



Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Comments due on May 17, 2000

Vermillion Grove P.U.D.

Description: The proposed Vermillion Grove P.U.D. project consists of a 123-acre mixed-use development. The site will include 340 residential units of low-to-mid densities, parkland trails and natural amenities. An alternative site plan to be considered for the P.U.D. proposes 330 residential units and 10,000 to 15,000 square feet of commercial development. The project site is located on 123 gross acres west of Akin Road and south of CSAH 64 (195th Street W.) in the jurisdictional limits of Farmington in Dakota County.

RGU: City of Farmington

Contact: David L. Olson, 325 Oak St., Farmington, MN 55024-1358; 651-463-1860

Brookside Golf Course Development

Description: The Brookside Golf Course Development involves the conversion of 309 acres of cropland, deciduous woodland and wetlands to an 18-hole golf course, 146 single-family homesite, 89 townhomes and three commercial parcels.

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

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Next issue: May 1, 2000
Submittal deadline: April 24, 2000

The development will receive sewer and water services from Rush City.

RGU: Rush City

Contact: Daniel Hoffman, City Administrator, Rush City, P.O. Box 556, Rush City, MN 55069; 320-358-4743

North Hennepin Community College Parking Lot Expansion

Description: The project involves the addition of 236 parking spaces to the campus of North Hennepin Community College. These spaces will be in addition to the over 2000 existing spaces. As part of the expansion, an access drive will be conducted between the existing north and south parking lots.

RGU: City of Brooklyn Park

Contact: Courtney Bednarz, 5200 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55443; 763-493-8052

Dumont Dairy, L.L.P.

Description: Dumont Dairy, L.L.P. proposes to construct a total confinement dairy feedlot in Croke Township, Traverse County. This facility would house 1,600 cows or 2,240 animal units, including both milking and dry cows. The proposed project would be located on an 80-acre parcel currently used as crop land, and include the construction of a 110'x460' freestall barn, a 110'x490' freestall barn, a 52'x180' exception barn, a 52'x246' milking parlor and office. Alleyways, 20' in width and 90' in length would connect the two freestall barns with the parlor and exception barns. A 500'x175' silage storage bunker, a 40'x60'x17' machinery storage shed, a 10,000 gallon, above ground fuel storage tank, and a total of six feed storage bins is located west of the barns.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Denise Leezer, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd. N., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-6576

Grace Church Campus

Description: The proposed Grace Church development is a multi-phased campus of facilities located on an approximately 62-acre site in Eden Prairie. The site is bounded on the west by Eden Prairie Road (County Road 4) on the north by Pioneer Trail and on the east by Spring Road. Phase I consists of approximately 275,000 gross square feet of multi-level worship space and complementary facilities, with seating for 4,500 people and up to 2,000 parking spaces. Phase I is expected to be open spring 2002.

RGU: City of Eden Prairie

Contact: Scott Kipp, Senior Planner, Community and Economic Development City Center, 8080 Mitchell Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55344-2230

Cheshire Lane

Description: The proposed project involves the extension of Cheshire Lane within the City of Plymouth from Schmidt Lake Road to County Road 47. The project would be approximately 1.25 miles in length and includes the construction of a two-lane roadway with turn lanes, a bridge over the Canadian Pacific Railway and a bituminous trail along the roadway.

RGU: City of Plymouth

Contact: Fred Moore, P.E., Director of Public Works, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55447-1448; 612-509-5000

Pheasant Ridge Village Shopping Center

Description: Pheasant Ridge Village is designed as a neighborhood shopping center with three primary anchor tenants and a number of satellite retail tenants, providing a total gross floor space of 494,000 square feet on approximately 89 acres of land. This will provide commercial services to the southeast portion of the city of Blaine and adjacent communities. Access to the site will be from Lexington Avenue and 109th Avenue. Wetland and floodplain mitigation will be provided on or directly adjacent to the site.

RGU: City of Blaine

Contact: Ron Henrickson, Community Development Director, 9150 Central Ave., NE., Blaine, MN 55434; 612-785-6181

Eagle's Watch Residential Subdivision

Description: Eagle's Watch is a 47-lot single-family residential development clustered on 81 acres of a 177 acre site, which is currently used for agricultural purposes. Minimum lot size would be 1.5 acres. The design includes preservation of open space east of the subdivision and along the river bluff

RGU: Denmark Township

Contact: Greg Ingraham, Town Planner, 2659 Dupont Ave., S., Suite 100, Minneapolis, MN 55408; 612-377-2500

Crane Creek Construction, Inc., Lemond Township Quarry

Description: Crane Creek Construction is proposing to expand its existing aggregate mining operation by excavating deeper in the pit, to extract limestone which underlies the sand and gravel currently being mined. An increase in dewatering will be necessary to remove groundwater which will flow into the mine pit.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Ken Wald, Environmental Review Planner, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-4790

Hedberg Aggregates, Inc., Empire Township Sand and Gravel Mining Operation

Description: The project involves mining sand and gravel from 118 acres of land located within Empire Township, Dakota County. The operation will include excavation, processing and stockpiling of natural aggregates, recycling of concrete and rock materials and sale of materials from the site.

RGU: Empire Township

Contact: Karen Gerten, Clerk, 3385 197th St. W., Farmington, MN 55024; 651-463-4494

Fort Snelling Upper Bluff Athletic Fields

Description: The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board proposes to construct a youth recreation complex at Fort Snelling State Park. Athletic fields now present will be updated to meet more current standards for lighting, fencing and turf condition. Water utility improvements are also planned for the entire Upper Bluff complex.

RGU: Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Thomas Balcom, Supervisor, Office of

Management and Budget Services, Box 10, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4010; 612-296-4796

Environmental Assessments/Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Trunk Highway 23

Description: The proposed improvement involves upgrading a rural two-lane roadway to a rural four-lane divided roadway on existing alignment with left and right turn lanes at major intersections. The roadway through the city of Spicer will be an urban design with narrow shoulders and a landscaped median, and transition back to a rural design north of Nest Lake. The four-lane section would then be tapered into the existing two-lane rural section south of CSAH 31.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Lowell Flaten, P.E., Project Manager, MnDOT District 8, 2505 Transportation Rd., P.O. Box 76, Willmar, MN 55903-6177; 320-214-3698

Written Comments: The deadline for written comments is May 31, 2000 and can be directed to the contact person.

Public Hearing: To afford an opportunity for all interested parties, agencies and groups to comment on the proposed action, a public hearing will be held Tuesday May 2, 2000 at the Prairie Meadows Learning Center, 650 County Road 10 W., Spicer, Minnesota. An open house will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with no formal presentation.

Third Street North (CSAH 81)

Description: Stearns County has prepared a combined Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet for Third Street North (CSAH 81) improvement project located in the cities of Waite Park and St. Cloud. The improvements include a four-lane divided road with left turn channelization, sidewalk, storm sewer and a traffic signal at Second Avenue.

RGU: Stearns County

Contact: Mitch Anderson, Stearns County Engineer, 455 28th Ave., S., Waite Park, MN 56387; 320-255-6180

Written Comments: The deadline for written comments is May 17, 2000 and can be directed to the contact person.

EAW Need Decisions

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

- Gravel mine proposed by Heselton Construction, Rice County, EAW not required
- Fort Snelling Upper Bluff Athletic Fields Project, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, EAW ordered
- St. Stephen Commons, City of St. Stephen, EAW denied

EIS Need Decisions

The responsible governmental units 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*.

- Blackberry Ridge Golf Course, LeSauk Township, March 28, 2000 (February 7, 2000)
- Weatherstone Development, Rochester Common Council, April 3, 2000 (February 21, 2000)
- Extension of Runway 4-22 to 12,000 feet, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Aviation Administration/Metropolitan Airports Commission, April 14, 2000 (September 20, 1999). *FAA issued a FONSI on April 14, 2000 and the final EA was distributed September 20, 1999 for review and comment.*
- Harriet Lake Pit, Ulland Brothers Inc., Hibbing City Council, April 3, 2000 (June 28, 1999)
- Anoka CSAH 17 (Lexington Avenue) Reconstruction from CSAH 23 (Lake Drive) to CSAH 18 (Crosstown Boulevard), Anoka County, March 28, 2000 (December 30, 1996)

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 the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Crane Creek Construction TEPOP, Rice County

EAW Withdrawn

- Savannah Meadows, Sherburne County

EIS Preparation Notice

Norman Pointe Office Development

In April 2000 the city of Bloomington distributed a Scoping Decision Document to all agencies listed on the EQB distribution list and all interested parties. The document describes the scope of investigation and proposed schedule for the Norman Pointe Office Development site EIS that will be prepared by the proposer, Duke-Weeks Realty. The Scoping Decision Document takes into consideration information in the Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document, input from the public scoping meeting and written comments received during the comment period. The following items will be analyzed in the EIS: surface water quality; traffic; vehicle-related air emissions; odors; noise and dust; impact on infrastructure and public service (roads); visual impacts; and cumulative impacts. Building location in relation to water-related land use management districts will be summarized in a less detailed analysis section of the EIS.

The EIS will evaluate the following development assumption alternatives (described in greater detail in the Scoping Decision Document):

No Build Alternative: The site would have the two existing office buildings and the office building that is currently under construction.

Alternative 1: This alternative is based on a project developed at a 1.2 floor area ratio. The projected floor area is based on the entire property holding of the proposer, including the building space and acreage of the adjacent Norman Center Redevelopment parcel, as agreed to with the city of Bloomington.

Alternative 2: This alternative is based on a project developed at a 1.5 floor area ratio. Alternative 2 incorporates additional office space which maximizes the potential development of the site. The additional office space is incorporated into the proposed development plan by adding additional levels to all buildings and parking structures. The development would require an approved trip reduction plan and development agreement. The total permitted building area for the 1.5 floor area ratio is based on the entire property holding of the proposer, including the building space and acreage of the adjacent Norman Center Redevelopment parcel.

RGU: City of Bloomington

Contact: Bob Hawbaker, Senior Planner, 2215 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington, MN 55431; 952-948-8922; fax 952-948-8949; email bhawbaker@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Official Notice-Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Environmental Review

Request for Comments and Discussion on Minnesota Statutes chapter 116D – Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA); Minnesota Statutes chapter 116B – Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA); and Minnesota Rule chapter 4410 – Environmental Quality Board, Environmental Review Program

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will hold citizens' meetings to gather and discuss comments on environmental review statutes and rules. The MPCA wants to engage the public in a dialogue about environmental review. The intended audience is citizens, environmental groups, project proposers, cities, counties, and state agencies that conduct environmental review, and any other interested parties. The goal of the meetings is to gather and understand participants' issues and concerns regarding the environmental review process.

Requested Topics for Input: The MPCA Board is interested in all comments. However, below is a list of topics that may help to start framing the discussion about MEPA, MERA, and Environmental Review rules:

What purposes do you believe environmental review should serve?

What in statutes and rules is working well now?

What issues or concerns exist in the current statutes and rules?

How do these issues affect you and why?

What modifications would you suggest?

How could the process be streamlined and still meet the goals of environmental review?

Does the current Environmental Assessment Worksheet and/or Environmental Impact Statement process serve the range of purposes for environmental review?

In what ways could the Generic Environmental Impact Statement process be better utilized?

Meeting dates and times: The citizen's meetings will be held on the following dates and places: April 25, 2000, from 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. and 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. in the MPCA Board Room, located at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, Minnesota; April 26, 2000, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Rochester MPCA office located at 18 Wood Lake Drive SE, Rochester, Minnesota, phone 507-285-7343; and April 27, 2000, from 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the Brainerd MPCA office located at 1000 College Road South, Baxter, Minnesota, phone 218-828-2492.

Background: MEPA and MERA were enacted in the early 1970's. Both statutes lay the foundation for environmental review, citizen involvement, and state environmental policy. The Environmental Quality Board Environmental Review rules are authorized by the MEPA statute. Over the years, many issues and concerns have been raised regarding the environmental review process. Since the MPCA prepares numerous and often controversial environmental review documents each year, the MPCA Board is interested in reviewing these environmental review statutes and rules to determine if they continue to meet the needs of citizens and those going through or conducting environmental review. Therefore, the MPCA Board believes it is appropriate to use the Board's public forum process to gather information to identify concerns and possible modifications to existing statutes and rules.

The MPCA Board and staff have established the following process to gather and discuss comments from the intended audience: discussions at staff led meetings to take place in St. Paul on April 25, 2000, Rochester on April 26, 2000, and Brainerd on April 27, 2000; receive written comments by May 5, 2000; and discuss comments and allow for some further public input at an MPCA Board meeting on May 22, 2000, meeting.

The MPCA Board recognizes that modifications to Minn. Statute Chapter 116B and 116D would require legislative action. In addition, modifications to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) rules would require official rulemaking action by the EQB. Therefore, this is not the beginning of an official rulemaking process, but an information gathering process from which the Board can decide which concerns or issues with the environmental review statutes and rules they would like to have addressed and whether those changes identified would require legislative or EQB action.

The EQB, through its Chair Commissioner Gene Hugoson of the Department of Agriculture, has recently solicited participation from EQB members to participate on a committee to review the current EQB environmental review rules. The MPCA Board's discussion and information gathering process will provide input to the process that EQB has started.

Written comments deadline: If interested parties prefer to put their comments in writing or cannot attend one of the meetings, written comments can be sent directly to the MPCA. They must be received by May 5, 2000, and should be sent to: Susan Heffron, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Policy and Planning Division, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194; 651 297-1766

Board Meeting: On May 22, 2000, the Board will convene to review and understand the discussion and comments received at the April 25-27, 2000, staff led meetings and those received in writing by May 5, 2000. The MPCA Board will also take brief, additional oral comments. The MPCA Board will then decide the issues on which to focus further attention.

Public Hearing Notice

Public hearings being conducted for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Notice of Public Hearings on the application of Northern States Power Company for a certificate of need for the repowering of units one and two at the Black Dog power plant to burn natural gas and to provide increased generating capacity and notice of availability of draft environmental report.

Location and Date of Hearings: April 27, 2000 at the Burnsville High School, Room C140, 600 East Highway 13, 6:30 p.m., start of public hearing; and May 8, 2000 at the Public Utilities Commission, Small Hearing Room, 121 Seventh Place East, Third Floor, 9:00 a.m., start of evidentiary hearing.

The public is invited to ask questions, testify and present exhibits and comments on the application for a certificate of need at the April 27 hearing in Burnsville beginning at 6:30 p.m. Members of the public unable to attend the public hearing session in Burnsville will be accommodated at the Evidentiary Hearing in St. Paul. Members of the public are urged to make their presentations in person. If they cannot, they may submit written comments through May 3, 2000 to the Administrative Law Judge Steve Mihalchick, Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2138. The Administrative Law Judge will preside at the public and evidentiary hearings. If you have questions about the hearing process, please contact the ALJ by mail at the above address or call 612-349-2544.

The purpose of the hearing on April 27 will be to receive questions and oral or written testimony from the public regarding the Department of Commerce's Draft Environmental Report and the need for the proposed facility.

The purpose of the evidentiary hearing on May 8 will be to receive testimony from Northern States Power Company and intervening parties regarding the need for the proposed repowering of units one and two at the Black Dog Power Plant using natural gas fired, combined cycle technology.

The information provided in the record of these hearings will be used to determine whether the Public Utilities Commission should issue a Certificate of Need to Northern States Power Company to build and operate the facility. A Certificate of Need is a state permit confirming that construction of an energy facility is in the public interest. The facility would generate electricity primarily to meet the growing demand for electricity from NSP's customers. Two coal fired generating units at the Black Dog Plant would be converted to use natural gas only. The new, higher efficiency, combined cycle technology would result in a nominal increase of 114 megawatts in the plant's generating capacity. No new transmission lines are required.

To obtain a copy of the Notice and Order for Hearing, which contains additional details on the hearing process, contact David Jacobson, Public Utilities Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147; 651-297-4562 or 1-800-657-3782.

Draft Environmental Report Available: The Minnesota Department of Commerce has prepared a Draft Environmental Report addressing environmental aspects of the proposed facility. Copies of the Draft Environmental Report will be available for review at the following locations:

Burnhaven Library, 1101 West County Road 42, Burnsville, MN 55306 and Oxboro Library, 8801 Portland Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420.

To obtain a copy of the Draft Environmental Report before the hearings, please contact Steve Rakow, Department of Commerce, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 200, St. Paul, MN 55101-2145; 651-215-1793. Comments on the Draft Environmental Report will be received by the ALJ at the hearings. Written comments may also be submitted by mail to the ALJ, postmarked on or before May 3, 2000. A copy of written comments should be provided to the Department of Commerce at the above address.

Northern States Power is also required to apply for and receive a site permit for the project from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board. Since the proposal involves the refurbishment of an existing facility, Northern States Power has indicated it will ask the EQB for an exemption from the siting process. For more information regarding the siting process, contact John Hynes, EQB, 658 Cedar Street, Room 300, St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-2871 or 1-800-657-3794.

Meeting Notice

North Central Minnesota Regional Forest Committee Informational Meeting

Interested in Minnesota's forests? Want to work with others to make sure Minnesota's forests are sustained for generations to come? Participate in the Minnesota Forest Resources Council's citizen-driven landscape program. The council is expanding the program and looking for people to be on the North Central Regional Landscape Committee.

Find out about the landscape program and how you can get involved at one of these three meetings in north central Minnesota. At these information meetings, you also can sign up to participate on the North Central Regional Landscape Committee. All meetings will be from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the following dates: April 11, Northern Inn Convention Center, Bemidji; April 18, Interagency Fire Command Center, Grand Rapids; April 20, Cass County Courthouse, Walker.

For more information please call Dave Miller, landscape program coordinator, at 218-720-4256.

Public Meeting Notice

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council will meet on Monday, April 24 from 1:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Gunflint Lodge on the Gunflint Trail in Cook County.

Monday: Field tour of blowdown from July 4, 1999 windstorm. Discussion of the various ways the blowdown has affected the area and possible response from the MFRC.

Tuesday: Regular business meeting. Continue discussion of how the MFRC will act on the peer review of riparian and seasonal pond guidelines; address proposal from Northeast Regional Forest Resource Committee Coordination Working Group to coordinate forest road plans of the various land management organizations in northeast Minnesota.

For more information please contact Sara Eliason at 651-603-0109 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>

Notifications

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
00-NO-027	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide tolerance	Freeborn
00-NO-028	U of MN	Petunia	Male sterility	Ramsey
00-NO-029	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide tolerance	Blue Earth
00-NO-030	Novartis	Corn	Disease resistance	Goodhue
00-NO-031	U of MN	Alfalfa	Altered nitrogen fixation and cell wall composition	Ramsey
00-NO-032	U of MN	Alfalfa	Altered nitrogen fixation	Ramsey
00-NO-033	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide tolerance	Goodhue
00-NO-034	Monsanto	Sugar beet	Herbicide tolerance	Polk
00-NO-035	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Clay
00-NO-036	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Brown, Steele, Goodhue, Renville
00-NO-037	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Brown, Steele, Goodhue, Renville
00-NO-038	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Brown, Steele, Goodhue, Renville
00-NO-039	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide tolerance	Steele, Renville
00-NO-040	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Nobles, Blue Earth, Renville, Redwood
00-NO-041	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Blue Earth, Steele, Clay, Jackson, Wabasha, Renville
00-NO-042	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Blue Earth, Steele, Clay, Jackson, Wabasha, Renville
00-NO-043	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Clay
00-NO-044	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Clay
00-NO-045	Dow	Corn	Insect resistance	Renville (2), Jackson, Winona
00-NO-046	Dow	Corn	Insect resistance	Renville (2), Jackson, Winona

00-NO-047	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Goodhue
00-NO-048	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Nobles, Redwood, Blue Earth, Renville
00-NO-049	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide tolerance	Goodhue

For more information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55107, 651-296-1277.



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