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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: July 23, 2007

Project Title: Trails RV Park

Description: The proposed project includes the development and operation of 89 recreational vehicle sites, swimming pool, playground, shower house, and lodge/office that will utilize on-site water supply and waste water treatment. The site of the proposed recreational vehicle park contains 17.5 acres located 4 miles north of Walker, adjacent to the Paul Bunyan Trail and Trunk Highway # 371.

RGU: Cass County Planning Commission

Contact Person:

Paul Fairbanks, Planner
Environmental Service Department
Cass County Courthouse
PO Box 3000
Walker, MN 56484
Telephone: 218-547-7287
Fax: 218-547-7429
Paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us

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

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

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

Project Title: TH 60 West Commercial Development

Description: The TH60 West Commercial Development proposes to convert approximate 147.9 acres of predominantly agricultural land use to commercial, residential, and park/open space along MN Trunk Highway 60 in Faribault, Minnesota. The project includes development within the shoreland overlay district of Wells Lake and the realignment of Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail. The project will specifically include a general merchandise store, home improvement store, single family residential and smaller commercial users which will utilize City of Faribault infrastructure including water, sewer and associated utilities.

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

- City of Faribault Offices, 208 First Avenue NW, 3rd Floor, Faribault
- Buckham Memorial Library, 11 Division Street East, Faribault
- Rochester Public Library, Reference Department, 101 Second Street SE, Rochester

A copy of the EAW will also be posted during the 30-day comment period on the City of Faribault's website: <http://www.ci.faribault.mn.us>.

RGU: City of Faribault

Contact Person:

Kim Johnson, City Planner
208 1st Ave. NW
Faribault, MN 55021
Phone: 507-334-2222
kjohanson@ci.faribault.mn.us

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparation 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*.

- Rochester Common Council, Maxwell Guest House, July 5, 2007 (May 21, 2007)
- Pope County, Legacy Park Subdivision Plat, June 19, 2007 (April 9, 2007)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Howard Lake Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project, July 3, 2007 (May 7, 2007)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Son-D-Farms Feedlot Expansion (Dale's Site), June 26, 2007 (March 26, 2007)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Crestview and Plainview Farms Expansion Project, June 29, 2007 (May 21, 2007)

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 Emily, Northern Lights Over Lake Roosevelt

DRAFT AUAR AVAILABLE

Project Title: Gateway Study Area

Description: The City of Edina has prepared a Draft AUAR for the Gateway Study Area located within 135 acres in southeastern Edina. The Draft AUAR analyzes four scenarios for redevelopment in an area currently developed located between TH 100, Minnesota Drive, France Avenue and 76th Street.

The document is available at City Hall and on the city's webpage.

RGU: City of Edina

Contact Person:

Cary Teague, Planning Director
4801 West 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424
cteague@ci.edina.mn.us

FINAL AUAR ADOPTED

Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan Adopted Greater East Mankato Infill Service District, Mankato

The City of Mankato has adopted the Final Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) and Final Mitigation Plan for the Greater East Mankato Infill Service District (GEMISD) in accordance with MN Rules 4410.3610. The City of Mankato finds the GEMISD Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan is complete and accurate, and adequately identifies the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Vogel, Community Development Director, 507-387-8613 or Jamie Bender at 507-387-6651 or jamiieb@is-ea.com.

NOTICE OF EIS PREPARATION

Project Title: Astra Village

Description: The City of Brooklyn Park will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Astra Village multi-use development to be located on 150 acres between Hampshire and Regent Avenues and Highway 610 and 93rd Avenue in Brooklyn Park.

The proposed project would consist of up to 1,100 attached housing units, 2.0 million square feet of office space and 91,000 square feet of mixed-use development including shops with offices on the second floor.

The issues that will be studied in the EIS are: land use, physical impacts of water resources, surface water runoff, wastewater, geologic impacts and soil conditions, traffic, compatibility with plans and regulations, infrastructure and public services, noise and dust.

Contact:

Cindy Sherman, Planning Director
City of Brooklyn Park
5200 85th Avenue No.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
763-493-8051

Project Title: Xcel Energy West Lakeland Ash Disposal Facility

Description: The MPCA intends to prepare an EIS on the proposal by Xcel Energy to construct and operate a landfill for the disposal of coal fly ash produced by the Allen S. King power plant in Oak Park Heights. The landfill is proposed to be located in West Lakeland Township near the intersection of I-94 and Washington County Highway 21 (Stagecoach Trail).

The final EIS Scoping Decision Document for the EIS was approved by the MPCA Citizens' Board on December 19, 2006. This document, which discloses the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS, can be found, along with other EIS process documents, at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/xcel-eis.html>, a Web page dedicated to the Xcel Energy ash landfill EIS project. This Web page will also be periodically updated as needed to reflect EIS process developments, events, and milestones.

Questions and requests for further information about the EIS and the proposed landfill project may be directed to Jennifer Groebner at 651-296-7706.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

FINAL EIS ADEQUACY DECISION

Project Title: Minnesota Urban Ballpark

Hennepin County prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Minnesota Urban Ballpark, a new 42,000 seat (maximum), open-air baseball stadium for use by the Minnesota Twins.

A Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and a Draft Scoping Decision Document were prepared to identify the issues and alternatives that would be addressed in the EIS. A notice of availability of the scoping documents was published in the *EQB Monitor* on October 24, 2005 and November 21, 2005. A public meeting to obtain input on the Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document was held on December 1, 2005. A Final Scoping Decision Document was issued on December 13, 2005 and published in the *EQB Monitor* on January 16, 2006. Hennepin County approved an Amended Scoping Decision Document and published notice of its approval in the November 20, 2006 *EQB Monitor*. The EIS Preparation Notice was published in the *EQB Monitor* November 20, 2006.

A Draft EIS was prepared to address the issues and alternatives raised in scoping and identify mitigation measures for identified adverse effects. The Draft EIS notice of availability was published in the *EQB Monitor* on January 29, 2007. A public information meeting was held on February 20, 2007, and comments were accepted on the Draft EIS through March 6, 2007.

Hennepin County prepared a Final EIS, which included all comments received during the Draft EIS review period. The Final EIS notice of availability was published in the *EQB Monitor* on June 4, 2007. A public information meeting was held on June 12, 2007, and Hennepin County accepted comments on the adequacy of the Final EIS through June 22, 2007.

On June 26, 2007, pursuant to the criteria prescribed in Minnesota rules part 4410.2800, subpart 4, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners determined the Final EIS is adequate. A notice of the adequacy decision was distributed to all parties receiving copies of the Final EIS.

The contact person at Hennepin County is Chuck Ballentine, Deputy Coordinator, Hennepin County Ballpark Project Office, 390 Grain Exchange Building, 301 Fourth Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414, 612-543-7275.

NOTICES

LONG TERM RESOURCE MONITORING PROGRAM (LTRMP) PROJECT PLANNED FOR MISSISSIPPI POOLS – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The MN DNR is planning a joint project with the Illinois Natural History Survey on Pool 4 and 5 of the Mississippi River. The two study areas are in the vicinity of Hershey Island of Navigational Pool 4 and the Fisher Island area of Pool 5. The project is an evaluation looking at how electrofishing Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) relates to actual fish population densities. Within each backwater site, three 1/3 acre block nets will be deployed in random locations, and fish within the nets will be sampled using rotenone. Potassium permanganate will be applied outside of the nets to deactivate rotenone leaking through the mesh, and will be applied within the nets after the second fish collection. The official results of this project will be a LTRMP

report submitted to the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC) and a following publication in an appropriate peer reviewed scientific journal by June 2008.

For more information about this project, contact Walter Popp, LTRMP Team Leader, 1801 S. Oak St., R3, Lake City, MN

RECLAMATION PROJECT PLANNED FOR LAKE GENEVA- DNR DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife is planning a rotenone treatment on Lake Geneva (DOW #24001500) and connected wetlands in Freeborn County including DOW # 24001300 and restored a wetland located in T104-R20-S16. This project will include the application of rotenone, a federally and state registered pesticide to control carp. Endangered or threatened species are not known to be present in the lake or wetlands. Some species listed as "Special Concern" in M.S. 6134.0220 are periodically found on/near the lake including Franklin's gulls, American White Pelicans and Bald Eagles. The project is not anticipated to have any long-term negative affects on any of these species. Many of these species are fish-eaters, but desirable fish will be restocked after the treatment. Project goals include treating the undesirable fish species, carp, in order to improve wildlife habitat and water quality in this and connected wetlands.

Lake Geneva will be drawn down prior to any chemical treatment to reduce the volume of chemical needed. The chemical application would occur in sometime between October 2007 and March 2008. Rotenone distribution will be done either through the ice, by drip station, by boat and/or aerially. Target treatment concentration is 3-5 ppm of 2.5% liquid rotenone or a similar concentration of powdered rotenone, or a combination of liquid and powder. Benefits of the project will be to improved water quality and aquatic vegetation abundance creating habitat for wildlife and waterfowl.

Lake Geneva is a Designated Lake under M.S. 97a.101 and this strategy is consistent with the existing management plan for this basin For general information about any of these projects, contact Area Wildlife Manager, Jeanine Vorland 507-455-5841, Regional Wildlife Manager, Ken Varland 507-359-6030 or Nicole Hansel-Welch, Shallow Lakes Program, 218-833-8626.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

In the Matter of a Site Permit Application for the 55 MW Bear Creek Wind Project in the Minnesota Counties of Otter Tail and Todd.

MPUC Docket No. IP6629/WS-07-297

**Thursday, July 19, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Hewitt Community Center
Hewitt, MN**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that PlainStates Energy, on behalf of Bear Creek Wind Partners, LLC, has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit to build and operate up to a 55 Megawatt

(MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) west of Hewitt, Minnesota. The PUC accepted the site permit application on June 19, 2007.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff will host a public information meeting at the date, time and location above to provide an overview of the wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit for the Bear Creek Wind Project. The public information meeting and comment period will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about and comment on the Project, the process and the draft site permit.

Representatives of DOC and Bear Creek Wind Partners, LLC, will be at the meeting to describe the proposed Project and answer questions.

Project Description

The Bear Creek Wind Project is proposed to be built in 2 separate phases. Phase I is proposed to be 30 MW and in-service in 2008. Phase II is proposed to be 25 MW with an uncertain in-service date. Bear Creek proposes to use 22 Nordex N90, 2.5 MW wind turbine generators mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The towers will be 80 meters (262 feet) in height measured at the hub. The rotor diameter will be 90 meters (295 feet). The maximum overall height of the wind turbines will be approximately 125 meters (410 feet) above grade when one blade is in the vertical position.

An electrical system consisting of underground and overhead 34.5 kilovolt (kV) collection and feeder lines will deliver power to a project substation in Stowe Prairie Township, Section 17. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and turbine access roads.

Proposed Site Location

The Project site is located in Todd and Otter Tail counties in portions of Bartlett, Stowe Prairie, Oak Valley, and Woodside townships. Bear Creek Wind Partners, LLC, has obtained wind development rights from landowners for approximately 1,795 acres within the Project boundary.

MPUC Site Permit Review Process

PlainStates Energy filed a site permit application for the Bear Creek Wind Project with the PUC on May 24, 2007. On June 19, 2007, the PUC accepted the application as complete, determined that a permit may be issued in this case and issued a draft site permit. The application and draft site permit are available from the web site and project contacts listed below. Landowners and governments within the project boundary will receive a copy of the application directly from the developer.

The DOC is now initiating the public participation process under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4401). Upon completion of the public participation process, the DOC will present the record of this matter to the PUC for a final permit 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=19150>

Interested persons may comment on the application and draft site permit at the public meeting or may submit written comments until 4:30 p.m. on **August 15, 2007**. Written comments can be sent by mail, fax or by email. Please include the following docket number (IP6629/WS-07-297) on written comments. Written or fax comments should be directed to: Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Fax: 651-297-7891.

DOC Project Contacts

Questions, comments and requests to add your name on the mailing list for the Bear Creek Wind Project may be directed to: Adam Sokolski, Tel: 651-296-2096; e-mail: adam.sokolski@state.mn.us and the mailing address above. Deborah Pile, 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. She can be contacted at: Tel: 651-297-2375; toll free at: 800-657-3794; or e-mail: deborah.pile@state.mn.us and the mailing address above.

Questions about the Bear Creek Wind Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Mr. John Ihle, PlainStates Energy at 701-232-4948.

Contested Case Hearing Request

Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter. Minnesota Rule 4401.0550. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with the Department of Commerce in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **August 15, 2007**. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reasons why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The PUC shall order a 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 and draft site permit.

Notifications of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
07-NO-043	Syngenta	Corn	Drought Tolerance	Mower

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.