



Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Comments due on October 29, 2003

Otsego Waterfront East Development

Description: Proposed 49-acre combination retail/residential development along the Mississippi River in Otsego. The site, located east of Highway 101 and the south of the Mississippi, is expected to include a movie theater, supermarket, restaurants, retail space, and residential units. The site is currently an agricultural field and retail establishment.

The EAW will be available for review at the Otsego City Hall and the Region 7W, Great River Regional Library, 405 St. Germain, St. Cloud, MN 56301.

RGU: City of Otsego

Contact: Mike Robertson, City Administrator, 8899 Nashua Avenue NE, Otsego, MN 55330; 763-441-4414.

Red Wing Ash Disposal Facility

Description: Northern State Power Company (NSP), doing business as Xcel Energy, operates a refuse-derived fuel ash disposal facility unit near

Red Wing, Minnesota. NSP is re-permitting the ash disposal facility, and at the same time, designing an expansion to the east cell of the existing landfill of approximately 232, 100 cubic yards of airspace volume. This expansion would provide approximately three additional years of site life at current fill rates.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Kevin Kain, Project Manager, Operations and Environmental Review Section, Regional Environmental Management Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road, N., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-296-7432.

The Bluffs of Mendota Heights

Description: The proposed development consists of 25 acres to be developed as a mixed density residential development with 31 single-level classic town homes and 126 two-story veranda style town homes. The development plan also provides open spaces with naturalized plantings, a commemorative open space, and an overlook providing views of the Minnesota River Valley.

RGU: City of Mendota Heights

Contact: Cari Lindberg, City Administrator, 1101 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights, MN 55118, 651-452-1850 Fax 651-442-8940. caril@mendota-heights.com

MnDot Environmental Assessment - Reconstruction of Trunk Highway 23, Benton County

Description: This project involves the reconstruction of an existing two-lane roadway. The project is from the existing 4-lane segment east of Trunk Highway (TH) 95 to TH 25 in Foley. The project length is 8.5 miles.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment, which documents the purpose, and need of the project along with the anticipated social, economic, and

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

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Next issue: October 13, 2003

Submittal deadline: October 6, 2003

environmental impacts are available for public viewing during business hours at the following locations:

- Minnesota Department of Transportation – District 3 office, 3725 12th Street North, St. Cloud, MN 56303.
- City of Foley, 251 4th Avenue, Foley, MN 56329
- Foley Public Library, 251 4th Avenue, Foley, MN 56329.
- St. Cloud Public Library, Great River Regional Library, 405 West Mall Germain, St. Cloud, MN 56301.

The official comment period begins on September 29 will run through November 13, 2003. An open house and public hearing will be held Thursday, October 30, 2003 from 4:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Foley City Hall, City Council Chambers located at 251 4th Avenue, Foley, MN.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Gerald Larson, Environmental Coordinator, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-284-3775
Fax 651-284-3754

EIS Need Decision

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 of the EAW notice was published in the EQB Monitor.

- Stafne Sand and Gravel Pit, Pine County, September 16, 2003 (July 6, 2003)
- St. Anthony Village Northwest Quadrant Redevelopment, City of St. Anthony Village, September 9, 2003 (September 4, 2003)
- The City of Le Sueur Wastewater Treatment Facility, MPCA, September 10, 2003 (July 7, 2003)
- Davisico's Le Sueur Cheese Company Wastewater Treatment Facility, MPCA, September 10, 2003 (July 7, 2003).

Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document

Northwest Metro Corridor and River Crossing Study - Hennepin & Anoka Counties, Minnesota

The Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document for the proposed development of a new Mississippi River

crossing and north-south highway corridor is now available. The proposed new highway would provide a connection from I-94 on the south (Cities of Dayton and/or Maple Grove, in Hennepin County) to Highway 10 on the north (City of Ramsey, in Anoka County). The Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document was prepared by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), in cooperation with Anoka County and Hennepin County and has been distributed by mail to interested parties.

The study's purpose is to consider long-term, broadly-based options to relieve congestion on the Twin Cities' northwest trunk highway corridors and river crossings, and to provide options to the existing routes. The mounting mobility problems in this area include congestion at existing river crossings, poor access to the region's roadway network, and reduced safety.

Mn/DOT is currently seeking public and agency input on the Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document. Comments received will be used by Mn/DOT to determine the scope of a future Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At this time, there is no immediate schedule to proceed with an EIS, and the timeframe for construction of a potential new trunk highway is at least 10 to 15 years in the future. The public comment period will begin on September 29 and will extend through October 29, 2003.

Contact: Mr. Brian Isaacson, AICP, Mn/DOT - Metro1500 West County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113; 651-582-1659
Fax 651-582-1368; e-mail: brian.isaacson@dot.state.mn.us

An "open house format" Public Information/Scoping Meeting will be held from 5:00 to 7:30 PM on October 22, 2003, at the City of Dayton Senior Center, 18461 Dayton Street, Dayton, MN 55327; (763)428-4692. Mn/DOT staff will be available to discuss the project with meeting attendees informally and to assist them in submitting comments.

The Public Scoping Meeting will include a discussion of the Scoping and EIS process and a description of the alternatives evaluated. During the comment period, the public and agencies will be specifically encouraged to provide comments. Copies of the Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document are available for public review at the following locations:

- Champlin Community Library, 12154 Ensign Avenue North, Champlin
- Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue North, Anoka
- Rogers Community Library, 21300 John Milless Drive, Rogers
- Environmental Conservation Library—Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

- East Central Regional Library Region 7E, 244 S. Birch Street, Cambridge

Project information and documents are also available electronically on the Mn/DOT web site:

<http://projects.dot.state.mn.us/ch2m/nwstudy>. More information can also be obtained from Mn/DOT's project manager, Brian Isaacson (see contact information above).

AUAR Available

Farmington Seed/Genstar AUAR

Description: The Farmington Seed/Genstar AUAR area is located on 1,006 acres in Empire Township, in Dakota County. The township and the City of Farmington have completed an orderly annexation agreement for the area to be annexed to the City. The area is west of State Highway 3, east of North Creek, and north of 194th Street. The proposed development in the study area will include a mix of land uses.

RGU: City of Farmington

Contact: Lee Smick, Planning Department, 325 Oak Street, Farmington, MN 55024, 651-463-1828 Fax 651-463-1611; lsmick@ci.farmington.mn.us

Comment Period Extended

Granite Falls Community Ethanol Plant

The written comment period on the Granite Falls Community Ethanol Plant has been extended to November 12, 2003. Comments will be accepted until close of business on November 12, 2003, and should be sent to Lynne Kolze, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155 Fax 651-282-5992; e-mail lynne.kolze@pca.state.mn.us.

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.

Revised Draft Joint Federal Environment Assessment – State Environmental Impact Statement

Eveleth-Virginia Municipal Airport Improvements

The Eveleth – Virginia Airport Authority has prepared a joint Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) and State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to describe proposed improvements at the Eveleth – Virginia Municipal Airport. The proposed improvements include extension of Runway 9/27 from 4,693 feet to 5,000 feet in length, construction of a full-length parallel taxiway, construction of a multi-unit T-hangar, and removal of existing obstructions on the Airport and property acquisition related to the improvements.

The Draft EA/EIS was originally published and circulated for review and comment in February 2002. Comments from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) required additional work. This revised Draft EA/EIS document reflects additional project justification, describes the revised project and addresses the comments and concerns provided in response to the initial Draft EA/EIS. The project alternatives have been revised to reflect omission of any precision approach. The proposed runway extension has been reduced from a total length of 5,500 feet to 5,000 feet to further minimize environmental impacts.

This Revised Draft EA/EIS will be circulated for public review and comment in accordance with state and federal environmental review requirements. Copies of the Revised Draft EA/EIS are available for review during regular business hours at:

- City of Eveleth, City Clerk's Office, 415 Pierce Street, Eveleth, MN 55734
- City of Virginia, City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 327 First Street South, Virginia, MN 55792
- Eveleth – Virginia Municipal Airport, 3051 Miller Trunk Road, Eveleth, MN 55734
- Eveleth Public Library, 614 Pierce Street, Eveleth, MN 55734
- Virginia Public Library, 215 South Fifth Avenue, Virginia, MN 55792.

A public hearing will be held to afford opportunity for public involvement. The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, November 10, 2003 at the Eveleth – Virginia Municipal Airport Conference Room. An Open House and information session will begin at 5:30 PM. Comments will be received beginning at 6:30 PM. Comments received as a result of the

circulation of this document and those received at the public hearing will be used to prepare the Final EA/EIS on which the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Commission and FAA will make their determinations.

RGU: Eveleth – Virginia Airport Authority

Comments due by November 24, 2003

Contact on behalf of the Airport Authority: Kelly Bettendorf, Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., 3535 Vadnais Center Drive, St. Paul, MN 55110.

Notice of Application Acceptance and Public Information Meeting on Proposed 250 MW, Natural Gas-Fired, Combined Cycle Plant

Wednesday, October 15, 2003, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 pm, City Hall Public Meeting Room, Faribault, Minnesota

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will conduct a public information meeting in the city hall public meeting room in Faribault on **October 15, 2003**, concerning a proposal by Faribault Energy Park, LLC (FEP) to construct and operate a natural gas-fired combined-cycle electric generating facility capable of producing 250 megawatts (MW). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project, answer questions, and scope the environmental impact statement (i.e., identify the potential significant issues and alternatives). The Project, as proposed, is to be located approximately 2.5 miles north of downtown Faribault, on the west side of Highway 76 and south of 170th Street West, in central Rice County, Minnesota.

Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, Sections 116C.51-.697) a site permit from the EQB is required to build a large electric power generating plant (LEPGP). A LEPPG is a power plant and associated facilities capable of operating at a capacity of 50 megawatts or more. The EQB has adopted rules for the administration of power plant site permits (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400). The EQB rules establish the requirements for submitting and processing a permit application. The applicant must identify in the application the preferred site for the power plant and one alternative site. As part of the permitting process, the EQB prepares an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the project and holds a contested case hearing. The EQB has up to one year from the time the application is accepted to complete the process and make a decision on the permit.

On September 8, 2003, FEP submitted to the EQB a site permit application regarding the proposed LEPPG. On September 18, 2003 the Chair of the Board accepted the application as substantially complete and notified the applicant in writing of the decision. Copies of the application can be obtained from the EQB web site (www.eqb.state.mn.us/EnergyFacilities/index.html); persons can also request to be added to the EQB mailing list at this site.

The Chair designated EQB staff members Bill Storm as project manager and Larry Hartman as the public advisor in this matter. Inquiries about this project should be directed to the EQB project manager, Bill Storm (bill.storm@state.mn.us) or Larry Hartman (larry.hartman@state.mn.us) 300 Centennial Bldg., 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155, telephone 651.296.9535, facsimile 651.296.3698 (TTY relay service 800.627.3529).

Reminder – Comment Period Closes October 1 on Possible Recreational Trail Mandatory Category and Exemption Rules

To see the original Request for Comments on this possible rulemaking, see the *Monitor* issues of August 4 or August 18, 2003, the *State Register*, July 28, 2003, or visit the EQB website at www.eqb.state.mn.us/review, under Announcements, Request for Comments.

All comments are due by 4:30 on Wednesday, October 1.



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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@state.mn.us
