



Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Comments due on October 17, 2001

South Washington County Interceptor

Description: The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Division proposes to construct the South Washington County Interceptor to carry wastewater from Woodbury, Cottage Grove and potentially, future commercial/industrial development areas along Interstate 94 and four existing St. Croix communities. Ultimately, an average of 21.9 million gallons per day would flow to the South Washington County Wastewater Treatment Facility.

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

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

Vol. 25, No. 19

Next issue: October 1, 2001
Submittal deadline: September 24, 2001

Timbuktu Marina Expansion-Greenwood Township

Description: Total project acreage is 4,480 square feet of water surface area.

RGU: Greenwood Township

Contact: Paula Bloczynski, Greenwood Township, Tower, MN 55790; 218-753-2107

Federal EA Available

Arden Hills Army National Guard Training Site Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan

Description: The Minnesota Army National Guard proposes to implement an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for its 1,245 acre Training Site in Arden Hills, Minnesota. The Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan is the document that defines the MNARNG's Natural Resource Management Program which is intended to support the training requirements of the 3,000 Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area MNARNG Citizen Soldiers who will be training at this site during the period 2001-2005.

Comment Period: Comments will be received through October 17, 2001.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Military Affairs

Contact: LTC R. Denis Shields, Minnesota National Guard Public Affairs Officer, 651-282-4684 or 651-282-4414.

Petitions Filed

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

- Residential development on Turtle Lake, Douglas County

- Two citizens petitions for an EAW referencing Off Highway Vehicle System Plan for Northeast Region, and Off Highway Vehicle System Plan for Northwest Region, Department of Natural Resources
- Meuleners Farm Partnership Feedlot Expansion Project, Carver County
- Robert Gulbranson Feedlot Expansion, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Joint Federal/State Supplement Draft EIS Available-Correction

Expansion of Flying Cloud Airport

The comment period for this project will close **October 9, 2001**, not October 2, 2001 as written in the August 20, 2001 EQB Monitor. The rest of the notice remains the same.

EAW Need Decisions

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

- Waseca County Board of Commissioners, Man-Erd Hogs, petition denied
- Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, Adair Acres, West Battle Lake, EAW not necessary

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*.

- City of St. Paul, Upper Landing Development, September 10, 2001 (June 25, 2001)
- City of Silver Bay, Silver Bay Business Park Project, September 4, 2001 (July 23, 2001)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, State Project 4013-43, at Junction TH 169 and 19, Interchange Construction, February 5, 2001 (August 30, 2001)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Wakota Bridge/I-494/TH 61, August 20, 2001 (December 11, 2001)

- City of Brooklyn Park, Northcross Partners II, August 27, 2001 (July 23, 2001)

Notice of Availability-FONSI

MAC Truck Storm Sewer Project-Minneapolis/St. Paul U.S. Air Force Reserve Land.

On behalf of the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) and the U.S. Air Force Reserve (USAFR), regarding the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)/Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA) for the MAC Truck Storm Sewer project on Minneapolis/St. Paul U.S. Air Force Reserve Land. The FONSI/FONPA has been issued as a result of an EA prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 1508.13.

The U.S. Air Force assessed the potential impacts of construction associated with the Drainage Improvement Project on U.S. Air Force Reserve property in Minneapolis, Minnesota. That assessment resulted in a finding that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required because the action would have only minimal to moderate short-term and long-term environmental impacts. The U.S. Air Force Reserve also assessed the potential impacts of the proposed action on the existing floodplain of the Minnesota River. The results of this assessment concluded that there is no practicable alternative to this action.

Copies of the FONSI/FONPA are available for public review at the Metropolitan Airports Commission office, 6040 28th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55450; as well as the Environmental Conservation Library and the Legislative Reference Library. Direct any questions or requests for single copies to James Mathews, Environmental Scientist, U.S. Air Force Reserve, phone: 612-713-1951; fax: 612-713-1950; email: james.mathews@minneapolis.af.mil

Draft AUAR Available

Section 19 and North 1/8 of Section 30 Credit River Township

The proposed project consists of 505.4 acres within section 19 and 30 of Credit River Township and is being evaluated for two scenarios; one conforming to applicable previous Zoning Ordinance standards, which would allow 71 single family homes, and one conforming to the new Zoning Ordinance standards, which would allow up to 136 residential units.

Contact: Michael Erickson, Scott County Environmental Health, 952-496-8361

Q-Prime Amphitheater Notice

Minnesota Rule 4410.2210 requires that an EIS scoping document contain alternatives to be addressed in an EIS. The scoping document for the Q Prime Amphitheater EIS approved by the County Board left the issue of alternatives unresolved, pending agreement between Q Prime and Scott County on reasonable alternatives for inclusion in the EIS. These alternatives require Scott County Board approval so that the EIS Scoping Document can be amended, and that notice of the amendment can be published in the Environmental Quality Board Monitor (MN Rule 4410.2210 Subpart 8).

MN Rule 4410.2300 Subpart G requires that the EIS must address one of each of the following alternatives, or provide a concise explanation of why no alternative of a particular type is included in the EIS:

- Alternative sites
- Alternative technologies
- Modified designs or layouts
- Modified scale or magnitude, and
- Alternatives incorporating reasonable mitigation measures identified through comments received during EIS scoping and draft EIS review comment periods.

The EIS must address the alternative of no action.

With the exception of the no action alternative, types of alternatives may be excluded based upon one of the following three reasons (MN Rule 4410.2300 Subpart G):

- The underlying need for or purpose of the project is not met.
- The alternative does not provide significant environmental benefits over the proposed project.
- Another alternative is likely to be similar in environmental benefits but will have lesser socioeconomic impacts.

The EQB publication Guide to Minnesota Environmental Review Rules (EQB, April 1998) provides the following additional guidance in determining whether or not to include alternative sites would meet the underlying need and purpose of the project: Whether the proposer owns the proposed site; How long the proposer has owned the proposed site; The likelihood that the proposer could sell or otherwise use the proposed site if the project was moved; Whether the proposer

has access to other sites. Proposers with eminent domain authority have greater access than those who do not; access also depends upon whether other sites are for sale; Whether the site is an integral part of the project or whether the project could be built on other sites in the general area. For example, if a farmer wants to develop his land as residential property, no other site would meet the need. Conversely, if a major retailer wants to open a store in a new housing area, multiple sites may satisfy the objective.

The likely use of the proposed site if the project did not take place on it and the environmental impacts of other uses.

An amendment to the Q Prime Amphitheater final Scoping Document can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.co.scott.mn.us/EH/EAW/QprimeEAW2/FinalScopingDocument.htm>

The EIS Scoping Document (approved May 23, 2000) included two elements, which were dependent upon subsequent discussion with Q Prime. This discussion was intended to occur shortly after Scott County retained the services of a professional consultant. The County retained Barr Engineering – along with the appropriate subconsultants – on September 19, 2000 and immediately notified Q Prime that we were ready to commence preparation of the EIS as soon as we received a signed Escrow Agreement and the check for the anticipated cost of preparing the EIS.

The County did not receive the Escrow Agreement and check until April 2, 2001. Staff immediately notified Barr to commence work on the EIS. Several meetings with Barr and the developer occurred in May and early June to address the outstanding issues of alternative site and design considerations. We have now reached a conclusion that staff and Barr agree is a reasonable approach and to which Q Prime has had input. That approach is detailed in Attachment A, which also contains a background discussion. Attachment B is the original EIS Scoping Document and Work Plan.

For more information contact Michael Erickson, Scott County Environmental Services, 200 Fourth Avenue West, Shakopee, MN 55379; 952-496-8361



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