



September 27, 2004

EQB Monitor

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

Comments due on October 27, 2004

CSAH 82 Reconstruction Project

Description: The proposed project is the reconstruction of approximately 2.6 miles of CSAH 82 as a four-lane divided section with concrete curb and gutter, separated bituminous trails, sanitary sewer and watermain construction, storm sewer system and water quality pond construction, installation of a traffic control signal, and revisions to an existing traffic control signal.

RGU: Scott County

Contact: Greg Ilkka, Acting County Engineer, 600 County Trail East, Jordan, MN 55352; 952-496-8356

CSAH 81 (Lowry Avenue to Highway 100) Reconstruction

Description: Hennepin County has prepared an EAW to assess the potential impacts of a proposed project that will include reconstruction of approximately 1.75 miles of County State Aid Highway 81 between Lowry Avenue and Trunk Highway 100 in Robbinsdale, MN. Reconstruction will improve existing and future traffic operation on the four-lane divided roadway by adding turnlanes. The project also involves the construction of sidewalks and potentially transit

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 <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>

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Submittal deadline: October 4, 2004

platforms and bus station pullouts.

Written comments addressing the accuracy and completeness of the EAW, the potential impacts that may warrant further investigation and the need for an environmental impact statement will be accepted during the 30-day comment period and can be submitted to the project contact person by October 27, 2004.

The EAW is available for review beginning September 27, 2004 at the following locations: the Technology and Science Library, 250 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, MN; the Legislative Reference Library, 645 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN; the Hennepin County Library-Rockford Road Branch, 6401 42nd Ave. N., Crystal, MN; and the Hennepin County offices, 1600 Prairie Dr., Medina, MN.

RGU: Hennepin County

Contact: Craig Twinem, Design Division Engineer, Hennepin County, 1600 Prairie Drive, Medina, MN 55340; 763-478-4000; email: craig.m.twinem@co.hennepin.mn.us

Relocation of Riley Creek and Widening of Trunk Highway 101, City of Chanhassen, Carver County, Minnesota

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) is proposing to add a second travel lane in each direction on Trunk Highway (TH) 101 from Lake Drive to 86th Street, in the City of Chanhassen, Carver County, Minnesota. The construction activities will involve an eastern realignment of TH 101 and the relocation of a segment of Riley Creek.

Mn/DOT has prepared an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts. Copies of the EAW are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the following locations:

- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metropolitan District 1500 West County Road B-2, Roseville, MN 55113-3174



- Minnesota Department of Transportation Library, Central Office, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, Mail Stop 155, St. Paul, MN 55155-1899
- Chanhassen Library, 7711 Kerber Boulevard, Chanhassen, MN 55317
- Environmental Conservation Library, Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Copies of the EAW are being distributed to agencies on the MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on **September 27, 2004**. Comments will be accepted through **October 27, 2004**.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Victor Vasas, Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metropolitan District, 1500 West County Road B-2, Roseville, MN 55113-3174; (651) 634-2312; Email: victor.vasas@dot.state.mn.us

Heartland Energy and Recycling, LLC

Description: This Supplement to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (SEAW) provides information about the Heartland Energy and Recycling, LLC Project. This SEAW supplements the information provided in Part 23, Stationary Source Air Emissions, of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) prepared for the project. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), acting as the Responsible Governmental Unit, prepared the SEAW in response to an order of the Third Judicial District Court, Fillmore County, remanding the EAW for the development of additional information. A copy of the Supplemental 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: 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

Nobles County Landfill Expansion

Description: Waste Connections, Inc. proposes to vertically expand the Nobles County Landfill near Worthington. The proposed expansion would lie almost entirely within the existing footprint of the facility. The expansion would add 3.6 million cubic yards of capacity to the landfill including waste and cover material. This represents about 80 additional years of life at the current filling rate.

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: William J. Lynott, Project Manager, Operations and Environmental Review Section, Regional Environmental Management Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155; (651) 296-7794

Deer Ridge of Oak Grove

Description: This 142-acre site is currently a combination of 95 acres of agricultural land, 309 acres of forested areas, and 8 acres of wetlands. It will be subdivided into approximately 46 rural residential lots. Each lot will have a private well and individual sanitary sewer treatment system.

RGU: City of Oak Grove

Contact: Sam Lucast, City Planner, 19900 Nightingale St. N.W., Oak Grove, MN 55011-9204; 763-753-1920

I.O.U.E. Local 49 Heavy Equipment Training Facility

Description: Project consists of construction of a 65,000 square foot classroom and equipment maintenance structure, construction of parking, 10,000 gal/day on-site sewer system, stormwater management ponds and site grading to accommodate training areas for heavy equipment operators. Total project site is approximately 390 acres; will utilize up to 37 pieces of training equipment including cranes, dozers, graders and excavators and will construct up to 3 miles of road to serve the training areas. Project is located in Section 8, Township 40N, Range 19W, Pine County.

RGU: Pine County

Contact: Robert Pulford, Pine County Land and Zoning Department, 1610 Highway 23 North, Sandstone, MN 55072; 320-245-6707; email: bbpulfor@co.pine.mn.us

Beulke Gravel Mine

Description: The proposed project is a 38 acre site to be utilized for the excavation, extraction, processing and storage of sand and aggregate for use in local road construction projects.

RGU: Douglas County

Contact: Darren Hungness, Environmental Analyst, 305 8th Ave. W., Alexandria, MN 56308; 320-762-2903

Brandtjen Farm Development

Description: Development of the Brandtjen Farm and adjacent Winkler Property is proposed to include up to 709 low-to-high-density residential units and 50,000 square feet of commercial/community center on 236.4 acres in northeastern Lakeville. The project contains roughly 64 acres of open space, including 15 to 16 acres of constructed lake and stormwater ponds, 16 acres of existing wetland, 17 acres of landscaped park and trails, and 16 acres of preserved woodland, shrubland, and grassland.

RGU: City of Lakeville

Contact: Daryl Morey, Planning Director, 20195 Holyoke Ave. W., Lakeville, MN 55044; 952-985-4422

Lachermeier Farm

Description: Lachermeier Farms is proposed to include residential and commercial/retail development on approximately 92.5 acres of predominantly agricultural land in the city of Waverly, Minnesota. The design preserves approximately 44.6 acres of open space that includes Carrigan Lake, a recreational trail system, parks, wetlands, and small woodlands.

RGU: City of Waverly

Contact: Brad DeWolf, City Engineer, 2040 East Highway 12, Willmar, MN 56201; 320-231-3956

EA Available

Trunk Highway 14/61 Reconstruction and Bridge #5475 Replacement, Houston County, Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) is proposing to replace bridge # 5475 (new bridge #28002) and reconstruct about 1.0 miles of Trunk Highway 14/61, around the intersection of Trunk Highway 14/16/61, in the city of La Crescent, in Houston County, Minnesota. The proposed improvements include reconstructing the highway including grading and surfacing and reconstructing the bridges over the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Houston County is including reconstruction of 0.2 miles of County State Aid Highway 6 leading up to the intersection of Trunk Highway 14/16/61 and 0.28 miles of Municipal State Aid Highway 118, from Elm Street to Trunk Highway 14/61. The proposed improvements include reconstructing the highway including grading and surfacing

Mn/DOT has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts. Copies of the EA are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the following locations:

- La Crescent Public Library, 321 Main Street, La Crescent, MN 55947; (507) 895-4047
- La Crescent City Hall, 315 Main Street, La Crescent, MN 55947; (507) 895-2595
- Houston County Engineer's Office, 1124 East Washington Street, Caledonia, MN 55921 (507) 725-3925
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901; (507) 285-7350

Copies of the EA are being distributed to agencies on the MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on **September 27, 2004**. Comments will be accepted through **October 27, 2004**.

A public hearing will be held on October 14, 2004 from 5:00PM to 8:00PM at the La Crescent High School, 1301 Lancer Boulevard, La Crescent, Minnesota.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Gary Reihl, P.E., Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Transportation, District 6, 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901, Phone: (507) 280-2803, Email: GaryJ.Reihl@dot.state.mn.us

Alternative Review Scoping Decision

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

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has reached a Scoping Decision and has distributed a Scoping Decision Document (SDD) for the proposed development of the Northwest Metro Corridor and River Crossing. The proposed project would be a new Mississippi River crossing and north-south highway corridor that 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). This decision follows circulation of a Scoping Document/Draft SDD on September 29, 2003 and a Public Scoping Meeting, held on October 22, 2003. Public comment was accepted through October 29, 2003, with several additional comments also received and considered after that date. Mn/DOT reached the Scoping Decision, and has developed and distributed the

SDD by mail, in cooperation with Anoka County and Hennepin County.

The Scoping Decision, including written responses to agency comments, will be used as the basis to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), written to evaluate a number of project build alternatives, as well as a no-build alternative. The timing of the recommended future EIS work is not yet known. The purpose of the Scoping phase was to develop long-term broadly-based approaches 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. Therefore, the potential actions addressed in the SDD have included alternatives for a new north-south highway and river crossing and several other proposals, involving possible improvements to existing highways. Based on the Scoping Decision, some of the proposed improvements to existing highways, including upgrades to I-94 and Trunk Highway 101, might also go forward independently from the river crossing EIS.

The SDD describes the alternatives considered and related recommendations in more detail, as well as the potential impacts to be addressed in an EIS. The SDD will be circulated to the agencies on the EQB Distribution List and to agencies that have provided comments. Project documents are also available electronically on the Mn/DOT web site (see: <http://projects.dot.state.mn.us/ch2m/nwstudy>) and will be 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

Further information may also be obtained from: Mr. Brian Isaacson, AICP; Mn/DOT – Metro District; 1500 West County Road B2; Roseville, MN 55113; Telephone 651-582-1659; Fax 651-582-1368; Email: brian.isaacson@dot.state.mn.us

Petitions Filed

The following petitions have 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.

- Project on Little Cormorant Lake, Becker County
- Project on Ice Cracking Lake, Becker County
- Project on Elbow Lake, Becker County
- Residential Development of Big Wolf Lake project, Beltrami County
- Parker Building development, City of Hopkins
- Clearwater Estates, Bay Lake Township, Crow Wing County

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 the EAW notice was published in the EQB Monitor.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Melson Family Farms Swine Finishing Project, September 9, 2004 (August 2, 2004)
- City of Waverly, Woodland Shores, September 13, 2004 (June 21, 2004)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Trunk Highway 169 Crossrange Expressway, from Coleriane to 0.3 Mile East of County State Aid Highway 7, Itasca County, August 6, 2004 (December 22, 2003)
- Elk River City Council, J & B Mining, September 7, 2004 (July 19, 2004)
- Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, Calm Waters Subdivision, September 14, 2004 (August, 2004)
- Department of Administration, Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center, September 14, 2004 (July 19, 2004)
- Minnetonka City Council, Woodgate Pond Water Quality Improvement Project, September 13, 2004 (August 2, 2004)
- City of Winona, Pelzer Street Reconstruction, September 7, 2004 (July 5, 2004)

Notices

Notice of Public Hearing and Availability of Environmental Assessment for the Reconstruction of West Lowry Avenue

Hennepin County encourages the public to attend a public hearing for the proposed reconstruction of Lowry Avenue between Theodore Wirth Parkway and Interstate 94, S.P. 27-753-11 & S.P. 27-753-12, Minn Project Number TEAX 2703 (199). The public hearing will be held on **October 4, 2004**, from **6:00-8:00 PM** at the Lucy Craft Laney School, 3333 Penn Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The proposed reconstruction of Lowry Avenue between Theodore Wirth Parkway and Interstate 94 includes the modification of traffic lanes along Lowry Avenue, intersection improvements, wider sidewalks, on-street bicycle lanes, and landscaped boulevards. The proposed changes to Lowry Avenue will require the purchase of homes and businesses along the corridor, specifically between Colfax Avenue North and 4th Street North, and between Russell Avenue North and Oliver Avenue North. The first phase of reconstruction between Girard Avenue and Interstate 94 is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2006. At the public hearing, maps, drawings, and the Environmental Assessment, including written views received from local, state, and federal agencies will be available for public inspection.

The public hearing will begin with a brief description of the project, including preliminary roadway design, anticipated schedules for right-of-way acquisition, proposed construction schedules, and relocation assistance. The presentation will be followed by the public comment period. The public is encouraged to comment. Comments will be received either written or verbally by a recorder, and will become part of the official public hearing record. The comments will be considered when making future project related decisions. Sign language and oral interpreters can be provided if requested by September 27, 2004 by contacting (612) 348-9260/TTY (612) 596-6985.

Written comments may also be submitted to Lowry Avenue Project, Hennepin County, Department of Housing, Community Works and Transit, 417 N 5th Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1362. **All written comments must be received by October 20, 2004.**

The Environmental Assessment is available for public inspection and copying during business hours at the following locations: Hennepin County Environmental Services Building, 417 North 5th Street Suite 320, Minneapolis and the North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Avenue North, Minneapolis. The Environmental Assessment is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling

the Lowry Avenue Project at (612) 348-9260/ TTY (612) 596-6985.

Department of Natural Resources Lands and Minerals Division Mineland Reclamation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Department of Natural Resources and PolyMet Corporation will be holding a public informational meeting on the proposed PolyMet mining project to be located north of Hoyt Lakes, MN. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3, 2004 at the Hoyt Lakes Community Building, Hoyt Lakes, MN.

The PolyMet Corporation has proposed a nonferrous metallic mineral mining project that involves mining and processing ore for copper and nickel and other associated minerals. Portions of the former LTV taconite plant and surrounding area are expected to be utilized by PolyMet.

The mine pits and stockpile areas are to be located approximately eight miles east of the processing plant.

PolyMet is intending to submit a Permit to Mine application to the Department of Natural Resources as required by *Minnesota Rules Chapter 6132*. For additional information, please call Steve Dewar at (218) 262-7324.

EQB Board Decisions

The Environmental Quality Board met on September 16, 2004 and the following decisions were made:

- *Reassignment of the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) from the MPCA to DNR for the Environmental Review of the Proposed Expansion of the Blandin Paper Mill at Grand Rapids-**Reassigned to the DNR**
- *Route Permit Decision for Xcel Energy's Proposed Lakefield Junction to Fox Lake 161 kV High Voltage Transmission Line-**Route designated and issued a route permit**
- *G. McNeilus Wind Project Site Permit Decision-**Site Permit Issued**
- *Site Permit Decision for Mankato Energy Center, LLC. 655 MW Facility and Pipeline Routing Permit-**Site Permit issued and Pipeline Routing Permit Issued and partial exemption**
- *Authorization to Initiate Formal Rulemaking Process on Mandatory EAW and Exemption Categories for Recreational Trail Projects-**Authorized**



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