



## Environmental Assessment Worksheets

*Comments due March 8, 2000*

### Expansion Fairview Southdale Medical Campus-Master Plan

Description: The three-phase project on Fairview Southdale Medical Campus includes an expansion of the hospital, medical office building, and medical building to the east of France Avenue, construction of a four-level parking ramp to the west of France Avenue, and a skyway connecting the two units.

RGU: City of Edina

Contact: Craig Larsen, City Planner, Edina City Hall, 4801 W. 50th St., Edina, MN 55424; 612-927-8861

### Winona Retail Center Development

Description: A 32-acre retail center is proposed in southeast Winona. An opportunity exists to modify the city's Lake Winona dredging and disposal permits to allow the city to deepen additional areas of the eutrophic lake and dispose of the additional material as beneficial fill on the planned retail center site.

RGU: City of Winona

#### 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 [www.mnplan.state.mn.us](http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us).

Vol. 24, No. 3

Next issue: February 21, 2000  
Submittal deadline: February 14, 2000

Contact: Judy Bodway, 207 Lafayette St., Winona, MN 55987, 507-457-8250

### Albertville Wastewater Treatment Facility

Description: The city of Albertville, in Wright County, proposes to replace its existing aerated stabilization pond system currently permitted for an average wet weather flow of 315,000 gallons per day with an oxidation ditch mechanical plant to be designed for an average wet weather flow of 929,700 gallons per day. The project would be implemented in two phases, the first of which is the subject of this EAW. The oxidation ditch plant would be constructed within what is currently the secondary stabilization pond cell. The existing aerated stabilization ponds would remain, and flows would be split between the aerated ponds and the oxidation ditch. Copies of the EAW will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Eric Kilberg, Project Manager, Metro District, Operations and Planning Section, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-8643

### 2000 St. Michael Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade

Description: The city of St. Michael Wastewater Treatment Facility in Wright County proposes an expansion of its existing wastewater treatment facility from the existing design flow capacity of 0.789 to 2.445 million gallons per day. The proposed work includes improvements to existing unit processes and construction of a new sequencing batch reactor secondary treatment unit process. Tertiary treatment for phosphorus removal is proposed to meet an annual average effluent limit of one milligram per liter. The facility will also meet an effluent biochemical oxygen demand limit of 15 milligrams per liter. The facility will discharge to the Crow River. Copies of the EAW will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Eric Kilberg, Project Manager, Metro District, Operations and Planning Section, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-8643

### Blackberry Ridge Golf Course

Description: The proposed Blackberry Ridge project will create a maximum of 37 residential lots, an 18 hole golf course, clubhouse with restaurant and bar area, maintenance building, parking lot and driving range on 249 acres of land. The project site is located approximately 1.2 miles northwest of the city limits of Sartell within Lesauk Township of Stearns County.

RGU: Lesauk Township

Contact: Dwight Sharp, 32084 County Road I, St. Cloud, MN 56303; 320-252-0654

## EAW Withdrawn

The EAW for Savanna Golf Course submitted by Aitkin County (October 18, 1999) for Minnesota National Golf Course has been withdrawn.

## EIS Need Decisions

The responsible governmental units noted have 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*.

- Albert Villas, Albertville City Council, January 3, 2000 (July 26, 1999)
- Brookwood, North Branch City Council, January 24, 2000 (November 29, 1999)
- Brown/Severson Commercial Development, City of Red Wing, January 19, 2000 (November 29, 1999)
- Spirit Ridge Golf Course and Lodge, City of Duluth, January 11, 2000 (November 1, 1999)
- McQuade Road Protected Areas, DNR, January 28, 2000 (November 15, 1999)

## Petition Filed

The following petition has been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review these petitions and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Residential development in Ideal Township, Crow Wing County

## Notice of EIA availability, public information meetings and hearings on the Great River Energy Pleasant Valley Station Project

### Topics of this notice

This notice provides the dates, times and places for the public information meetings and public hearings for three matters over which the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board has jurisdiction. These three matters include: I. The application by Great River Energy for Site Designation and Certificate of Site Compatibility for the proposed natural gas fired 434-megawatt Pleasant Valley Station; II. An application for Route Designation and Construction Permit for the 345 kilovolt high voltage transmission line necessary to connect the site designated by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board with the existing Bryon-Adams 345 kV HVTL in Pleasant Valley Township in Mower County; and III. Notice of availability of a draft Environmental Impact Assessment for the Pleasant Valley Station, 345 kV high voltage transmission lines and associated 161 kV transmission line facilities and opportunity to submit comments on the draft EIA at the public meetings and hearings, and deadline for draft EIA comments.

This notice also provides a description of the issues to be considered at the public hearing and the procedural requirements of the Office of Administrative Hearings for public hearings on large energy facilities. The MEQB power plant siting rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400) and draft Environmental Impact Assessment (the MEQB prefiled testimony) for the project, Office of Administrative Hearings Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 1405), other project related materials and Great River Energy's applications are available for review at the places identified in this notice. If you have an interest in or questions about this project, contact the appropriate person identified in this notice.

### General information regarding the project

The proposed project is a proposed 434 MW simple cycle combustion turbine generating plant approximately 20 miles north and east of Austin in Pleasant Valley Township in southern Minnesota. This natural gas fired power plant will be used for electrical peaking purposes. The MEQB has authorized two proposed sites and two 345 kV transmission line route for consideration at the public hearings. GRE's preferred site for construction is located in the northwest quarter of Section 19, Pleasant Valley Township, Mower County. The alternate site is located approximately 2 miles south of the preferred site, in the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 31, Pleasant Valley Township, Mower

County. The 345 kV transmission line route alignments are located with the proposed generating station site boundaries as described above.

The proposed Pleasant Valley Station (Generating Station) will use two Siemens/Westinghouse (S/W) V84.3A 155 MW combustion turbines, one S/W 501D5A 124 MW combustion turbine and associated equipment including the new 345/161kV Pleasant Valley Substation. The three combustion turbines will be primarily fired on natural gas and will use distillate oil as a backup fuel. The Generating Station will be operated as a peaking facility and to serve as a backup generation source. Other generating station related equipment includes: exhaust stacks, electric generators and step-up transformers, water and wastewater treatment systems, raw water and fuel oil storage tanks, demineralized water tanks, evaporative air coolers, wastewater storage pond, one emergency start-up diesel generator, an integrated control system for remote operation.

GRE has also filed an application for a short segment of 345 kV HVTL that will be necessary to connect the proposed power plant to Northern States Power's existing Bryon-Adams 345 kV HVTL. The proposed plant sites and 345 kV HVTL alignments being considered are shown on the map accompanying this notice.

The GRE Pleasant Valley Station Project will also include a new single 161 kV transmission line, approximately 23 miles in length, to connect the Generating Station with the Austin North Substation. The easterly 5 to 7 miles of the proposed new 161 kV transmission line will require a new right-of-way to connect the Generating Station with the Sargeant Substation. Between the Sargeant Substation and Brownsdale, GRE is proposing to use, where possible, an existing Dairyland Power Cooperative 69 kV transmission line right-of-way. GRE would build new transmission line structures on the existing right-of-way that would carry the Dairyland 69 kV circuit and the new 161 kV circuit. Additional right-of-way adjacent to the Dairyland right-of-way will be required. GRE is considering a number of alternative routes for the 161 kV line from Brownsdale to the Austin North Substation. The new 161 kV Line and the rebuilt 69/161 kV transmission line are necessary to ensure the Generating Station can deliver electricity in the event that the Byron-Adams 345 kV HVTL is out of service. The rebuilt 69/161 kV transmission line will be owned by Dairyland Power Cooperative and GRE.

A pipeline that will deliver natural gas to the proposed power plant will be built by Northern Natural Gas. The proposed pipeline project is subject to approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and by Mower County.

#### **Public information meetings**

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board will conduct two public information meetings at the times and place listed

below. The purpose of the meetings is to provide background information on the proposed generating station, the 345 kV high voltage transmission line and associated 69/161 kV transmission lines. At the two information meetings the MEQB staff will also receive comments on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment, review the requirements of the power plant siting process, explain how the public may participate in the process and answer questions.

#### **Public hearing**

An Administrative Law Judge from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will hold two public hearing sessions for the MEQB to establish a complete and accurate record regarding the two power plant sites and 345 kV HVTL routes being considered for designation as illustrated on the accompanying map. The public hearings will be conducted immediately after each public information meeting described above.

#### **Public meeting and hearing schedule**

Public hearing will be held on February 23, 2000 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Sargeant Community Center, Sargeant, Minnesota.

Immediately following the conclusion of each public information meeting a public hearing will commence and continue thereafter as necessary.

#### **Authority and statement of issues to be decided**

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board is authorized by the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. §§ 116C.51 to 116C.69) to designate sites for large electric power generating plants and to issue a certificate of site compatibility and to designate routes for high voltage transmission lines and to issue a construction permit.

#### **Administrative Law Judge**

The public hearings will be presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings: Allan Klein, Administrative Law Judge Suite 1700, 100 Washington Square, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2138; 612-341-7600, fax: 612-349-2665

#### **Conduct of hearing, rules**

The ALJ will conduct the public hearings in accordance with the Office of Administrative Hearings rules relating to procedures for the MEQB's power plant siting process (Minnesota Rules Chapter 1405). Copies of the rules are available for review at the places identified in the Information Available for Review section of this notice and will be available at the public meetings and hearings. Copies may also be obtained from the MEQB as described below.

#### **Conduct of hearings, recesses and additional hearings**

At the start of each hearing session, the ALJ will explain the procedural rules for the hearing, including the following: a) all persons may present evidence and argument with respect

to issues and may question witnesses; and b) all persons may be represented by legal counsel, but such representation is not required.

Questioning of witnesses is allowed, and will be conducted in a sequence determined by the ALJ. Generally, the formal parties present their prefiled written direct testimony and their witnesses are subject to cross-examination by other parties. Interested persons may also question the witnesses.

If needed, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ and additional hearing dates may be established by the ALJ in accordance with Minnesota Rules parts 1405.1400 to 1405.2300.

### **Conduct of hearings, public participation, intervention**

There are two different ways to participate in the hearings: as an interested person, or as a party.

**Interested person:** A person will be allowed to participate without the necessity of intervening as a party. Participation includes: a) offering direct testimony with or without benefit of oath or affirmation and without the necessity of prefilng testimony; b) offering direct testimony or other material in written form at or following the hearing; and c) questioning witnesses. Any person who wishes to question a witness but does not want to ask the questions may submit questions in writing to the ALJ, who will then ask the questions of the witness. Questions may be submitted during the hearing or may be mailed to the ALJ in advance of the hearing.

**Intervention as a party:** Any person, who elects to intervene as a formal party may present testimony, exhibits and question witnesses. In addition, participation as a party will guarantee the person the right to present final argument to the MEQB after receiving the report of the ALJ. The MEQB may elect to hear argument from non-parties, but it is not required by law to do so.

If a person desires to participate as a party, the person must file a document called a Petition for Intervention with the ALJ by **February 18, 2000** (Minnesota Rules part 1405.0900).

The Petition for Intervention must show how the petitioner's legal rights, duties or privileges may be determined or affected by the proceedings, how the petitioner's rights, duties and privileges are not otherwise represented, and shall set forth the grounds and purposes for which intervention is sought and shall indicate the petitioner's statutory or legal right to intervene, if one should exist. The ALJ, with the consent of all parties, may waive the requirement that the petition be in writing.

If intervention is allowed by the ALJ, the intervening party is subject to all responsibilities of a party, including the obligation to make its witnesses available for questioning.

**NOTE: This is not a complete list of all the rights and obligations of a party. It is meant only to provide a general understanding of the major differences between a party and a non-party.**

For more information about participation as a member of the public, contact the Board's public advisor. For more information about participation as a party, contact the ALJ.

### **Written direct testimony**

Great River Energy and the MEQB staff are required to prefile their direct written testimony by **February 9, 2000** (Minnesota Rules part 1405.1900). This direct written testimony will be available as described below. Written direct testimony of intervening parties must be filed by **February 21, 2000** or at a date to be determined by the ALJ. Written direct testimony must be sent to the ALJ, MEQB, Great River Energy and to all intervening parties.

### **Parties**

As of February 4, 2000, Great River Energy and the MEQB staff are the only parties. Copies of petitions for intervention, prefiled testimony and other documents and correspondence relating to Great River Energy's applications should be sent to: Great River Energy, Mike Bradley, Moss & Barnett 4800 Norwest Center, Minneapolis, MN 55402-4129, 612-347-0337 fax 612-339-6686 and the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, Linda Chung, Assistant Attorney General, 900 NCL Tower, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-2127; 651-296-0686 fax 651-297-4139

### **Public comment period deadlines**

A deadline for submitting written comment after the Public Hearing on the Certificate of Site Compatibility and Route Designation for the 345 kV HVTL will be determined by the ALJ.

**March 8, 2000 is the deadline for written comments on the draft EIA.**

### **Inquiries, public advisory and MEQB staff**

A public advisor from the MEQB staff has been appointed to assist and advise persons interested in taking part in the proceedings and will provide on request documents identified in this notice. However, the public advisor is not authorized to give legal advice. The public advisor is: Suzanne Steinhauer, Room 300, Centennial Building, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN, 55155, 651-296-2878 or 1-800-657-3794, fax: 651-296-3698

e-mail: [suzanne.steinhauer@mnplan.state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@mnplan.state.mn.us)

People with questions about public participation should contact Suzanne Steinhauer.

### **MEQB staff will be represented by**

Larry B. Hartman, Project Manager, Room 300, Centennial Building, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN, 55155, 651-296-5089 or 1-800-657-3794, fax: 651-296-3698 or 651-296-1751

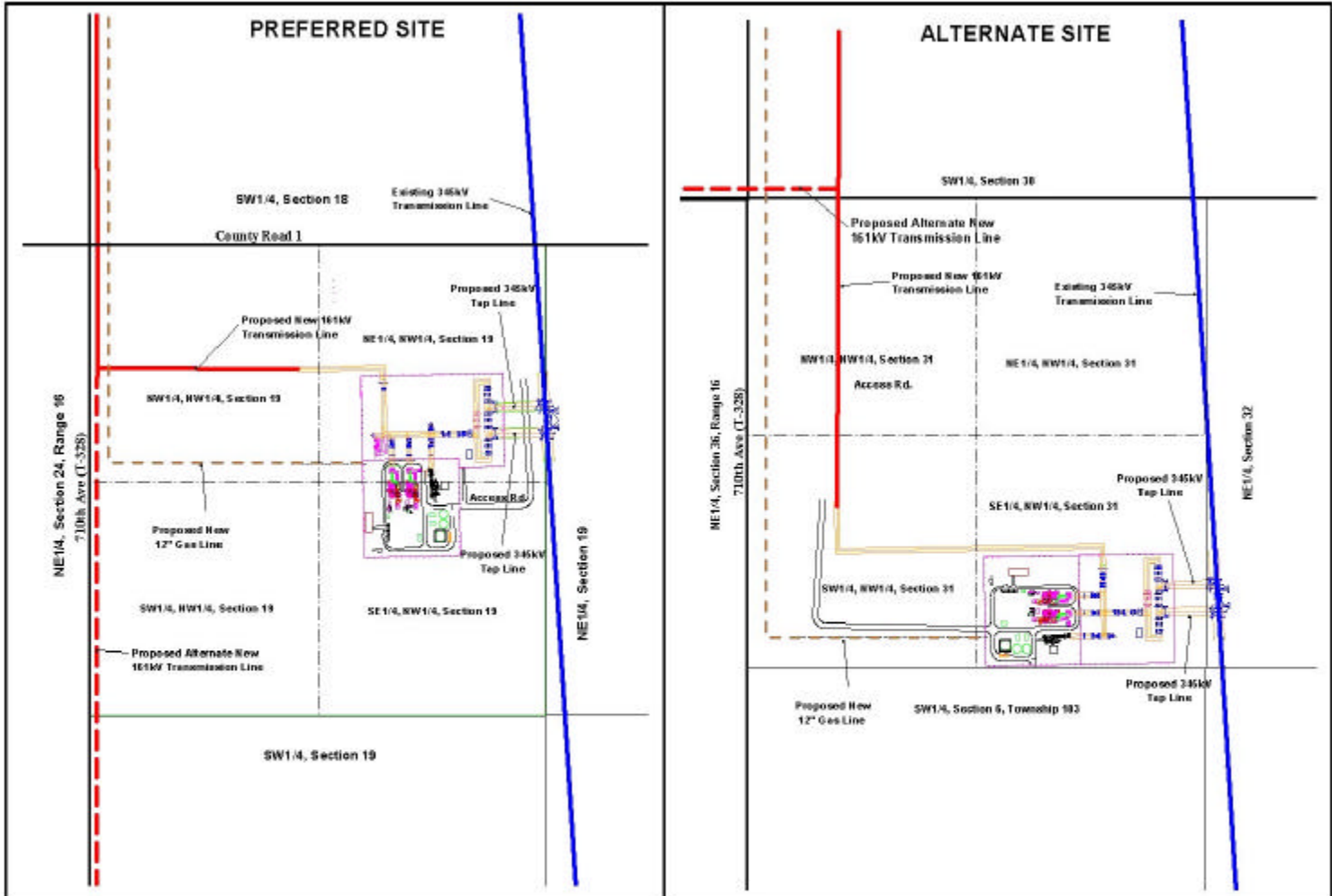
People with questions about the project should contact Larry Hartman.

**Inquiries, Attorney General's Office**

You may contact Linda Chung, Assistant Attorney General, on matters dealing with Minnesota Environmental Quality Board procedures. Address: 900 NCL Tower, 445 Minnesota St., St. Paul, MN 55101-2127. Tel: 651-296-0686. Fax: 651-297-4139.

**Information available for review**

Copies of the MEQB staff's prefiled testimony (Draft Environmental Impact Assessment), Power Plant Siting Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400), the Power Plant Siting Act, Office of Administrative Hearings Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 1405) for Hearings on Power Plant Sites and Transmission Lines, and GRE's applications and prefiled testimony are available for review in Mower County at the following places: Austin Public Library, Brownsdale Public Library, in Dexter at the Farmers State Bank and in Sargeant at the First American State Bank. All material is available at the MEQB office in St. Paul. As of February 9, 2000, copies of the MEQB staff's and Great River Energy's prefiled testimony will also be available for review at the places identified above. Individual copies of the draft EIA, rules or statutes may be obtained by contacting Larry Hartman.



DRAWN BY: DPS	02/01/00
APP'D BY: JJK	01/27/00
JOB NO.: CM XX-99-0110	SHEET
File: v:\90110\pleasv\pleasv.dwg	OF
SCALE: 1:9000	FIGURE:

**Proposed Sites  
Great River Energy  
Pleasant Valley Station  
Pleasant Valley Township  
Mower County, Minnesota**

0 400 800 1200 Feet





ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

658 Cedar St.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

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