate the feasibility and environmental impacts of disposing reactive waste rock with tailings in a lined basin.

Wastewater – The EIS will consider the suitability and benefits of alternative designs and layouts for wastewater treatment.

Scale or Magnitude Alternatives. The DNR and the USACE have determined that an alternative scale or magnitude would not feasibly meet the purpose of the project.

Incorporation of Mitigation Measures.

Monitoring of waste rock stockpiles and tailings basin – The EIS will consider various monitoring programs associated with waste rock stockpiles and the tailings basin.

Tailings Basin – Long-term tests are in progress but may not provide definitive answers within the time period for preparation of this EIS. As a result, the project proposer has developed a strategy to mitigate for any potential environmental impacts if the tailings are ultimately found to be reactive.

Connected or Related Actions:

There are no phased or connected actions associated with this project

Special Studies or Research:

The EIS will incorporate reports, studies and research on the following: Process Design – Tailings Basin Water Balance; Hydrology – Mine Water Model & Balance; Mine Wastewater Management Systems; Mine Surface Water Runoff Systems; Mine Diking/Trenching Effectiveness; Wastewater Treatment Options; Reactive Waste Rock Stockpile Chemical Modification; Mine Pit Water Quality Model; Mine Waste Management Plan; Wastewater Modeling – Waste Rock and Lean Ore; Water Treatability Study – Waste Rock and Lean Ore; Wastewater Modeling – Tailings; Water Treatability Study – Tailings; Closure Plan

EIS Schedule: The tentative EIS preparation schedule includes Draft EIS publication in November 2006, Final EIS publication in March 2007, and determination of EIS adequacy in June 2007.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Stuart Arkley, Planner Principal, Ecological Services Division, 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025; 651-2595089; fax: 651-297-1500



April 24, 2006



DRAFT EIS AVAILABLE

The Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS) documenting the impacts of constructing transit improvements along the Central Corridor between downtown Saint Paul and downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota is available. The alternatives are bus rapid transit or light rail transit operating generally along University and Washington Avenues.

The AA/DEIS is being distributed to agencies on the document review list and other interested parties. Information on the AA/DEIS and other corridor information will be available at www.centralcorridor.org

A public comment period is expected to start on April 21, 2006, after publication in the Federal Register and end on June 5, 2006. A locally preferred alternative will then be selected for preliminary engineering and development of a Final EIS. Public hearings on the DEIS will be held during the week of May 22, 2006. The hearings will include an open house period with information on the transit alternative impacts along the corridor. Details of those hearings will be publicized when they are finalized in the next week to ten days. All comments received during the comment period will be considered for inclusion in the Final EIS. Comments may be directed to:

Stephen L. Morris
Project Manager
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority
Suite 665 RCGC West
50 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102
651-266-2784

Public Hearing Information:

- Monday, May 22, 6:30 PM, Radisson Metrodome, 615 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis
An open house for questions and answers will precede the hearing from 5-6:30 PM
- Wednesday, May 24, 8 AM, Minnesota History Center, 345 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul
An open house for questions and answers will precede the hearing at 7:30 AM
- Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 PM, Central High School, 275 N Lexington Pkwy, St. Paul
An open house for questions and answers will precede the hearing from 3:30 to 6:30 PM

FINAL EIS AVAILABLE

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal by UPM/Blandin Paper to expand operations at their paper mill in Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota.

The Final EIS responds to timely substantive comments on the Draft EIS, provides information in addition to that contained in the Draft EIS, and corrects errors in the Draft EIS. Together, the Final EIS and Draft EIS comprise the complete EIS, which documents the analysis of potential impacts associated with the installation of a completed new paper manufacturing line, modification of existing paper manufacturing line, and shutdown of another existing paper manufacturing line at the Grand Rapids paper mill.

The DNR will accept comments on the Final EIS during the public review and comment period that concludes at 4:30 PM on Monday, May 8, 2006.

Minnesota Rules part 4410.2800, subpart 4 requires the EIS to be found adequate if it:



April 24, 2006



- a. addresses the potentially significant issues and alternatives raised in scoping so that all significant issues for which information can be reasonably obtained have been analyzed in conformance with part 4410.2300, items G and H;
- b. provides responses to the substantive comments received during the draft EIS review concerning issues raised in scoping; and
- c. was prepared in compliance with the procedures of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act and Minnesota Rules parts 4410.0200 to 4410.6500

Written comments should be submitted to Bill Johnson, NR Program Consultant, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological Services, Box 25, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025. E-mail comments should be directed to thunderhawk@dnr.state.mn.us; e-mails should include a name and legal mailing address.

Following the close of the Final EIS comment period, the DNR will determine whether the EIS is adequate and will prepare a record of its decision. If the DNR determines the EIS is inadequate, it shall have 60 days in which to prepare an adequate EIS. A notice of its adequacy decision will be published in the EQB *Monitor*.

Public review copies of the documents are available at the DNR library, 500 Lafayette Road, in St. Paul; at the DNR Regional Office in Grand Rapids, 1201 East Highway 2; at the Grand Rapids Area Library, 140 NE Second Street; at the Duluth Public Library, 144 West Second Street; and at the Environmental Conservation Library, 250 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis. The documents are also posted on DNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/index.html.

Any questions about this matter may be directed to Bill Johnson, NR Program Consultant, at 651-259-5157.

NOTICE

Notifications of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
06-NO-038	Monsanto	Corn	Insect Resistance	Freeborn
06-NO-039	Monsanto	Soybean	Seed Oil Composition	Steele
06-NO-040	Monsanto	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Steele
06-NO-041	Syngenta	Corn	Insect Resistance	Martin, Swift, Redwood

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.



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