



June 20, 2005



EQB Monitor

EQB Monitor Goes Online Only!

Starting with the next issue, the *EQB Monitor* will no longer be published as paper copy mailed to subscribers. Analysis of production costs has led to the management decision to cease distribution of the *EQB Monitor* in printed form. Savings of printing costs, postage, and staff time, plus the policy of providing more government services via electronic means, signals the end of printing the *Monitor* on paper.

New Format

This final paper issue is printed in newsletter format, with articles and items displayed full width in one column rather than in two-column, newspaper-style format. The single column format is much easier to follow when displayed on a computer screen. The *EQB Monitor* online version will continue to use this format. Many people commented on the difficulty of scrolling through an item when displayed as two columns. It is possible that by publishing only online there will be other changes as well. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to make changes.

Question: If I receive the *EQB Monitor* in the mail now, how can I get the *Monitor* from now on?

- Subscribers to the paper version of the Monitor will need to change their subscription to the electronic version by submitting their email address to Diana.Telschow@state.mn.us. If you do not receive email, you will need to look up each new issue online at www.eqb.state.mn.us/monitor.
- If you are already receiving the Monitor via email as well as on paper, you do not need to re-subscribe. You will continue to receive the Monitor electronically. No more issues will be sent by mail.
- Current and past issues of the Monitor are available anytime online at www.eqb.state.mn.us/monitor. You may use the EQB website to view, download, and/or print the *Monitor* for your use.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Possible shutdown of portions of state government

As you may know, the Minnesota State Legislature adjourned in May and returned immediately in special session to continue to debate funding of the continuing operations of state government for the fiscal year beginning as of July 1, 2005. Although some units of government are now funded (bill passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor), many state agencies, operations, and capital or programmatic funding remain unfunded after July 1, 2005. Talks continue among legislative conferees, but there can be no assurance that agreements will be reached, or that the special legislative session will result in fund appropriations.

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 also posted on the Environmental Quality Board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>

Vol. 29, No. 13

Next issue: July 4, 2005

Submittal deadline: June 27, 2005

This agency operates on a biennial budget. Funds are appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature every two years, with each fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30 of the following calendar year. Our current biennial budget is secured by a bill signed by the governor on June 3, 2005. **The EQB Monitor will continue to be published** without interruption. However, other state agencies whose funding has not yet been approved will, in all likelihood, be shut down until their budgets are approved, starting July 1. In this event, expenditures for those agencies will be limited to fund or support only critical life, health, and safety functions of state government.

While we expect the Legislature to complete its work in time to avoid a disruption to those operations, we must advise readers and users of the Monitor that in the absence of legislatively authorized appropriations as of July 1, 2005, certain state agency functions will cease until state services are resumed.

How this affects the EQB Monitor:

NOTICES BY STATE AGENCIES The deadline for submitting items that appear in the July 4 issue is June 27, so we would expect all state agencies to offer any notices that are ready by that time. If some governmental services stop on July 1, including processing of items submitted for the EQB Monitor, it is likely that the issue scheduled for publication on July 18 will not include items which would be put on notice that come from state agencies that are shut down. If service resumes within a few days, we would likely publish a special issue, or merely carry over items to the next regularly scheduled issue on August 1, 2005.

DECISIONS BY STATE AGENCIES No final decisions, permissions, or approvals may be given for projects sponsored by an agency subject to shutdown, for which environmental review is mandatory or has been ordered, that have not already been announced in the Monitor on or before July 4, 2005. Any other project currently subject to environmental review will have its public notice (and any subsequent actions) delayed by the length of the service interruption.

COMMENTS/REVIEWS BY STATE AGENCIES Comment periods for environmental reviews already on notice in the Monitor will end on the date indicated in the notice. State agencies reviewing EAWs or EISs *will not* have any additional time for review of those documents currently on review, if service is interrupted. Any courtesy extended to allow consideration of comments submitted after the public review and comment period has closed is at the discretion of the RGU.

Governmental agencies reviewing an AUAR may request a 15-day extension upon written request to the RGU for good cause. This would apply to AUARs already announced in the Monitor.

What you should do:

If you are an RGU using the Monitor for any of the following:

- submitting an environmental review document for notice in the Monitor,
- submitting an EAW need decision,
- submitting an EIS need decision or EIS adequacy decision, or
- submitting any other notice –

Submit it as usual as soon as it is ready. The EQB will publish it on its regular schedule or as soon as it is practicable.

If you are an RGU with an environmental review already on notice in the Monitor, you may take any necessary actions allowed by the rules, following the deadlines established in the rules. We will publish the results of those decisions at the earliest opportunity.

If you are a Reviewer:

If you receive an environmental review document that is not on notice in the EQB Monitor, you may review and comment, but the official review and comment period is not established until it appears in the Monitor. The official comment period will begin when it is next published in the Monitor.

Any environmental review document currently out for public review and comment will end its comment period on the date stated in the Monitor in which it appeared.

The current copy of the *EQB Monitor* can be found at: <http://www.state.mn.us/eqb/monitor.html>

Energy Facility Permitting transferring from Minnesota Environmental Quality Board to Public Utilities Commission:

Effective July 1, 2005, Article 3 of the recently passed energy bill S.F.1368 transfers power plant and wind turbine siting, transmission line and pipeline routing authority from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The same law transfers the energy facility permitting staff from the EQB to the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

The Energy Facility Permitting staff (Deborah Pile, Larry Hartman, John Wachtler, George Johnson, Andrea Dick, Bill Storm and David Birkholz) will keep their phone numbers and email addresses. Look to the EQB home page for further developments: <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/> More information will be available on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) website: <http://www.puc.state.mn.us>

Effective July 1, the staff will be housed at the Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Fifth Floor, Saint Paul, MN 55105.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

Comments due on July 20, 2005

County State Aid Highway 17 Reconstruction, Chisago County, Minnesota

Description: The Environmental Assessment (EA) documenting the impacts of the proposed action for the Chisago County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 17 reconstruction project from the west County line to CSAH 30 in Lent Township, Chisago County is available for review. The proposed scope of the project includes reconstructing CSAH 17 to state aid highway standards, replacement of the bridge over Interstate 35, the addition of entrance/exit ramps to the interstate highway, and the construction of a park and ride lot. Copies of the document are being distributed to those agencies on the current MEQB document review list and others. The comment period will begin on June 20, 2005 and will extend through July 20, 2005. Comments can be directed to the either of the contacts at the addresses and numbers listed below.

Copies of the EA, which documents the purpose and need of the project along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning June 20th at the following locations:

Copies of the EA, which documents the purpose and need of the project along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning June 20th at the following locations:

- Chisago County Highway Department, 313 North Main Street, Room 400, Center City
- Lent Township Town Hall, 33155 Hemmingway Avenue, Lent Township
- Mn/DOT Metro Division Office, 1500 W. County Road B2, City of Roseville
- East Central Regional Development Commission, 100 Park Street S., City of Mora
- North Branch Public Library, 6389 Main Street, City of North Branch

- East Central Regional Library, 244 S. Birch Street, Cambridge

The EA can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Mn/DOT Project Manager at (651) 582-1303 or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 or (651) 296-9930 TTY. To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EA, a public hearing/open house meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 2005, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M, at the Lent Town Hall, 33155 Hemmingway Avenue, in Lent Township. Chisago County and Mn/DOT representatives, along with their consultants, will be present to answer questions during the open house. Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting, please contact the County Engineer or the Minnesota Relay Service at the telephone numbers listed, as soon as possible.

Project Proposer: Chisago County Public Works Department

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contacts

Bill Malin – Chisago County Engineer
313 North Main Street, Room 400
Center City, MN 55012
Phone: (651) 213-0719
E-mail: wgmalin@co.chisago.mn.us

Dan Rowe – Mn/DOT Project Manager
1500 W. County Rd. B2
Roseville, MN 55113
Phone: (651) 582-1303
E-mail: daniel.rowe@dot.state.mn.us

The Eclipse Condominium Development

Description: The proposed Eclipse Condominium Development will redevelop a presently commercially developed parcel fronting on the northwesterly side of Hennepin Avenue between Washington Avenue No. and 3rd Street No. in downtown Minneapolis for residential use. Two residential towers are proposed, one of 24 stories and one of 32 stories, to be developed in phases of 180 and 323 units. When completed, the development will provide a total of 503 residential units and 16,810 square feet of commercial space served by 908 below and above grade parking spaces.

RGU: City of Minneapolis

Contact: Michael Orange, Principle Planner, 210 City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401, 612-673-2347, Fax: 612-673-2728, Email: Michael.Orange@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Wal-Mart Supercenter Store #1634-02

Description: Wal-Mart is proposing to construct a Supercenter Store east of TH 10/371 in the city of Little Falls. The store will include a garden center, tire and lube center, film development service, and liquor store. A gas station may also be constructed at the site.

RGU: City of Little Falls

Contact: Jerry Lochner, Manager City Services, 100 NE 7th Avenue, Little Falls, MN 56345; 320-616-5500, Fax: 320-616-5505.

Sweetbay Ridge Development

Description: The proposed Sweetbay Ridge Development includes approximately 102 acres on the north side of the City of Ramsey. This development will have 162 single family homes. This project will involve the extension of municipal utilities including sanitary sewer, water, public roads and storm sewer.

RGU: City of Ramsey

Contact: Sylvia Frolik, Assistant Community Development Director, 15153 Nowthen Blvd. N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota 55303-6140, 763-427-1410, Fax: 763-427-5543, Email: sfrolik@ci.ramsey.mn.us.

Brookfield Addition

Description: The Brookfield Addition is a residential development project located in Ramsey, Minnesota. The Brookfield Addition is currently a 179 acre piece of property used for agriculture. The proposed site will contain 253 single family unattached residences. This project will involve the extension of municipal utilities including sanitary sewer, water, public roads and storm sewer.

RGU: City of Ramsey

Contact: Amy Geisler, Associate Planner, 15153 Nowthen Blvd. N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota 55303-6140, 763-427-1410, Fax: 763-427-5543, Email: ageisler@ci.ramsey.mn.us.

Deerfield Estates First Addition

Description: This proposed single-family residential development consists of the development of 63 single-family dwelling sites from 119.26 acres of land. Project site located approximately 25 miles northwest of Bemidji, Minnesota in Eckles Township, Beltrami County.

Copies of the EAW are available for public viewing at the following locations:

- Beltrami County Environmental Services Department, 619 Beltrami Ave. N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
- Bemidji Public Library, 509 America Avenue N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
- Headwater Regional Development Commission, 403 Fourth Street N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

Citizens who wish to comment on the EAW may do so by sending their comments to: Beltrami County Environmental Services Department, ATTN: Mr. William Patnaude, Director, 619 Beltrami Ave. N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601.

Contact: Mr. William Patnaude, Director, Beltrami County Environmental Services Department, 619 Beltrami Ave. N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601; 218-333-4158.

Emerald Pines Residential Development

Description: This proposed single-family residential development consists of the development of 58 single-family dwelling sites on 160 acres of land. The project site located in Liberty Township, Beltrami County.

Copies of the EAW are available for public viewing at the following locations:

- Beltrami County Environmental Services Department, 619 Beltrami Ave. N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
- Bemidji Public Library, 509 America Avenue N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
- Headwater Regional Development Commission, 403 Fourth Street N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

Citizens who wish to comment on the EAW may do so by sending their comments to: Beltrami County Environmental Services Department, ATTN: Mr. William Patnaude, Director, 619 Beltrami Ave. N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601.

Contact: Mr. William Patnaude, Director, Beltrami County Environmental Services Department, 619 Beltrami Ave. N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601; 218-333-4158.

Parkside Residential Subdivision, Clear Lake

Description: The Parkside Residential Subdivision is a proposed residential development for single and multi-family residences located on 53.4 acres of farmland in the City of Clear Lake. The project involves the construction of approximately 96 single family homes, 33 twin homes, and supporting infrastructure. City sewer and water will serve all homes.

RGU: City of Clear Lake

Contact: Marilyn Bujalski, City Clerk, City of Clear Lake, P.O. Box 298, Clear Lake, Minnesota 55319; 320-743-3111, Fax: 320-743-4307.

Bear Paw & Bear Paw 1st Addition

Description: "Bear Paw" & "Bear Paw 1st Addition" is a proposed residential development consisting of 35 single family residential lots containing about 90 acres, including surface water, located on Washburn Lake and Donut Lake in Section 17 of Crooked Lake Township (17-139-26) of Cass County. The development includes 11 riparian lots on Washburn Lake, 15 riparian lots on Donut Lake, and 11 non-riparian lots.

RGU: Cass County

Contact: Paul Z. Fairbanks, Planner, Environmental Services Department, PO Box 3000, Walker Minnesota 56484; 218-547-7287, Fax: 218-5477429, paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us.

RAN, LLC, Hog Feedlot

Description: RAN, LLC, proposes to construct two hog barns on an approximately five-acre site located in the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 1, Wang Township, Renville County. Each barn would be 110 feet by 184 feet, with 8-foot deep power-ventilated concrete manure storage pits under the barns. Each barn will have the capacity for 2,400 finishing hogs, for a total of 4,800 hogs (1,440 animal units) on the site. Manure would be collected and stored in poured concrete pits under slatted floors for one year, then removed and land applied as fertilizer.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Kevin Kain, Project Manager, Environmental Review and Operations Section, Regional Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-7432

Jeff Kopplow Feedlot Expansion Project

Description: Jeff Kopplow currently operates a wean-to-finish, total confinement swine operation with a capacity of 2,000 head (800 animal units (AU)) in Section 2 of Little Rock Township, Nobles County, Minnesota. Mr. Kopplow is proposing to expand his existing swine operation by 2,000 head for a total of 4,000 head or 1,600 AU of swine at the same site. The original phase of this project was built in December of 2003. For the purposes of environmental review, the project consists of one existing wean-to-finish facility and one proposed wean-to-finish facility. Swine manure will be collected in concrete pits beneath the barn, removed twice per year, and sweep injected at agronomic rates into designated cropland as fertilizer.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Jim Sullivan, Project Manager, Environmental Review and Operations Section, Regional Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-297-1788.

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.

- Turnquist Farms, Sherburne County, June 7, 2005 (March 28, 2005).
- Trunk Highway 34 Reconstruction (S.P. 2901-18), City of Park Rapids, June 10, 2005 (January 17, 2004).
- Minnesota Department of Transportation; Trunk Highway 71 and 23 in Willmar; May 26, 2005 (April 11, 2005).
- Hart Farm South Development, Rochester Common Council, June 6, 2005 (April 25, 2005)

EIS ADEQUACY DECISIONS

On June 7, 2005 the Minnesota Department of Transportation determined that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for improvements to Minnesota Trunk Highway 53 in St. Louis County is adequate. This decision completes the Minnesota environmental review process as found in Minnesota Rules 4410. The record supporting the Adequacy Determination was distributed to the EIS distribution list and others. A copy may be obtained from the Mn/DOT District 1 Office in Duluth (218) 723-4870.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF ADEQUACY

Adequacy Determination; Ayd Mill Road Final Environmental Impact Statement; Saint Paul, Ramsey County, MN

Description: On June 10, 2004 the City of Saint Paul, as the responsible government unit (RGU), determined that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) prepared for reconstruction of Ayd Mill Road in Saint Paul, MN is adequate.

This decision completes the Minnesota environmental review process as found in Minnesota Rules 4410. Notice of the Adequacy Determination was distributed to the EIS distribution list and others.

RGU Contact: Mike Klassen, City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works, City Hall Annex Room 800, 25 West Fourth Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102; (651) 266-6209; facsimile: (651) 298-4559; email: mikek@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

NOTICE OF DECISION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Pillsbury A Mill Complex Project

The City of Minneapolis has completed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the redevelopment of a former flourmill, the Pillsbury A Mill Complex, located on a 7.9-acre site bounded north and south by 2nd Street SE and Main St. SE, east and west by 3rd Avenue SE and 6th Avenue SE. The site is across the Mississippi River from Downtown Minneapolis in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District.

The proposed redevelopment of the site would preserve and renovate for commercial and residential use all but one of the historic structures at the site including the Pillsbury A Mill building, which is a National Historic Landmark, and seven additional historic resources on the site. Only the concrete grain elevators now located along 2nd Street SE would be demolished. Six new mid or high-rise residential buildings and their linking structures along Main Street would be added to the site. The new construction will vary in height with the tallest towers, at 24 and 27 stories, flanking 5th Avenue SE.

On June 4, 2005, the City published its action in which the City concluded the EIS was consistent with the requirements of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act and Minn. Rules Chapter 4410, determined that the EIS was adequate, and adopted the findings contained therein.

Copies of the EIS have been available for review at the downtown Minneapolis Public Library located at 250 Marquette Ave., the Southeast Community Library located at 1222 SE 4th Street, in the office of the City Planning Division at 210 City Hall, and on the City of Minneapolis web site: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/pillsbury-mill.asp>. Copies of the EIS can also be provided to individuals by email or on a compact disk by request to: michael.orange@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Attachment: Final action by the City of Minneapolis regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for the Pillsbury A Mill Complex.

EAW NEED DECISION

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

- Lagoon Avenue Redevelopment Project, City of Minneapolis, Denied

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.

- Two Harbors Wilderness Acres, St. Louis County
- Breezy Point International Project, City of Breezy Point
- Woodland Enclave, City of Burnsville

DRAFT AUAR AVAILABLE

Forest Lake Southwest Development Area Draft Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR)

The Forest Lake Southwest Development Area Draft Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) is a comprehensive review of potential environmental impacts associated with two development scenarios. The scenarios include a mix of the following uses: residential, community center, neighborhood commercial, parks and recreation, and light industrial. The AUAR area encompasses approximately 1,300 acres and is generally located in the southwest portion of the City of Forest Lake west of TH 61 and north of 190th St, N. and south of 202nd St N.

RGU: Forest Lake Southwest Development Area

Contact: Doug Borglund, Community Development Director, 21350 Forest Blvd. N, Forest Lake, MN 55025; 651-209-9734, Fax: 651-464-6874, Email: doug@ci.forest-lake.mn.us.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) PREPARATION NOTICE

Elk River Landfill South Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Development

Description: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) intends to prepare an EIS on the Elk River Landfill South MSW Development Project. On January 25, 2005, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Citizens' Board adopted a Final Scoping Decision Document for an EIS on the proposal by Elk River Landfill, Inc. to expand operations of the existing landfill located in the city of Elk River, Sherburne County, Minnesota.

The project will consist of developing 73.7 acres currently used by a gravel mining operation located immediately south of the existing landfill property. The expansion will provide approximately 15,000,000 cubic yards of additional MSW capacity in

addition to the current permitted MSW disposal capacity and provide continued landfill operations for 16 to 20 years, depending upon incoming waste volumes. The proposed landfill project, known as the Southern Development Area (SDA), will follow mining operations by the current property owner, the Tiller Corporation. The preparation of the EIS is mandatory under provisions of Minn. R. 4410.4400, subp. 13(E). The MPCA is the Responsible Governmental Unit for this EIS.

The MPCA prepared a Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (SEAW) for the project.

The Notice of Availability of the SEAW and draft Scoping Document was published in the EQB Monitor on November 22, 2004. A public scoping meeting was held on Thursday, December 9, 2004, at the city of Elk River, 13065 Orono Parkway, Elk River, Minnesota.

The major areas that will be addressed in the EIS for the proposed landfill expansion include the following: (1) a discussion of the potential for the project to impact ground-water quality to the Rice Lake wetland complex and Tibbits Brook; (2) a discussion of potential impacts to specific surface waters located near the site from stormwater runoff; (3) the identification of potential sources of landfill gas emissions with a discussion of appropriate and reasonable alternative best management practices that could be used to mitigate landfill gas emissions; (4) visual impacts of the proposed SDA site using photographs from eight specific key locations; (5) compatibility of the project with current and proposed, known, long-term, surrounding land uses; and (6) a discussion of potential consequences of the "no build" alternative. A more detailed description of each of these major areas can be found in the Final EIS Scoping Document. A copy of the Final EIS Scoping Document is posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Debra Moynihan, Project Manager, Environmental Review and Operations, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-8420

NOTICE

MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Certificate of Need Application and Site Permit Application by Great River Energy for a Large Electric Generating Facility in Cambridge Township, Minnesota

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") and the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board ("EQB") will hold a Public Hearing on applications by Great River Energy ("GRE"), for proposed construction of a natural gas-based large electric generating facility (the "Facility") just northeast of the Cambridge city limits in Cambridge Township, Minnesota on property currently being used for another generating facility. As part of the project, approximately 47 miles of 69-kV transmission line will be rebuilt using existing rights-of-way, except to accommodate potential future road relocations, to state-of-the-art 69-kV standards, and a natural gas pipeline approximately one-half mile in length would be constructed.

Two public hearings will be held starting at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. **on July 26, 2005**. Formal intervention is not necessary to participate in these special sessions. Additional hearings may be scheduled if needed. The public hearings will be held as follows:

- Tuesday, July 26, 2005, 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m., Cambridge Community Building, Isanti County Fairgrounds, 310 Highway 95 NE, Cambridge, MN 55008; 763-689-3768

Administrative Law Judge. Kathleen Sheehy will preside at the hearing. Judge Sheehy's address is Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401, phone (612) 341-7602. You may be represented by legal counsel at the hearing but it is not required.

Project Description. Great River Energy proposes to construct a natural gas-fired combustion turbine at its existing Cambridge Peaking Plant. The turbine will have a summer rating of approximately 170 megawatts. An existing fuel oil-fired combustion turbine and substation are currently located at the plant and both will remain in service following completion of the proposed

project. Approximately 47 miles of existing 69-kV transmission line connected to the on-site substation will be rebuilt using primarily existing rights-of-way to provide outlets for the energy from the new turbine. Approximately 10 miles of new right-of-way may be established to accommodate potential future roadways. The rebuilt lines will remain rated at 69-kV. Additional equipment will also be installed at the substation using the existing land for the substation. An approximately one-half mile natural gas pipeline will be constructed to the site from an existing high capacity pipeline located south of the plant.

Environmental Assessment. The EQB has prepared an Environmental Assessment ("EA") on the proposed project. The EA will address the potential impacts of the Facility. The EA will be available for review prior to and at the public hearings. Copies of the permit application and other material are available for public review at the Cambridge Public Library. These documents and other project related documents may also be found on the EQB webpage at:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=15966>

Purpose of Hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to compile the record for consideration by the PUC and the EQB in making their final decisions on the Certificate of Need and Site Permit, respectively. Upon closure of the public comment period, Judge Sheehy will write a report and make recommendations to the PUC and EQB. The PUC and EQB will make their respective decisions at subsequent meetings.

Conduct of Hearing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minn. Statutes §§ 116C.51 to 116C.69, the rules of the EQB, Minn. Rules §§ 4400.2000 to 4400.2950, the rules of the PUC, Minn. Rules chapters 7829 and 7849, and the Minnesota Administrative Procedure Act, Minn. Statutes chapter 14.

Both EQB staff and Department of Commerce ("Department") staff (representing the public in the CON proceeding) will be present at the public hearing and will make brief presentations about the project. Representatives of the applicant (GRE) will be present to describe the Facility and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of the EQB staff, the Department, and the applicant. Members of the public may also make statements and offer written comments and material into the record at the public hearing.

Written Comments. The record will remain open for at least ten days after the close of the hearing for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Judge Sheehy will determine at the hearing a date for the comment period to end. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Sheehy at the address above.

Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the EQB for future mailings regarding the Facility. If you would like to receive notice of the EQB's final decision in this matter, you may put your name on this mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Storm or by visiting the EQB website at:

www.eqb.state.mn.us/Energy_Facilities/index.html.

Additional Information. Questions about the PUC process can be directed to David Jacobson, PUC, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147, David.Jacobson@state.mn.us, (651) 297-4562, (800) 657-3782, or (800) 627-3529 (TTY Minnesota relay service).

Questions about the EQB process can be directed to Bill Storm of the EQB staff at 658 Cedar Street, Suite 300, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155, Bill.Storm@state.mn.us, (651) 296-9535, or (800) 627-3529 (TTY Minnesota relay service).

Transgenic Herbicide Tolerant Alfalfa - Commercial Use Exemption

Monsanto has requested an exemption from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permit for herbicide tolerant alfalfa progeny lines derived from Events J101 and J163, (known as Roundup Ready). These progeny lines contain the stably integrated gene, cp4 epsps, isolated from the *Agrobacterium* sp. strain CP4, which encodes the protein, 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase that confers tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in the Roundup family of herbicide products. A petition for determination of nonregulated status has been submitted to USDA/APHIS with a decision anticipated in the near future. The FDA consultation and the EPA establishment of a tolerance for residues of glyphosate have been completed. The decision to exempt these alfalfa lines from the state permit would occur only after the USDA/APHIS decision. Under an exemption from state permit, Monsanto will be allowed to commercially use

these herbicide tolerant alfalfa lines without further regulation. For additional information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651/296-1277, mary.hanks@state.mn.us

CORRECTION

A Positive Declaration published in the June 6, 2005 Monitor for Canyon Creek Meadows was incorrectly identified as an EIS need decision. A corrected decision notice received on May 18 from Crow Wing County did not change the EAW need decision first published on May 23. The Positive Declaration on the need for an EAW for Canyon Creek Meadows as published May 23, 2005 is correct.



Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Department of Administration

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Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial, 658 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1388

Phone: 651-201-2480

Fax: 651-296-3698

E-mail: <mailto:eqb.monitor@state.mn.us>
