



Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Comments due on March 6, 2002

Boise Cascade 48 MW Cogeneration Project

Description: This project will replace two existing 4 megawatt steam turbine generators with a new 36 megawatt steam turbine and rebuild another existing 6.25 megawatt steam turbine, increasing its output to 11 MW. The project will be constructed entirely within the existing facility and will not add any new boilers, buildings, or power transmission lines.

RGU: Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Contact: Jon Larsen, 300 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55155

Celebration of Sauk Rapids, PUD

Description: Recker Construction Inc., proposes to develop a planned unit development complex consisting of a park, 34 patio homes, 188 single-family homes, 145 units for an apartment complex and 40,000 square feet for a retail commercial complex. The area to be developed is 149.9 acres, which is mostly gently rolling.

RGU: City of Sauk Rapids

Contact: Ross Olson, Deputy City Administrator,

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. 26, No. 3

Next issue: February 18, 2002
Submittal deadline: February 11, 2002

115 2nd Ave. N., Sauk Rapids, MN 56379; 320-258-5300

Removal of 209 W. Pleasant Street Single-Family Dwelling

Description: The removal of 209 W. Pleasant Street (Larson House), a single-family dwelling, is the proposed project by Independent School District #77. The removal of this dwelling means the removal of a historical building (National Register of Historic Places) in the Lincoln Park Residential District. Current techniques for demolition of buildings will be used to complete the removal of the Larson House. Once the demolition is complete, a granular fill will be placed on the site and leveled. A new playground will be put into the space to compliment the nearby school and provide a regional playground/greenspace for the surrounding neighborhood.

RGU: City of Mankato

Contact: Paul Vogel, Community Development Director, 10 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001; 507-387-8613

Bluffs of Buffalo Lake

Description: A mandatory EAW has been filed with the city of Buffalo for a mixed use residential PUD for single-family residences, townhomes and a city park on Buffalo Lake located on 118.1 acres of farmland and woodland in the city of Buffalo. It involves the construction of approximately 146 single-family homes and 96 two unit townhomes with supporting infrastructure. All homes will be served by city sewer and water.

RGU: City of Buffalo

Contact: Brad DeWolf, City Engineer, 212 Central Avenue, Buffalo, MN 55313; 612-756-1032

Petitions Filed

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

- Development of island in McKeown Lake, Cass County
- Riverview Corridor busway between I-35E and Smith Avenue, Metropolitan Council

EAW Need Decisions

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

- Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners, Fox Ridge Estates, EAW ordered
- Fillmore County Board of Commissioners, Bly Quarry Development, EAW ordered
- Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, Sportsman Landing, Jewett Lake, EAW ordered

EIS Adequacy Decision

Berger Horticultural Products, Inc.

The Department of Natural Resources prepared an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal by Berger Horticultural Products, Inc. to develop a horticultural peat mine at the Pine Island Bog in Koochiching County, Minnesota.

The DNR prepared a Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet and a draft Scoping Decision to identify the issues and alternatives that would be addressed in the EIS. A notice of availability of the scoping documents was published in the *EQB Monitor* on May 1, 2000. The DNR held a public scoping meeting in Big Falls, Minnesota on May 23, 2000, and issued a final Scoping Decision in September, 2000.

The EIS preparation notice was published in the *EQB Monitor* on October 2, 2000. The DNR prepared a Draft EIS addressing all issues and alternatives raised in scoping and identifying reasonable mitigation measures for identified adverse effects.

The Draft EIS notice of availability was published in the *EQB Monitor* on July 23, 2001. The DNR held a public

information meeting on August 20, 2001, and accepted comments on the Draft EIS through September 21, 2001.

The DNR prepared a Final EIS, which included responses to all comments received during the Draft EIS review period. The Final EIS notice of availability was published in the *EQB Monitor* on December 24, 2001. The DNR accepted comments on the adequacy of the Final EIS through 4:30 PM on January 8, 2002. The DNR received no comments during the Final EIS review period. The DNR will forward comments received after the review period to permitting entities for their consideration.

On January 14, 2002, pursuant to the criteria prescribed by Minnesota Rules part 4410.2800, subpart 4, the DNR determined the EIS is adequate. The DNR prepared a record of its decision and distributed it to all parties receiving copies of the Final EIS. The finding of adequacy concludes environmental review for the proposed project.

The contact person at the DNR is: Rebecca Wooden, Office of Management & Budget Services, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4010; 651-297-3355.

SEIS Adequacy Decision

Best Buy Campus Project

The city of Richfield has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Best Buy Campus Project concerning the temporary effects that the closure of State Trunk Highway 62 will have on traffic in regards to the Best Buy Campus Project. The SEIS has been prepared as required by order issued by Judge Allen Oleisky of the Hennepin County District Court on July 3, 2001. The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Best Buy Campus Project was published on December 10, 2001. The Adequacy Determination and Record of Decision was adopted by the Richfield City Council on January 22, 2002.

Copies of the completed document will be provided to the EQB distribution list, as well as those recorded as previously receiving copies of the Best Buy Campus Final SEIS.

Flying Cloud Airport SDEIS Comment Period Extension

Written comment period on the Supplement Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Draft General Conformity Determination and Ordinance 51 elimination has been extended to March 29, 2002. Comments will be accepted until close of business on March 29, 2002 and should be sent to Mark Ryan, Metropolitan Airports Commission, 6040 28th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55450; fax 612-794-4407; email: mryan@mspmac.org

Draft EIS Availability

S.P. 1804-50 (TH169), Between TH 27 North of Onamia and TH 18/TH 6 Northwest of the city of Garrison, Mille Lacs and Crow Wing Counties

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation documenting the positive and negative impacts of the proposed action for the Trunk Highway (TH) 169 corridor segment from the intersection of TH 169 and TH 27 north of the City of Onamia to the intersection of TH 18 and TH 6 northwest of the City of Garrison in Crow Wing and Mille Lacs Counties, Minnesota is available for review. The proposed improvements include the construction of a four-lane limited access highway.

Copies of this letter are being distributed to those agencies on the current MEQB document review list and others. The required State review period will begin upon publication of the draft EIS availability notice in the February 4, 2002 EQB Monitor. Comments will be accepted through March 25 2002 and will be considered for inclusion in the final EIS.

Comments may be directed to: James Hallgren, P.E., Project Manager, Mn/DOT District 3, 1991 Industrial Park Road, Baxter, MN 56425; (218) 828-2773; email: james.hallgren@dot.state.mn.us

To afford an opportunity for all interested parties, agencies and groups to comment on the draft EIS and the proposed action, a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2002 at the Onamia Elementary School Gymnasium, 35465 125th Avenue, Onamia, Minnesota from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. using an informal open house format. Representatives from Mn/DOT and the consultant firm of Short Elliott Hendrickson will be present to answer questions during the open house. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation along with maps, drawings and supporting documents will be available for public viewing.

The DEIS document is available for review at the following locations:

- Mn/DOT District 3 Office, 1991 Industrial Park Boulevard, Baxter, MN
- Garrison City Hall, 614 Central Avenue, Garrison, MN
- Onamia City Hall, 621 West Main Street, Onamia, MN
- Mille Lacs County Highway Department, 565 8th Street NE, Milaca, MN
- Crow Wing County Highway Department, 202 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Works Dept., HCR 67, Box 194, Onamia, MN
- Mille Lacs Lake Community Library, 285 2nd Ave. S., Isle, MN
- Aitkin Public Library, 121 2nd St. NW, Aitkin, MN
- Brainerd Public Library, 416 5th St. S., Brainerd, MN
- Milaca Public Library, 145 South Central St., Milaca, MN
- Kitchigami Regional Library, 403 Barclay Ave., P.O. Box 84, Pine River, MN
- East Central Regional Library, 244 South Birch St., Cambridge, MN

EIS Need Decision

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does 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*.

- East Building Area Development Project, Lake Elmo Airport, Metropolitan Airport Commission, January 22, 2002 (October 29, 2001)

Notice of Application for Special Loca Need Registration

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 18B.27 (2000), the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is certified to issue Special Local Need registrations.

The MDA has received SLN applications for the following:

Applicant: Cerexagri, Inc., King of Prussia, PA 19406

Project Location: Any area of Minnesota where aquatic weed control occurs.

Project Description: This SLN registration would allow water that has been treated with Aquathol and Hydrothol (endothall) aquatic herbicides to immediately be used to irrigate non-food areas.

This notice is being published by the MDA. The department is not considering holding public hearings on this proposed SLN registration.

Comments can be submitted to and additional information obtained from: John C. Sierk, Pesticide Regulatory Consultant, MDA, Agronomy and Plant Protection Division, 90 West Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55107-2094.

Comment deadline is March 6, 2002.

Notice of Comment Periods on Additional Issues to be Covered in this Docket

On December 28, 2001, Xcel Energy (Xcel or the Company) filed a certificate of need application for construction of four high voltage transmission line projects in southwestern Minnesota. The facilities, individually and collectively, fall under the definition of "large energy facility" in Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, subd. 2 (2), as amended by the Energy Security and Reliability Act, Senate File 722, Minnesota Laws 2001, Chapter 212.

Several entities have requested that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) solicit public comments on additional issues to be covered in this docket.

Specifically, comments could indicate the types of alternatives to be evaluated during the hearing process, as well as the desired level of detail on availability, estimated reliability, and economic, employment, and environmental impacts for each reasonable alternative.

The Commission will accept written comments through **Thursday, February 7, 2002**. Replies to those comments will be accepted through **Thursday, February 14, 2002**. If they desire, persons interested in this docket may attempt to reach a consensus proposal on additional issues they wish to be addressed by Xcel, the Department of Commerce, and other intervening parties. If necessary, the Commission will consider these filings at a later meeting to provide further direction to Xcel and other hearing participants. If such a meeting is held, more definitive notice will be provided in a subsequent notice.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to Commission staff persons David Jacobson at 651-297-4562, Susan Mackenzie at 651-296-8994, and Janet Gonzalez 651-296-1336.

Electric Energy Conference

On February 15, 2002, the Environmental Quality Board will sponsor a conference entitled "Electric Energy Regulatory Issues: Challenges and Changes." Speakers from several organizations will address the Board on various issues related to large electric power facilities, such as generating plants and high voltage transmission lines. The conference will be held in the Board Room of the Pollution Control Agency offices at 520 Lafayette Road in St. Paul. The conference runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The conference is free and open to the public. A copy of the agenda is printed below. For further information, contact Alan Mitchell at 651-296-3714.

Agenda:

10:00-10:10 Introduction and overview. The Role of the Federal Government

10:10-10:45 The Role of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Drew Kovalak, Attorney for Mid-Continent Area Power Pool

10:45-11:15 Midwest Independent System Operator, Nancy Campbell, Minnesota Department of Commerce

11:15-11:45 Translink Transmission Company, LLC, Audrey Zibelman, President, Translink Transmission Company, LLC

11:45-12:15 Lunch break

12:15-1:00 PowerWorld Demonstration. A computer stimulation of the generation and transmission system), Bruce Wollenberg, University of Minnesota

1:00-2:00 The Role of State Regulators, Richard Sedano, The Regulatory Assistance Project, Montpelier, Vermont

NOTICE: On February 21, 2002, at 10:30 a.m., as part of the monthly meeting of the EQB to be held in the Board Room of the MPCA, the EQB will hear a presentation on Global Warming, Criteria Pollutants, and Mercury from Peter Ciborowski and Anne Jackson of the MPCA staff. The meeting is open to the public.

MN Planning Open House – Focus on the Future

Wednesday, February 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Minnesota Planning is having an open house to showcase its many and varied projects. These include new, simplified geographic information technology for students and educators, up-to-the minute census data, population maps you can customize, updated *Minnesota Milestones* indicator data, innovative planning tools for local governments, the public review draft of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Animal Agriculture and much, much more. MN Planning also provides staff for the EQB and many of the EQB projects will be on display. The open house is open to the public.

Minnesota Planning is located at 658 Cedar St., 300 Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota

EAW Available

Island Station

Description: Prairie Gen L.P. proposes to construct a 49-megawatt electrical power generating station at 436 Shepard Road, St. Paul, MN. The site is presently zoned I-2 Industrial which allows a power plant. Island Station will consist of one natural gas, dual fuel, simple-cycle combustion turbine. The primary fuel is natural gas and the secondary fuel is fuel oil. The proposed project also includes a transmission line, natural gas connections and other associated facilities. An environmental assessment worksheet will be available from the EQB for review on February 11, 2002. The EAW will also be available on the EQB website at:

<http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/eqb/EnergyFacilities/pwrplntproj.html#eaw>

Comments are due March 13, 2002.

RGU: Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Contact: John Hynes, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, 300 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-2871

Notifications of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
02-NO-004	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance	Dakota
02-NO-005	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance & herbicide tolerance	Steele Renville
02-NO-006	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance & herbicide tolerance	Faribault Freeborn
02-NO-007	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide tolerance	Faribault Freeborn
02-NO-008	Monsanto	Corn	Insect resistance & herbicide tolerance	Steele Renville

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



First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 171
St. Paul, MN

Vol. 26 No. 3

Upon request, the *EQB Monitor* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Minnesota Planning. For information or additional copies of the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

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

Phone: 800-657-3794 or 651-296-2603

Fax: 651-296-3698

E-mail: eqbmonitor@mnplan.state.mn.us