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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: August 1, 2007

Project Title: Project Title: Rahr Malting Company and Koda Energy L.L.C. Combined Wastewater Treatment System Expansion and Heat and Power Plant

Description: Rahr Malting Company (Rahr Malting) and Koda Energy L.L.C (Koda Energy) are proposing to expand the existing wastewater treatment system at Rahr Malting and construct a new heat and power plant; adjacent to the existing Rahr Malting facility. The existing wastewater treatment system was designed to treat an average flow of 1.5 MGD. The proposed expansion will increase the annual average discharge to 2.092 MGD, and the average wet weather (AWW)/ peak daily /peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow rates will increase to 2.41 MGD. The treated wastewater is discharged to the Minnesota River. Non-contact cooling water is discharged via the same outfall to the Minnesota River.

Koda Energy is a limited liability corporation whose members include Rahr Malting and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. Koda Energy will use byproducts from Rahr Malting for up to 30% of its biomass fuel requirements to produce, on average, up to 17.8 MW of electrical energy and 120,000 lbs/hour of steam. This combination of steam and electricity represents the total energy output. For example, the proposed heat and power plant could produce more than 120,000 lbs/hr of steam, but then would concurrently produce less than 17.8 MW of electricity. Rahr Malting will purchase the steam for process heat. Koda Energy will either sell the electricity to Rahr Malting and/or will wholesale the power to an electric

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Denise Leezer, Planner Principal
 Environmental Review and Operations Section, Regional Division
 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 520 Lafayette Road No.
 St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
 651-297-8236

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: Dan Peterson Project

Description: Dan Peterson proposes to develop, construct, and operate a private sand and gravel operation over an estimated 10- to 12-year period. Operations will consist of material excavation, washing, stockpiling, and loading operations. Approximately 51 acres of the 65.9 acres owned by Mr. Peterson will be disturbed by the operation. The proposed end use after reclamation will be large lot residential development.

RGU: Barry Township

Contact Person:

Theresa Ausmus, Town Clerk
650 Duck Dr.
Hinckley, MN 55037
Phone: 320-384-7379

Project Title: Chaska West Interceptor, Phase 2 – Carver Interceptor

Description: The proposed project is to construct the Chaska West Interceptor, Phase 2 – Carver Interceptor. The proposed system will consist of 16,600 feet of pipe and will extend from the existing Carver Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Chaska. The interceptor will provide a connection to the Metropolitan Disposal System's Blue Lake WWTP. The project is designed for an average flow of 3.85 million gallons per day (MGD) and a peak flow of 10.2 MGD.

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 Person:

Barbara Jean Conti, Project Manager
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road No.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
651-296-6703

Project Title: Divine Mercy Catholic Church Development

Description: Divine Mercy Catholic Church proposes to convert 181 acres of predominantly agricultural land into a mixed-use development consisting of a church campus and residential and commercial land use in Faribault, Minnesota. The development will be constructed in phases and include the construction of roads, logs, and public infrastructure. The development will utilize city water, sewer, and associated utilities.

RGU: City of Faribault

Contact Person:

Kim Johnson, City Planner

208 1st Ave. NW

Faribault, MN 55021

Phone: 507-333-0348

Fax: 507-333-0399

kjohnson@ci.faribault.mn.us

Project Title: St. Cloud Industrial Park

Description: St. Cloud Opportunities is proposing to construct an industrial park on 130 acres of land east of CSAH 75 and west of Franklin Road. One outlet to each of these roads from the project site is proposed. At this time, it is assumed that the development will consist of one or more users creating 300,000 square feet of gross floor space. Roads, municipal sewer and water, and other utilities will be extended to serve the industrial park.

Anyone interested may view this EAW document at the following locations:

St. Cloud Planning Office

400 So. 2nd St.

St. Cloud, MN 56301

St. Cloud Public Library

405 W St. Germain St.

St. Cloud, MN 56301

The EAW document is also available for purchase from the St. Cloud Planning Office for \$5.00 each. Comment concerning the scope and accuracy of the EAW should be addressed to:

City of St. Cloud Planning Office

400 So. 2nd St.

St. Cloud, MN 56301

RGU: City of St. Cloud

Contact Person:

Matt Glaesman, Community Development Director

400 2nd St. So.

St. Cloud, MN 56301

Phone: 320-255-7218

Fax: 320-255-7258

EA/EAW AVAILABLE

Project Title: U.S. Highway 212 Improvements in Renville and McLeod Counties Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Description: The project involves improvements proposed on U.S. Highway 212, from Renville County State Aid Highway 16, west of Hector, to State Trunk Highway 22 South, east of Brownton. The proposed project includes a mill-and-overlay of approximately 28 miles of the existing two-lane highway and the possible construction of one or two four-lane divided highway passing lane sections.

Public Review: Copies of the Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA) are being distributed to the EQB Distribution List, and others. The comment period will begin on July 2, 2007 and close August 1, 2007. Written comments should be directed to the contact person listed below.

The EA is available for review during business hours at the following locations:

Hector City Clerk's Office, 301 Main St. So., Hector
Buffalo Lake City Hall, 203 Main St. No., Buffalo Lake
Stewart City Hall, 551 Prior St., Stewart
Brownton City Hall, 528 Second St. No., Brownton
Minnesota Department of Transportation, 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar

The EA is also available online at <http://projects.dot.state.mn.us/seh/212eas/index.html>.

Public Hearing: To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies, and groups to comment on the EA, an Open House Public Hearing will be held and the public is encouraged to attend. The open house will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on July 10, 2007, at the Stewart City Hall, 551 Prior Street, Stewart. Members of the public will be able to view the EA, project maps and drawings, and speak to project representatives. The public hearing will begin with a formal presentation at 6:00 p.m. At the Open House/Hearing, comments on the EA will be accepted in either written form or verbally (by a recorder), and will become part of the official public hearing record. Written comments on the EA will also be accepted through the close of the public comment period on August 1, 2007.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:

Susann Karnowski, Mn/DOT Project Manager
Mn/DOT District 8
2505 Transportation Road
Willmar, MN 56201
Phone: 320-214-3751
Fax: 320-231-5168
Susann.karnowski@dot.state.mn.us

EAW NEED DECISIONS

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

- Hubbard County Board of Commissioners, residential development of Fischer Park. Denied
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Jeff Berge hog finishing feedlot. Exempt

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*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Flint Hills Resources, LP-Marshall Tank Farm Expansion, June 18, 2007 (April 9, 2007)
- New Germany City Council, Trophy Lakes Estates IV residential development project, June 5, 2007 (April 23, 2007)
- Lake of the Woods County Board of Commissioners, Morris Point Estates Subdivision, June 12, 2007 (April 9, 2007)
- Rochester Common Council, Hadley Creek Development, June 18, 2007 (May 7, 2007)
- City of Woodbury, South Washington School District No. 833 Third High School, June 13, 2007 (April 23, 2007)
- Willmar City Council, Airport Redevelopment and Industrial Park Expansion project, May 21, 2007 (April 19, 2007)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Lone Tree Farm, LLC, June 22, 2007 (May 7, 2007)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Willmar Southern Interceptor Sewer Project, June 22, 2007 (May 7, 2007)
- Elk River City Council, Tiller Corporation Sand & Gravel Mining Facility, June 18, 2007 (April 16, 2007)
- City of Monticello, Mills Fleet Farm, June 25, 2007 (May 21, 2007)

FINAL AUAR ADOPTED

Project Title: The Heights of Chaska Final AUAR

On behalf of the City of Chaska, this serves as notice that The Heights of Chaska Final Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) and Mitigation Plan has been adopted by resolution. The Chaska City Council adopted by said resolution on June 4, 2007.

The Heights of Chaska Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) area encompasses approximately 1,024 acres or 1.6 square miles in southwestern Chaska. The entire area was formerly part of Chaska Township until it was annexed into the City of Chaska on January 1, 2005. All of the former Chaska Township, which encompasses approximate 1,837 acres or 2.87 square miles, was annexed into the City of Chaska at that time.

The boundaries of the AUAR area are as follows: the planned right-of-way alignment of new Highway 212 on the west, Engler Boulevard (C.S.A.H. 10) on the north, the former eastern border of Chaska Township on the east, and existing Highway 212 on the south.

Any questions should be directed to Kevin Ringwald, Director of Planning and Development, City of Chaska at (952) 448-9200.

FINAL DRAFT
AUAR for Southeast Town of Hassan

On Thursday, June 14, 2007, the Town of Hassan's Town Board approved the Final Draft of the AUAR and Mitigation Plan. Copies of the final documents will be given to all of the reviewers that had provided comments. A copy of the Final Draft will also be available at the Town Hall or upon request. Please contact:

Jim Willis, Town Administrator
 Hassan Town Hall
 25000 Hassan Parkway
 Rogers, MN 55374
 763-428-4100

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE: AERIAL APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES
 MN Dept of Natural Resources
 Division of Forestry
 Division of Wildlife

The MN Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is planning to aerially apply herbicides on state lands. Herbicide applications will occur on approximately 760 acres and involve 24 individual sites. These applications will be used to prepare sites for the planting of trees as well as for the release of planted trees from overtopping and competing vegetation. Aerial application will begin on approximately July 15 and end on approximately September 12, 2007.

Aerial application of herbicides will also occur on Division of Wildlife administered lands in Aitkin County. Approximately 220 acres will be treated involving 3 sites. Herbicides are applied to these lands to reduce brush and rejuvenate habitat suitable for open land species such as sharp-tailed grouse, short-eared owls, and various sparrows. Application will be made approximately July 15, 2007.

Administrative Area	# Sites	Acres	Herbicides
Aitkin (Wildlife)	3	220	2,4-D
Baudette	4	91	Accord
Hibbing	2	41	Accord, Oust
Littlefork	5	135	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Orr	6	120	Accord, Garlon, Oust

Tower	4	158	Garlon, Oust
Two Harbors	3	215	Accord
TOTALS	27	980	

For further information regarding this project, contact:

Forestry

Bill Schnell, Forest Management Aerial Program Leader
 MN DNR Forestry
 1201 E. Hwy 2
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
 218-999-7842

Wildlife

Dave Dickey, Area Wildlife Manager
 MN DNR Wildlife
 P.O. Box 138
 Aitkin, MN 56431
 218-927-6915

Notifications of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
07-NO-041	University of Minnesota	Horticultural Species (Confidential Business Information)	Plant characteristics: dwarfism, male and female sterility	Ramsey
07-NO-042	Syngenta	Corn	Drought Tolerance	Brown

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.

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR SITE PERMIT
 And
 OPEN HOUSE and PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**July 11, 2007
 5:30 p.m. Open House
 6:30 p.m. Public Information Meeting**

**Mesabi Range Community and Technical College
 1001 Chestnut Street West
 Entrance 2S**

Virginia, Minnesota**DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABLE
For the proposed Taconite Ridge I Wind Energy Center
MPUC Docket No. E015/WS-07-676**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Minnesota Power has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit to build and operate up to a 25 Megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) on U.S. Steel's Minntac facility in Mountain Iron, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) Energy Facilities Permitting staff will host a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. on July 11, 2007, in Lecture Hall C175 at the Mesabi Range Community and Technical College to provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the proposed draft site permit for the Taconite Ridge I wind project. The public information meeting and comment period will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about the project, the process and the draft site permit. Representatives of DOC and Minnesota Power will be at the meeting to describe the proposed Project and answer questions.

Prior to the Public Information Meeting, Minnesota Power will host an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Commons Area of the Mesabi Range Community and Technical College. Staff from Minnesota Power will be available at the open house to discuss the project and answer questions.

Project Description

Minnesota Power proposes to build a 25 MW LWECS utilizing 10 Clipper Liberty 2.5 MW wind turbine generators mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The towers will be approximately 265 feet (80 meters) tall at the hub. The rotor diameter will be 305 – 315 feet. The maximum overall height of the wind turbines will be approximately 417 to 423 feet above grade when one blade is in the vertical position. Minnesota Power anticipates that the project will be in-service in 2008.

An electrical system consisting of 34.5 kV collection lines and facilities providing step-up transformation and 34.5 kV feeder line(s) will deliver power to Minnesota Power's Minntac Substation. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and turbine access roads.

Proposed Site Location

The proposed Project site is located at US Steel's Minntac facility in St. Louis County, near the city of Mountain Iron in the unorganized portion of Township 59 North and Range 18 West. Minnesota Power has wind development rights to approximately 475 acres of the Minntac facility. The project site is bounded by undeveloped land owned by US Steel to the north and east, the Minntac plant to the west and Minntac Mine active operations to the northwest and south.

MPUC Site Permit Review Process

Minnesota Power filed a site permit application with the PUC for the Project on May 29, 2007. PUC accepted the application as complete, made a preliminary determination that a permit may be issued, and issued a draft site permit on June 19, 2007. 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). Minnesota's Wind Siting process provides opportunity for the public to comment on the permit application and draft site permit, which include information on the environmental impacts of the project and proposed mitigation measures. No separate environmental review document will be prepared under this process. 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=19151>

Copies of the site permit Application and draft site permit are also available for review at the following location:

Virginia Public Library
215 S. Fifth Avenue
Virginia, MN
(218) 748-7525

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 1, 2007**. Written comments can be sent by mail, fax or by email. Please include the following docket number (E015/WS-07-676) on written comments. Written or fax comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, 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 this Project may be directed to: Suzanne Steinhauer, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; Tel: 651-296-2888; Fax: 651-297-7891; e-mail: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us. David Birkholz, 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: Tel: 651-296-2878; toll free at: 800-657-3794; or e-mail: david.birkholz@state.mn.us and the mailing address above.

Questions about the Taconite Ridge I site permit Application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Mr. Blake Francis, Minnesota Power 218-722-5642 x 3584; e-mail: bfrancis@allete.com.

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 (address above) in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **August 1, 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.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD
STATE METALLIC MINERALS LEASE SALE
State Lands to be Offered for Metallic Minerals Exploration**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announces that plans are being developed to hold the state's twenty-ninth sale of metallic minerals exploration and mining leases. The sale is tentatively scheduled for Fall of 2007. The lease sale plans are being announced at this time in order to give mining companies, public interest groups and all other interested parties additional time to review the areas under consideration.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 - .0700) is to promote and regulate the exploration for, mining and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These rules, and the leases issued under these rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of rentals that increase with the passage of time, the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed, the submission of data and other reports, and the addressing of environmental considerations. In addition, the state lessee must comply with all applicable regulatory laws.

The areas under consideration for the lease sale cover portions of Carlton, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Lake and Saint Louis Counties. Some of the lands being considered have been offered in previous metallic minerals lease sales, but based upon the interest shown by industry, new geologic data, and exploration techniques developed during the past few years, it is felt that within these lands there is significant potential for the discovery of mineral resources. Certain new lands of interest are also being considered for the lease sale.

The exact time and place of the lease sale will be announced by legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the sale. Mining unit books, listing the state lands to be offered at the lease sale, will be available for inspection or purchase at that time.

A map showing the general areas under consideration may be obtained from the Division of Lands and Minerals, Box 45, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155-4045, telephone 651-259-5959, or by visiting the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

**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.

Environmental Quality Board seeks comment regarding consideration of new wild rice rules

For Immediate Release
June 18, 2007

Contact: Jim Schwartz
Communications Office
Telephone: 651-201-2556

(ST. PAUL) – The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is seeking public comment as it considers revisions to rules governing the Environmental Review Program that would affect the state's wild rice industry.

The 2007 Legislature directed the EQB to adopt rules requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement for both the proposed and actual release of genetically engineered wild rice. The EQB is proposing the addition of a mandatory category to Minnesota Rules, chapter 4410.4400 to address the statutory requirement as part of a larger revision of rules regarding shoreland areas.

The proposed amendment could affect anyone with an interest in wild rice cultivation, production, harvesting, marketing and use. Written or oral comments, questions and requests should be directed to Jon Larsen, Environmental Quality Board, 300 Centennial Building, St. Paul, MN, 55155; jon.larsen@state.mn.us, or 651/201-2477 (TTY: 651/296-3698).

The deadline for comments is 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 16, 2007.

The formal request for comments is published in the June 18 issue of the State Register, available online at http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/state_register.asp.