



Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Comments due on September 20, 2000

Legacy Courses at Cragun's - 4th Regulation Nine

Description: The proposed project is an expansion to an existing 27-hole golf course, consisting of 9 additional golf holes, including grading and clearing of lands within the Shore Impact Zone of Public Waters. The construction will require the filling of approximately .15 acres of wetlands located on the property.

RGU: City of East Gull Lake

Contact: Karen Groshong, City Administrator, 10790 Squaw Point Rd., East Gull Lake, MN 56401; 218-828-9279

Gleason Property Residential Development

Description: Centex Homes and Arcon Development jointly propose construction of 397 townhomes and 259 single-family residential lots on 190 acres of agricultural land with some wetlands and woodland in southwestern Maple Grove near CSAH 10 and CSAH 101. The project includes wetland impact and replacement, tree removal and preservation and land dedication for park.

ABOUT THE *EOB MONITOR*

The *EOB 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 *EOB Monitor* is also posted on the Environmental Quality Board home page at www.mnplan.state.mn.us

Vol. 24, No. 17

Next issue: September 4, 2000
Submittal deadline: August 28, 2000

RGU: City of Maple Grove

Contact: Dick Edwards, Assistant City Planner, City of Maple Grove, PO Box 1180, Maple Grove, MN 55311-6180; 763-494-6045

Palmer Lake Water Quality and Trail Improvement Project

Description: The Palmer Lake Water Quality and Trail Improvement Project consists of approximately 61,300 square feet of sediment removal and excavation around the perimeter of the basin at the storm sewer outfalls. This project also involves the reconstruction of 3,205 linear feet of trail around the lake. This project involves wetland excavation and filling.

RGU: City of Brooklyn Center

Contact: Todd Howard, City Engineer, 6301 Shingle Creek Pkwy., Brooklyn Center, MN 55430; 763-569-3300

Merillat Cabinet Finishing Operation Expansion

Description: Merrillat Corporation assembles and ships cabinets from its Lakeville, Minnesota facility. Merrillat proposes to add finishing processes to its facility. Finishing consists of staining, topcoating, drying and some sanding and cutting. Potential emissions include volatile organic compounds and particulate matter. A screening risk evaluation indicated that adverse effects to public health are not expected. A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet 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: Barbara J. Conti, Project Manager, Metro District, Operations and Planning Section, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-6703

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.

- Rivers Pointe Development, City of Anoka

EAW Need Decisions

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

- George Plass/Duininck Brothers, Inc., Renville County Board of Commissioners, Petition denied
- Richard Scheffler, Renville County Board of Commissioners, Petition denied
- Bauerly Co. gravel mine and asphalt plant, Meeker County Planning & Zoning Office, Project withdrawn

EIS Need Decision

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*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Crown Cork and Seal: Two Piece Steel Food Can Plant Expansion, July 28, 2000 (June 12, 2000)
- City of Elko, Glenborough Golf Course Development, August 7, 2000 (June 28, 2000)
- City of Mayer, Hidden Creek Residential Subdivision, August 8, 2000 (June 12, 2000)
- Sherburne County, Miller Ponds, August 1, 2000 (June 12, 2000)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Woodbury House Property located at 1632 South Ferry Street in the City of Anoka, May 1, 2000 (August 8, 2000)
- Burnsville City Council, Black Dog Amphitheater, July 20, 2000 (May 14, 2000)

- City of Hastings City Council, Barton Sand and Gravel County Road 54 Mining Operation, August 7, 2000 (June 12, 2000)
- Rogers City Council, Rogers Distribution Center II, August 8, 2000 (June 26, 2000)

Draft Federal Environmental Assessment and State Environmental Impact Statement

Construction of a paved crosswind runway/taxiway system-Thief River Falls Regional Airport

A draft Federal Environmental Assessment and State Environmental Impact Statement document has been prepared by Freeberg & Grund, Inc. and HNTB Corporation for the City of Thief River Falls. This document addresses the proposed construction of a paved crosswind runway and taxiway system at the Thief River Falls Regional Airport. The proposed action is the airport development plan that best accommodates the future aviation needs of this northwest region of Minnesota. The airport is located approximately two miles south of the City's limits in unincorporated Pennington County, Minnesota.

The proposed action consists of the needed runway/taxiway system and all required navigational aids typically required for aircraft to operate on a paved landing surface. The runway/taxiway system is to be constructed on a 30^o northeast - 210^o southwest (3-21) alignment approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the airport's main terminal building. The proposed action will require the fee acquisition of approximately 111 acres of farmland in fee and approximately 71 acres of easements overlying surrounding farmland in unincorporated Pennington County, Minnesota. The proposed action will also require the removal/abandonment of approximately 7,700 feet of unimproved roads. The proposed action will require neither the burial/removal/rerouting of power lines nor the filling of any wetlands. The proposed project will, however, necessitate the relocation of one farmstead currently occupied by four residents. This farmstead is partially located within the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 77 Final Approach surface and Mn/DOT Land Use Safety Zone A associated with the southwest end of the proposed paved crosswind runway. The Draft EA/EIS presents the potential impacts to the natural and built environments as a result of implementing either the proposed action or its alternative, that of doing nothing.

A public hearing is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, September 26, 2000 in the City's Council Chambers, City Office complex at the Historic Soo Line Railroad Depot,

downtown Thief River Falls. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. The Draft EA/EIS document is available for review at the City Office complex located in the Historic Soo Line Railroad Depot in the City of Thief River Falls and at the City of Thief River Falls Public Library. Copies of the document are also available upon written request to the City of Thief River Falls.

Written comments on the Draft EA/EIS are due by Friday, October 6, 2000 at 4:30 p.m. Please direct all comments to Mr. Ron Lindberg, Director of Public Works, City of Thief River Falls, 405 Third Street East, Thief River Falls, MN 56701; 218-681-8506 or fax 218-681-8507.

Draft Environmental Impact Statements Available

Mall of America Expansion-Met Center Site

The draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Mall of America Expansion-Met Center Site in the City of Bloomington is available. The Bloomington City Council approved the document for publication at the meeting on Monday, August 7, 2000.

Description: This draft EIS analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed expansion of the existing Mall of America development onto the old Met Center site in the City of Bloomington, Minnesota. The uses proposed as part of this development include retail, office, hotel and residential (condominium) units. The scoping decision for the project, approved on February 7, 2000, identified traffic, air quality, traffic noise and surface water quality and quantity as issues to be addressed in detail in the DEIS. Four development alternatives, in addition to a no build alternative, were considered in DEIS analysis and mitigation measures for potential environmental impacts are identified.

RGU: City of Bloomington

Contact: Clark Arneson, Planning Manager, 2215 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington, MN 55431; 612-948-8921

Public Hearing: A public meeting to receive comments on the DEIS will be held on September 14, 2000 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Bloomington City Council Chambers at 2215 West Old Shakopee Road. Written comments on this DEIS will be received through September 29, 2000. Comments should be addressed to the City of Bloomington.

Proposed Minnesota Aggregates Gravel Mine, Gnesen Township-St. Louis County

A draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Minnesota Aggregates Gravel Mine in Gnesen Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota is available.

Description: This draft Environmental Impact Statement addresses the principal environmental concerns associated with the proposed development of a gravel mine by Minnesota Aggregates. While all such potential impacts are addressed in some fashion, the draft EIS focuses on the issues raised by the scoping document adopted by the Gnesen Town Board on March 5, 1999. That decision specifically ordered further analysis of the cumulative impacts of the proposed mine, in conjunction with other existing mines within the immediate area and the potential impact on groundwater in the vicinity of the proposed mine, and each is studied in the draft EIS, along with other concerns raised by area residents.

Proposer: Scott Lucia, President, Minnesota Aggregates, Inc., 4891 Miller Trunk Highway, PO Box 15067, Duluth, MN 55815; 218-727-1529

RGU: Gnesen Town Board, Gnesen Town Hall, 4011 Pioneer Rd., Duluth, MN 55803

Best Buy

Best Buy Company intends to build a new corporate headquarters in the city of Richfield in Hennepin County. The proposed site is located in the northeast quadrant of Interstate Highway 494 and Penn Avenue interchange and is bounded by I-494 on the south, Penn Avenue on the west, 76th Street on the north and Knox Avenue on the east. The project site contains 42.850 acres and is currently fully developed with a mixture of business and residential uses.

Best Buy proposes to redevelop the site in a campus setting by constructing: a) four or five office buildings with a minimum of 1.5 million square feet and parking facilities for 7,500 cars; or b) four or five buildings with a maximum of 1.9 million square feet and parking facilities for 9,500 cars. Best Buy expects that initial employment at the Best Buy campus will be 5,500 to 6,500 persons, reaching 7,500 persons in the ___ years. At the maximum level of development, 9,500 employees could be accommodated.

Access to the project site will be from Penn Avenue, 76th Street at Newton Avenue and Knox Avenue. The redevelopment plan assumes significant street improvements including a new Penn Avenue bridge over I-494, the rebuilding of Penn Avenue both south and north of the new bridge, the rebuilding of 76th Street from west of Penn Avenue to Interstate 35W and the rebuilding of the Penn

Avenue/76th Street intersection. Demolition and construction of the Best Buy Campus would begin in April of 2001 with the initial move-in expected in June of 2002.

RGU: City of Richfield

Contact: Julie Urban, City of Richfield, Planning and Zoning Administrator, 6700 Portland Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423; 612-861-9766

Public Hearing-Comment Period Extended

Trunk Highway 336 Reconstruction Project Environmental Assessment

The Minnesota Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing for the Trunk Highway 336 reconstruction project on September 14, 2000 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Dilworth City Hall, Council Chambers located at 2 First Avenue SE, Dilworth, Minnesota. Please enter through the west door. The hearing will include a brief presentation starting at 6:30 p.m., summarizing the proposed improvements and the identified environmental impacts of the project. The rest of the public hearing will be devoted to time for the public to ask Mn/DOT staff questions about the proposed project and to submit oral or written comments on the EA. Layouts of the proposed improvements, as well as a copy of the EA will be available for public review at the hearing.

The comment period for the EA has also been extended to September 25, 2000 due to the request for a public hearing. If you have any questions on this project please contact Mike Ginnaty, P.E., Mn/DOT District 4 Design Engineer at 218-847-1512.

Notice of Public Hearing

Exemption Application by Minnesota Power for a 345/230 kv high voltage transmission line known as the Arrowhead Project (MEQB docket no. Mp-hvtl-ea-1-99) (OAH docket no. 10-2901-12620-2)

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) will hold a public hearing on the Minnesota Power application for exemption from state requirements for a construction permit for high voltage transmission lines. The portions of the proposed new facility that are subject to review in the public hearing are a 345,000 volt and a 230,000 volt overhead electric circuit with supporting structures, and associated

equipment additions at the Arrowhead Substation. The new transmission line will replace an existing 115,000-volt transmission line, and will be designed to also carry the existing 115,000-volt circuit. The project is 12 miles long, extending from the Arrowhead Substation west of Duluth, Minnesota on an existing right of way alignment south and east to a point on the Wisconsin state boundary coincident with the St. Louis River near Gary-New Duluth, Minnesota. The proposed new facility is the Minnesota portion of a 250-mile 345,000-volt line proposed to run from Duluth to near Wausau, Wisconsin.

Public Hearing Schedule

Monday, August 28 and Tuesday August 29, 2000; Evidentiary Hearing 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Hearing for Testimony from the Public

7:00 p.m. to conclusion (no later than 10:30 p.m.); Blackwoods Conference Center, Highway 2 and Boundary Avenue, Proctor, Minnesota

August 30, 2000 through September 1, 2000; Evidentiary Hearing 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Blackwoods Conference Center, Highway 2 and Boundary Avenue, Proctor, Minnesota

If necessary: September 5, 2000 through September 8, 2000; Evidentiary Hearing 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (not later than 1:00 p.m. on September 8); Blackwoods Conference Center, Highway 2 and Boundary Avenue, Proctor, Minnesota

If necessary: September 11, 2000 through September 13, 2000; Evidentiary Hearing, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Location to be determined

If necessary, a third hearing to take testimony from the public may be held on Saturday, September 9, 2000 at a time and location to be determined by the ALJ during the hearing. That information will also be posted on the website maintained for this proceeding at <http://www.oah.state.mn.us/cases/arrowhead/arrowhead.html>.

A deadline for submitting written comment after the Public Hearing on the Arrowhead Project Exemption Application will be determined by the ALJ. That deadline will be announced at the hearing and posted on the OAH website maintained for this matter.

A public advisor from the MEQB staff is available 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 MEQB Public Advisor is:

Suzanne Steinhauer, 300 Centennial Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN, 55155; 651-296-2878 or 1-800-657-3794; fax: 651-296-3698; email:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

Copies of Minnesota Power's Exemption Application, the Power Plant Siting Act, Administrative Law Judge hearing rules for power lines and the EQB routing rules are available upon request to the Public Advisor, Suzanne Steinhauer, at the address and phone listed above. Copies of any prefiled testimony will also be available from Suzanne Steinhauer. Copies of the above-referenced statutes and rules may also be obtained from the Documents Section of the Department of Administration, 117 University Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155. Statutes and rules may also be found at county law libraries and many other public libraries in the State. The statutes may also be found using the Internet at www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/. The rules may be found at www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/.

Wetland Conservation Act

Wetland Conservation Act 1991 Project Decision

The City of Bloomington, Local Governmental Unit for the Wetland Conservation Act 1991, hereby provides notice that the following application for a Wetland Conservation Act Replacement Plan has been approved. A copy of the approved application can be viewed at the City of Bloomington Public Works Building, 9750 James Avenue South, Bloomington, Minnesota.

The decision is not effective until September 6, 2000 and is stayed if the decision is appealed. An appeal must be received at the address below by September 5, 2000 to be considered by the LGU.

Applicant Name: Mount Properties, Inc.

Description of activity: The proposed project will fill 0.45 acres of Type 3 wetland. The wetland replacement consists of 0.68 acres of new wetland on site and 0.22 acres of Public Value Credits for a total of 0.90 acres. The 0.22 acres of PVC is taken from the proposed 1.07-acre storm water pond on site. The proposed mitigation is a 2:1 ratio, 0.90 acres, including Type 3 wetland and Type 2 fringe.

Project Location: Township 116N, Range 21W, South 1/2 Section 33, 5705-5795 West Old Shakopee Road

County: Hennepin

Watershed Name: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

LGU official and address: Jim B. Gates, Deputy Director of Public Works, City of Bloomington, 2215 West Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington, MN 55431; 612-948-8730



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

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