



Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Comments due on September 17, 2003

Albertville Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion

Description: The City of Albertville is proposing to expand the existing wastewater treatment facility's mechanical plant (oxidation ditch) system and replace the existing stabilization pond system to meet the city's future wastewater demand. The proposed expansion will add 314,700 gallons per day for a total flow of 929,700 gallons per day. A phosphorus discharge limit of 1 milligram per liter applies.

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: Barbara Jean Conti, Project Manager, Operations and Environmental Review Section, Regional Environmental Management Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-6703.

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.eqb.state.mn.us

Vol. 27, No. 17

Next issue: September 1, 2003
Submittal deadline: August 25, 2003

Granite Falls Community Ethanol Plant, LLC

Description: Granite Falls Community Ethanol Plant, LLC, proposes to construct a dry mill 200-proof ethanol production facility in Chippewa County, with a maximum capacity of 45 million gallons per year (MMGY). The facility would produce 157,745 tons per year of distiller's dry grains with soluble that would be used as animal feed.

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: Lynne Kolze, Project Manager, Operations and Environmental Review Section, Regional Environmental Management Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-282-5992.

Sleepy Eye Lake Dredging Project

Description: The City of Sleepy Eye Lake is proposing to dredge Sleepy Eye Lake in order to increase the recreational use of the lake. Potentially three areas of the lake will be dredged to increase depth and prevent excessive vegetative growth. Dredged material will be deposited on an agricultural field adjacent to the lake.

RGU: City of Sleepy Eye

Contact: Mark Kober, City Administrator, 200 Main Street East, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085-1638; 507-794-3731 Fax 507-794-5799.

Environmental Assessment Available

TH 52 Oronoco to Pine Island Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed safety, access management and capacity improvements along with TH 52 corridor from 85th Street N.W., south of the City of Oronoco, to 500th

Street N.W., north of the City of Pine Island is available. Interested persons are encouraged to comment on the enclosed document. Comments on the EA are due by September 18, 2003.

A public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, 2003 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Pine Island Public School located at 224 First Avenue SE, Pine Island, MN. The public is welcome to stop in at any time between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to informally review the display materials and discuss the project. A short formal presentation will be held at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Representatives from Olmsted County, Goodhue County and Mn/DOT will be available to discuss features and details of the preliminary design. The EA document will also be available for public viewing. Mn/DOT will use the comments received during the EA comment period 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.

Additional information on the project can be obtained by contacting Charlie Reiter, Olmsted County Long Range Planning Supervisor at 507-285-8232. Written comments can also be mailed to Mr. Reiter at 2122 Campus Drive Southeast, Rochester, MN 55904, or emailed to reiter.charlie@co.olmsted.mn.us

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.

- Truesdell Feedlot Project, Martin County

EAW Need Decisions

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

- Martin County, Environmental Services Department, Animal Feedlot Application of Ben Truesdell, project withdrawn, EAW denied.
- Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, Sportsman Landing, project withdrawn.
- Stearns County Board of Commissioner's, The Lakes of Fairhaven, EAW denied.

EIS Need Decisions

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparation of an EIS. The

dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date of the EAW notice was published in the EQB Monitor.

- Westwind, Beltrami County Board, July 22, 2003 (May 12, 2003)
- Willmar Realty Corp. Eagle Lake West Pit EAW, Dovre Township, Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners, July 28, 2003 (April 28, 2003)
- Duininck Bros., Inc. CA Pit EAW, Green Lake Township, Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners, July 28, 2003 (April 28, 2003)
- Mitch K. Farms, City of Big Lake, July 23, 2003 (June 9, 2003)
- Realignment/Bridge Construction on the CSAH 47/TH 52 Intersection, Dakota County, Minnesota Department of Transportation, August 8, 2003 (April 28, 2003)

EAW and Scoping Document

Edward Kraemer and Sons (EKS) Quarry—Douglas Township

Description: Edward Kraemer and Sons (EKS) proposes to mine a near surface limestone deposit underlying 675 acres of agricultural land in Douglas Township, Dakota County. The proposed mining operation will utilize a reclamation mining technique that will minimize the time agricultural lands are out of production. Annual production of gravel is expected to begin at a rate of 300,000 tons per year and increase gradually to an estimated 1,000,000 tons per year by the year 2013. The mine is expected to operate for up to 76 years, depending on market demand.

A public Scoping Meeting where comments will be heard regarding scoping alternatives will be held at the St. Joseph Parish Hall at 23955 Nicolai Avenue East in Miesville on September 8, 2003, 7:30—10:30 p.m.

RGU: Douglas Township

Contact: Daniel Duncomb, Chair, Douglas Township, 13300 – 250th Street E., Cannon Falls, MN 55009; Email: duncomb6@reconnect.com

Final AUAR Adopted

Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4410.3610, the City of Shakopee has adopted the Final Revised AUAR and mitigation plan for the Valley Green Corporate Center/Deans Lake Residential dated July 2003. The City Council adopted the Final Revised AUAR and mitigation plan on August 6, 2003.

This concludes the AUAR process for the Valley Green Corporate Center/Deans Lake Residential. The development projects within the study area can now move forward with the permitting and platting process. If you have questions, please feel free to call Andi Moffatt at 763-287-7196.

Notice

Comment Period Extended on Draft Forest Plan Revision Documents

The Regional Forester for the USDA Forest Service, Randy Moore, has granted an extension to the original 3-month period provided for the public to submit written comments regarding the Proposed Forest Plans and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Chippewa and Superior National Forests, which were released last May.

The extended comment period will now end on September 11, 2003.

The extension comes in response to a formal request, submitted on behalf of several constituents, by Senator Dayton and Congressmen Oberstar and Ramstad. Regional Forester Moore said he acknowledges the fact that the volume of material to read, understand and comment upon is substantial.

The usual amount of time provided for review of most Forest Service environmental documents is 45 days. However, due to the complexity of Forest Plans, 3 months is usually provided. It is not unusual to provide even more time, if requested.

The additional comment period is consistent with extensive efforts already made to involve the public in Forest Plan Revision on the Chippewa and Superior National Forests. Past efforts have involved the public in scoping, developing alternatives, discussions about analysis, and proposed management direction.

The Regional Forester believes the Forest Service will benefit from additional substantive comments as a result of the extended comment period. However, granting this extension could potentially impact delivery of the fiscal year 2004 program of work and delay decisions for projects that are dependent on a Forest Plan decision.

The additional time for commenting on the Plan revision is good news for those of you who still want to submit comments.

Please send written or emailed comments to: Forest Plan Revision, Chippewa National Forest, 200 Ash Avenue N.W., Cass Lake, MN 56633-8929 or Email tstruecker@fs.fed.us

For more information, contact: Steve Ludwig, Acting Planner, Kay Getting, Public Affairs, Chippewa National Forest, 218-335-8600 or Duane Lula, Forest Planner, Kris Reichenbach, Public Information, Superior National Forest, 218-626-4300.

Notice Of Completion Of The Final Environmental Report

Docket No. ET-2/CN-02-536

On November 14, 2002, Great River Energy (GRE) and Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WHCEA) filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a certificate of need application for approval of transmission improvements in the Plymouth-Maple Grove area. The filing was required because the 115-kilovolt transmission line proposed by GRE and WHCEA is considered a large energy facility under Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, subd. 2 (3).

GRE and WHCEA designated their entire certificate of need application as their "draft environmental report" under the provisions of Minn. Rules, part 7849.0230, subpart 1. The applicants submitted supplementary material on February 5, 2003. Public hearings were held on May 29, 2003, and June 4, 2003.

Under Minn. Rules, part 7849.0230, subpart 3, the draft environmental report, written comments, and any written responses to comments comprise the "final environmental report."

On June 27, 2003, GRE and WHCEA filed a letter stating that they received no substantive comments concerning the draft environmental report. Accordingly, they indicated that the draft report should be accepted as the final environmental report.

This notice has been prepared for publication in the EQB Monitor, in accordance with Minn. Rules, part 7849.0230, subpart 4.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to Commission staff person David Jacobson at (651) 297-4562.

Notice for Recreational Trail Rulemaking

Environmental Quality Board Seeks Comments on Possible Rules Establishing Mandatory Environmental Review and Exemption Categories for Recreational Trails

The EQB is required by legislation passed in the 2003 legislative session to “adopt rules providing for threshold levels for environmental review for recreational trails.” These rules are to be adopted by January 1, 2005. This proposed rulemaking would potentially add mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) categories, and Exemption categories for various types of public and private recreational trails to the existing Environmental Review rules, Minnesota. Rules, chapter 4410. A copy of the official Request for Comments notice, as published in the *State Register*, is available at www.eqb.state.mn.us/review.html.

The EQB is accepting input and comments on the development of draft rules until Wednesday, October 1, 2003. After comments have been reviewed, the EQB will prepare a draft rule, and decide if it will proceed directly to formal rulemaking (public hearings before an administrative law judge), or gather additional informal input on the draft rule before initiating formal rulemaking procedures.

To assist in developing proposed rules, the EQB is especially interested in information about the following topics:

For which types of recreational trails should mandatory EAW, mandatory EIS, and exemption categories be established? Should some types of trails not be placed in any of these categories (and therefore remain subject to possible discretionary review on a case-by-case basis)?

Could some types of trails be logically grouped together into the same categories due to similar environmental impacts?

What criteria or parameters should the EQB use to establish thresholds for review and exemption categories – i.e., what criteria or parameters would be the best indicators of potential for environmental impacts?

Specific proposals for mandatory EAW, mandatory EIS, or exemption categories.

Sources of information that might help EQB in developing categories -- e.g., published studies on environmental impacts from types of recreational trails or classifications of trails developed by other states according to potential for environmental impacts.

Written or oral comments, questions, requests to receive a draft of rules when a draft has been completed, or requests for more information on these possible rules should be directed to: Gregg Downing, Environmental Quality Board, 300 Centennial Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-205-4660 Fax: 651/296-3698 Email: gregg.downing@state.mn.us

MEQB Citizens Advisory Task Force Meeting Notice

Announcing the first meeting of an EQB-appointed Citizen Advisory Task Force to discuss a proposed 161 kV transmission line route in Jackson and Martin Counties.

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) is expecting an application for a route permit for a new 24 mile long, 161 kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL), between Lakefield Junction and Fox Lake substations in Southwestern Minnesota. The Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board has appointed a Citizen Advisory Task Force to review route alternatives, and environmental and social impacts to be considered in the permitting process. All meetings of the Task Force are open to the public. The first meeting of the group will take place Wednesday, August 27, 2003, in the City of Jackson Council Chambers from 6:30 to 9:00 PM.

If you have questions on this matter or require further information, visit the EQB website (www.eqb.state.mn.us) or contact: Mike Michaud at 651 296-2096, Email mike.michaud@state.mn.us or George Johnson at 651 296-2888, Email george.johnson@state.mn.us



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

Vol. 27 No. 17

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 Department of Administration. 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: eqb.monitor@state.mn.us