



## Environmental Assessment Worksheets

*Comments due on May 1, 2002*

### Koochiching County S.A.P. 36-738-01

Description: Koochiching County proposes to reconstruct County State Aid Highway #138 from State Trunk Highway 11 to approximately 1.8 miles northeast using type I natural preservation route standards. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and reduce maintenance costs.

RGU: Koochiching County Highway Department

Contact: Douglas Grindall, 715 4<sup>th</sup> St., Courthouse Annex, International Falls, MN 56649; 218-283-1186

### Glacier Paving Inc. Gravel Pit Expansion Project

Description: The project is a 40 acre expansion of an existing gravel pit. The site is expected to yield at minimum up to 500,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from the property up to a 30 year period, depending on the quality of the material. The average production would be zero to 50,000 cubic yards per year, or an average of 3,000 cubic yards per month, over a seven month, annual operating period. The site contains 2.61 acres of type 3, 6, 7 and 8 wetlands. The type 6 and 7 wetlands a (1.93 acres) would be lost by the project. The project

#### 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)

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would not increase truck traffic on county and local roads.

RGU: Gnesen Twp, Saint Louis County

Contact: Ken Johnson, Zoning Director, Gnesen Town Hall, 4011 Pioneer Rd., Duluth, MN 55803; 218-721-4796

### Hoehne Quarry Site

Description: Hoehne Brothers will be applying for a conditional use permit to mine limestone from a 37 acre parcel in New Haven Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota. Explosives and heavy machinery will be used to remove bedrock from the Prairie-du-Chein bedrock unit to an elevation of 1,010 feet MSL.

RGU: New Haven Township

Contact: Robert Lindahl, Township Clerk, 10541 105<sup>th</sup> St. NW., Pine Island, MN 55963; 507-356-8525

### Carrigan Meadows

Description: The proposed single-family development will include 260 residential units located on approximately 142 acres of predominantly agricultural land in Waverly. The purpose of Carrigan Meadows is to meet the need for additional housing in the city of Waverly. The proposed development is consistent with the city of Waverly Land Use Plan-1999.

RGU: City of Waverly

Contact: Brad DeWolf, City Engineer, 316 Fourth St. SW., PO Box 895, Willmar, MN 56201; 320-231-3956

### Northeast Area Trunk Highway Sanitary Sewer Project

Description: The city of Woodbury proposes to construct the Northeast Area Trunk Highway Sanitary Sewer line and Cottage Grove Drive lift station. The project will include the installation of approximately 11,620 feet of pipe and a sanitary sewer lift station to

provide sanitary sewer service to the northeast portion of Woodbury. A copy of the EAW will be posted on the MPCA web site, at the following:  
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Kelly Garvey, Project Manager, Operations and Environmental Review Section, Regional Environmental Management Division, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-7796

### Lake City Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion and Upgrade

Description: The city of Lake City proposes to upgrade and expand its municipal wastewater treatment plant. The modified facility would be in the same location as the existing facility. The proposed average wet weather design flow would increase from 0.82 to 1.52 million gallons per day. The modified facility will have a phosphorus discharge limit of 1.0 milligrams per liter. A copy of the EAW will be posted on the MPCA web site, at the following:  
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: MPCA

Contact: Barbara Jean Conti, Project Manager, Operations and Environmental Review Section, Regional Environmental Management Division, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-6703

### Avon Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

Description: The city of Avon is proposing to increase the capacity of its existing wastewater treatment facility with an average wet weather design flow of 94,000 gallons per day to an average wet weather design flow of 610,000 gallons per day. The city of Avon would construct a new oxidation ditch system that would operate in parallel with the existing stabilization pond system. The facility would be designed to serve the city of Avon for the next 20 years. The new wastewater treatment facility would discharge treated wastewater effluent to Spunk Creek on a continuous basis. A copy of the EAW will be posted on the MPCA web site, at the following:  
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: MPCA

Contact: Kevin Kain, Project Manager, Operations and Environmental Review Section, Regional Environmental Management Division, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-7432

### Northridge

Description: Develop a residential development consisting of a park, 173 single-family homes and 54 townhomes. The area to be developed is 107 acres, which is mostly gently rolling.

RGU: City of Montrose

Contact: Barbara Swanson, 311 Buffalo Avenue S., Montrose, MN 55363

## Federal EA Available

### S.P. 19-596-03, County Road 28 (Yankee Doodle Road/80<sup>th</sup> St) Extension Project in the cities of Egan and Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County, Minnesota

Description: An Environmental Assessment for the extension of County Road 28 (Yankee Doodle Road in Egan and 80<sup>th</sup> St. in Inver Grove Heights) between Highway 149 and Highway 3 in northern Dakota County is available. The project will be constructed as an urban, four-lane divided roadway and will be completed in three stages. Stage 1 will connect Highway 149, Highway 55, and CR 63 (Argenta Trail), with a signalized intersection at Highway 55. Stage 2 will connect Highway 55 and Highway 3. Stage 3 is the construction of an interchange at Highway 55. Other improvements include installation of sanitary sewer lines, curb and gutter, water main, storm sewer, and bituminous multi-use trails on both sides of the roadway.

The required state review period will begin upon publication of the EA availability notice in the April 1, 2002 EQB Monitor. Comments will be accepted through May 1, 2002, and will be incorporated into the official public hearing record. Comments can be directed to: Kristine Elwood, Dakota County Transportation Department, Western Service Center, 14955 Galaxie Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Apple Valley, MN 55124; 952-891-7104; fax 952-891-7127; email: [kristine.elwood@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:kristine.elwood@co.dakota.mn.us)

To afford an opportunity for all interested parties, agencies and groups to comment on the proposed action, a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2002 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Dakota County Wescott Library located at 1340 Wescott Road in Egan. The format of the meeting will be a project presentation followed by an opportunity for public comment. Dakota County will use the comments received in deciding whether there is potential for this project to result in significant impacts to the environment, and whether an environmental impact statement is needed.

## 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.

- Meulners Farm Partnership Feedlot Expansion project, Carver County

## 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*.

- South Washington County Interceptor, MPCA, March 18, 2002 (September 17, 2001)
- Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company Expansion, MPCA, March 12, 2002 (January 21, 2002)
- Michael Juergens Swine Feedlot, MPCA, March 12, 2002 (January 21, 2002)
- Indian Hills Country Club, City of Grant, March 13, 2002 (January 21, 2002)
- Grand View Estates, Becker County, March 12, 2002 (January 21, 2002)
- Bauerly Company/Maine Prairie Township, March 19, 2002 (September 3, 2001) (EIS rescinded)

## Ferche 600 Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan Approval, City of Sartell, Minnesota

Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4410.3610, the City of Sartell acted as the Responsible Government Unit in the processing and ultimate adoption of the Findings of Fact relating to the Negative Declaration for the Ferche 600 Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan. The City Council adopted the plan per Resolution 40-02 on March 11, 2002 declaring that the mitigation measures as proposed would not create the potential for environmental damage that cannot be mitigated by the local review process.

## Flying Cloud Airport SDEIS Comment Period Extension

Written comment period on the Supplement Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), Draft General Conformity Determination and Ordinance 51 elimination has been extended to May 21, 2002. Comments will be accepted until close of business on May 21, 2002 and should be sent to Mark Ryan, Metropolitan Airports Commission, 6040 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55450; fax (612) 794-4407; e-mail mryan@mspmac.org.

## Final EIS Available

### Northstar Corridor Final EIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation, Volumes One and Two

The FEIS identifies a preferred alternative, selected by Mn/DOT and the Northstar Corridor Development Authority after the DEIS and Supplemental Environmental document were issued and comments were received and considered. The preferred alternative is defined as an 81.8 mile commuter rail line on the existing BNSF track between downtown Minneapolis and Rice. Eleven potential stations have been evaluated. The preferred alternative also includes the connection to the Hiawatha light rail transit line (from 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North) at the proposed multi-modal station in downtown Minneapolis at 5<sup>th</sup> Street North and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Track capacity improvements, a vehicle maintenance and layover facility, and feeder bus improvements are also included. A Minimum Operable Segment for the preferred alternative has been identified and evaluated from downtown Minneapolis to Big Lake. As a baseline for comparison, the FEIS also evaluates the No-Build Alternative, which is defined as the existing roadway and transit system, along with committed and programmed transportation improvements for which funding has been committed through year 2003. It is anticipated that the Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on Friday, April 5, 2002. The FEIS review period is in effect through May 6, 2002. Based on review and documentation in the FEIS, the Federal Transit Administration will issue a record of decision after the review period.

Questions can be addressed to: Mike Schadauer, Office of Passenger Rail Transit, Mn/DOT, 395 John Ireland Blvd., MS 475, St. Paul, MN 55155-1899; 651-282-5366.

The FEIS is available for review at the Mn/DOT, Anoka County Courthouse, Legislative Library and local libraries throughout the Northstar Corridor.

## Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Request for Comments

### Possible Rules to Govern Biennial Transmission Filings Required Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.2425

**Subject of Rules.** The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission requests comments on planned rules to govern the filing and processing of the biennial transmission projects reports that utilities are required to file under Minn. Stat. § 216B.2425. The Commission is considering developing rules to govern the timing, content, and procedural treatment of these reports, as well as to establish procedures to ensure broad public input as the reports are developed and adequate public notice after they are developed.

**Persons Affected.** The adoption of these rules would likely affect:

- cooperative, municipal, and investor-owned Minnesota electric utilities;
- entities that own or operate transmission facilities on behalf of cooperative, municipal, or investor-owned Minnesota electric utilities;
- electric customers throughout the state;
- persons living or owning property near potential transmission routes;
- Minnesota agencies with jurisdiction over cooperative, municipal, or investor-owned electric utilities

**Statutory Authority.** At least three statutes authorize Commission rulemaking on this subject: Minn. Stat. 216A.05, 216B.08, and 216B.2425.

**Public Comment.** The Commission invites interested persons or groups to submit comments or information on the possible rules in writing or orally until Friday, May 3, 2002 at 4:30 p.m. Interested persons or groups may also request to be included on the Commission's list of persons who wish to receive notices pertaining to this rulemaking. Written or oral comments, questions, and requests to receive a draft of the rules when they are prepared should include the docket number assigned to this rulemaking (E-999/R-02-327) and should be addressed to Carol Casebolt or Eric Witte, Public Utilities Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147; 651-296-6029 (Ms. Casebolt); 651-296-7814 (Mr. Witte); 651-297-7073 (fax)

**Advisory Committee.** The Commission plans to convene an advisory committee under Minn. Stat. 14.101 to comment on the biennial transmission report process. Persons wishing to serve or to nominate others to serve should inform Ms. Casebolt or Mr. Witte.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-297-4596 (voice), 651-297-1200 (TTY), or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

## Public Utilities Commission

### Public Hearings On the Need for Four High Voltage Transmission Lines Proposed by Xcel Energy for Southwestern Minnesota

A permit called a certificate of need must be obtained from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission before any large energy facility is constructed in Minnesota. On December 28, 2001, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy submitted a certificate of need application for four large high voltage transmission facilities:

- A 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the Lakefield Junction Substation near Lakefield, Minnesota and the Split Rock Substation near Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The line would pass through Jackson, Nobles, and Rock Counties.
- A 161 kV transmission line connecting the Fox Lake Substation near Sherburn, Minnesota and the Lakefield Junction Substation. The line would pass through Jackson and Martin Counties.
- A 115 kV transmission line connecting a new Nobles County Substation on the proposed 345 kV line with the Chanarambie Substation near Lake Wilson, Minnesota. The line would pass through Nobles and Murray Counties and perhaps part of Pipestone and Rock Counties.
- A 115 kV transmission line from the Nobles County Substation to a new Fenton Substation to be located in the vicinity of Chandler, Minnesota. The line would pass through Nobles and Murray Counties and perhaps Pipestone and Rock Counties.

Individuals and groups may participate in the certificate of need process in at least three ways:

- by intervening as a formal party, which requires submission of a written petition by April 26, 2002 to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Beverly Jones Heydinger;
- by offering comments and questions at public hearings designated for that purpose; and
- by submitting written comments by May 28, 2002 to ALJ Beverly Jones Heydinger, Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite

1700, 100 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2138.

Public hearings will begin in Worthington at 12:30 p.m. on May 6, 2002. Additional hearings near the affected areas will be held in Worthington on May 7, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in Pipestone on May 8, beginning at 12:30 p.m., and in Redwood Falls on May 9, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The hearings will continue in St. Paul on May 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and on May 14, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Additional hearings will be held if needed to complete the presentation of witnesses by formal parties to the proceeding.

Special sessions to receive statements and questions from the public will be held at 4 and 7 p.m. in the following cities on the indicated dates: in Worthington on May 6; in Pipestone on May 8; in Redwood Falls on May 9; and in St. Paul on May 14.

Members of the public are invited to attend any of the sessions listed above, including those to receive testimony from the formal parties. The hearings will be held at the following locations:

- Worthington, Elks Lodge, 1105 Second Avenue
- Pipestone, Pipestone County Court House, 416 Hiawatha Avenue South
- Redwood Falls, Redwood Area Community Center, 901 Cook Street
- St. Paul, McKnight Room, Holiday Inn East (near I-94 and McKnight Road), 2201 Burns Avenue

Notice of these hearings will also be published in local newspapers in the form of display ads.

The determination of need for transmission lines compares the capability of the existing electricity supply system with expectations of future needs for delivering electrical power and energy to ultimate consumers. The scope of the proceeding includes alternatives that differ according to general type of technology, size and timing.

Following the certificate of need hearings, ALJ Heydinger will submit a report and recommendation to the Commission. The Commission will decide whether the proposed facilities are in the public interest, considering the possible alternatives identified during the hearing process.

The specific routes for these proposed lines will not be determined in this proceeding. At some point in the next several months, Xcel Energy will submit a separate application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, which will be responsible for routing any lines certified by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Questions about the certificate of need process and this specific proceeding may be directed to David Jacobson at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, 651-297-4562 or 1-800-657-3782 toll-free. Calls also may be placed to 651-297-1200 (TTY) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

## Public Utilities Commission

### Public Hearings On the Need for a Natural Gas Pipeline Proposed by the Hutchinson Utilities Commission

A permit called a certificate of need must be obtained from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission before any large energy facility is constructed in Minnesota. On December 13, 2001, the Hutchinson Utilities Commission submitted a certificate of need application for construction of a large intrastate natural gas pipeline facility from near Trimont to Hutchinson.

Individuals and groups may participate in the certificate of need process in at least three ways:

- by intervening as a formal party, which requires submission of a petition to the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ);
- by offering comments and questions at public hearings; and
- by submitting written comments by May 22, 2002 to Chief ALJ Kenneth A. Nickolai, Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, 100 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2138.

Public hearings will be held on:

- May 15, 2002 in Hutchinson (2 and 7 p.m., Royalty Room, Best Western Victorian Inn & Conference Center, 1000 Highway 7 West); and
- May 16, 2002 in Sleepy Eye (2 and 7 P.m., Best Western Inn of the Seven Gables, 1100 East Main).

Members of the public may provide comments and ask questions at these hearings.

Formal evidentiary hearings to receive testimony from the applicant, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and other parties will be held in Hearing Room 3 of the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings at the Minneapolis address indicated above. Those hearings are scheduled to begin on May 20, 2002 beginning at 9:30 a.m. and continue May 21-22, 2002, if necessary. The deadline for requesting party status is April 19, 2002.

Additional notification of these hearings will be provided in local newspapers in the form of display ads.

Following the hearings, Judge Nickolai will submit a report and recommendation to the Commission. The Commission will decide whether the proposed facility is in the public interest, considering possible alternatives.

The specific route for the pipeline, if certified as needed by the Public Utilities Commission, would be determined by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board in a separate proceeding.

Questions about the certificate of need process may be directed to Robert Harding at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, 651-296-7125 or 1-800-657-3782 toll-free. Calls also may be placed to 651-297-1200 (TTY) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

## Reclamation Project Planned For Tomash Lake, Cook County-DNR Division of Fisheries

Reclamation of this 96 acre lake involves the application of antimycin, a federal and state registered pesticide. For the purpose of eliminating unwanted fish populations, the lakewide concentration of antimycin is targeted at 1.5 ppb. This project will allow the pond to be used for raising walleye fingerlings, which will later be stocked into local fishing lakes. Endangered or threatened species are not present in this lake. Antimycin distribution will be done by boat. Comment or questions on this project should be addressed to Steve Persons, Area Fisheries Supervisor, Box 146, Grand Marais, MN 55604. A similar project proposed on Tomash Lake during the fall of 2001 did not take place due to a staffing shortage. For general information please contact Mike Halverson, Fisheries Habitat and Development Consultant, Box 12, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155.

## Notice

### Notice of Intent to Hold State Metallic Minerals Lease Sale State Lands to be offered for Metallic Minerals Exploration

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announces that plans are being developed to hold the state's twenty-sixth sale of metallic minerals exploration and mining leases. The sale is tentatively scheduled for July 2002. The lease sale plans are being announced at this time in order to give companies, public interest groups and all other interested parties additional time to review the areas under consideration.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules (Minnesota Rules, part 6125.0100-.0700) is to promote and regulate the exploration for, mining, and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These rules, and the leases issued under these rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of rentals that increase with the passage of time, the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed, the submission of data and other reports, and the addressing of environmental considerations. In addition, the state lessee must comply with all applicable regulatory laws.

The areas under consideration for the lease sale cover portions of Cook, Lake and Saint Louis counties. Some of the lands being considered have been offered in previous metallic minerals lease sales, but based upon the interest shown by industry, new geologic data, and exploration techniques developed during the past few years, it is felt that within these lands there is significant potential for the discovery of mineral resources. Certain new lands of interest are also being considered for the lease sale.

The exact time and place of the lease sale will be announced by legal notice at least thirty days prior to the sale. Mining unit books, listing the state lands to be offered at the lease sale, will be available for inspection or purchase at that time. A map showing the general areas under consideration may be obtained from the Division of Lands and Minerals, Box 45, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4045; 651-296-4807.

## Transgenic Insect Resistant and Herbicide Tolerant Corn - Commercial Use Exemption

Dow AgroSciences has requested an exemption from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permit for insect resistant and herbicide tolerant corn progeny lines derived from Event 1507, (known as Herculex \*I Insect Protection). These progeny lines contain the stably integrated genes, *cry1F*, which confers resistance to corn borer and other Lepidopteran pests, and the *pat* gene, which confers tolerance to the

herbicide, glufosinate. The *cry1F* gene, isolated from the bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *aizawai*, encodes the protein, Cry1F, which is toxic to the corn borer and other Lepidopteran pests. The second gene, *pat*, which encodes the phosphinothricin acetyltransferase (PAT) protein was derived from the bacterium, *Streptomyces viridochromogenes*. These corn lines are no longer regulated under USDA/APHIS guidelines. Under this exemption from state permit, Dow AgroSciences will be allowed to commercially use these insect resistant and herbicide tolerant corn lines without further regulation. For additional information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651-296-1277.

## Notifications of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
02-NO-032	Dow	Corn	Insect resistance and herbicide tolerance	Wilkin, Otter Tail, Pipestone, Stearns (2), Renville, Freeborn, Jackson
02-NO-033	Betaseed	Sugarbeet	Herbicide tolerance	Kandiyohi, Renville, Chippewa
02-NO-034	Betaseed	Sugarbeet	Herbicide tolerance	Dakota, Scott, Clay, Wilkin (2)
02-NO-035	Pioneer	Corn	Multiple phenotypes and combinations of: disease and insect resistance, herbicide tolerance, altered fertility and maturity, altered stalk attributes, increased yield stability, production of novel protein and industrial product, improved feed and food quality, and fungal toxin degradation.	Clay, Blue Earth, Murray, Ramsey, Kandiyohi, Renville, Freeborn, Redwood
02-NO-036	Dow	Corn	Insect resistance and herbicide tolerance	Otter Tail, Pipestone, Stearns (2), Renville, Freeborn, Jackson
02-NO-037	Betaseed	Sugarbeet	Herbicide tolerance	Clay
02-NO-038	Syngenta	Corn	Insect resistance	Goodhue
02-NO-039	Seminis Vegetable Seeds	Pea	Herbicide tolerance	Waseca
02-NO-040	Pioneer	Soybean	Multiple phenotypes and combinations of: disease resistance, increased yield, production of novel protein, improved feed and food quality, herbicide tolerance	Redwood
02-NO-041	Monsanto	Wheat	Herbicide tolerance	Polk

Contact: Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55107, 651/296-1277.



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

**Fax:** 651-296-3698

**E-mail:** [eqbmonitor@mnplan.state.mn.us](mailto:eqbmonitor@mnplan.state.mn.us)