



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

Comments due on February 18, 2004

Sunset Acres

Description: Project consists of development of a 280-acre agricultural / wetland / forested parcel into 30 single-family residential lots. Lots to range in size from 5 acres to 17 acres. The proposed dwellings will be served by individual on-site sewer systems and individual wells. Approximately 5200 feet of new township road will be constructed to serve the proposed subdivision.

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

Pine River Ridge

Description: The Pine River Project is a residential sub-division located within an Agricultural and Shoreland District in Pine Lake Township. The project encompasses 295 acres, consisting of 18 tracts of land with an average parcel size of 15.75 acres.

RGU: Pine Lake Township

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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Next issue: February 2, 2004
Submittal deadline: January 26, 2004

Contact: Stephanie Lee, Clerk, Zoning ADM, P.O. Box #67, Finlayson, MN. 55735; 320-233-7610 or 320-233-7232, Fax 320-679-2018 or 715-635-9067 Email salclerkpinetwn@juno.com

WHTH Radio Tower

Description: Construction of a 915 foot-tall radio tower is proposed in southwestern Cass County. The proposed project includes construction of a tower, foundations for the tower and its anchors, a fenced compound, and a communications building. The tower will serve WHTH Christian Radio and future co-locators, including potential cell phone carriers.

RGU: Cass County

Contact: Paul Fairbanks, Environmental Services Director, Cass County Courthouse, P.O. Box 3000, 300 Minnesota Avenue, Walker, Minnesota; 218-547-7287 Fax 218-547-2440.

FINAL AUAR ADOPTED

Chanhassen 2005 Metropolitan Urban Service Area AUAR

Description: The City of Chanhassen has adopted the Final Alternative Urban Areawide Review and Mitigation Plan for its 2005 Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA). The project area includes approximately 624 acres of farmland and open space in the southern portion of the community guided to develop with low to medium density residential, office, office/industrial, park and open spaces uses as guided by the City's Comprehensive Plan. A Chaska School District middle/high school facility is also identified as a possible alternative use for a portion of the site currently guided for office/industrial uses. Bisecting the project area is Bluff Creek, a valuable local and regional natural resource corridor and the future TH 212/312 corridor which crosses through the southeast corner of the project area. The Final AUAR studies impacts and identifies mitigation initiatives to protect or minimize potential negative impacts of development.

Copies of the Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan are available for review at Chanhassen City Hall, 7700 Market Boulevard, Chanhassen MN, 55317

RGU: City of Chanhasen

Contact: Kate Aanenson, Community Development Director, 7700 Market Boulevard, P.O. Box 147, Chanhasen, MN 55317; phone (952) 227-1139; Email: kaanenson@ci.chanhassen.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.

- Ed Schubitzke Borrow Pit, City of Hermantown
- Park Resorts Trailer Park, Hubbard County
- Lake Jessie Meadows Project, Douglas 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 of the EAW notice was published in the EQB Monitor.

- Elbow Lake Municipal Airport, City of Elbow Lake Council, January 5, 2004 (October 13, 2003)
- Hassan Sand and Gravel, Hassan Township Board, January 5, 2004 (November 24, 2003)
- Andersen Corporation Project XL, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, December 26, 2003 (September 15, 2003)
- City of Otsego East Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, January 8, 2004 (July 21, 2003)

FEIS PUBLICATION FOR COMMENTS NOTICE

Q-PRIME AMPHITHEATER

Scott County has reviewed comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Q-Prime Amphitheater project that was released for comment on November 10, 2003. The Final EIS will be prepared and published as set forth herein. The notice of availability of the FEIS will be published in the EQB Monitor on January 19, 2004.

The FEIS will be released for comment on January 23, 2004 and will be mailed to all interested parties as specified in the EQB Rules. Comments must be received before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2004. The FEIS will also be published on the County's Website: <http://www.co.scott.mn.us>, made available in County Libraries and for review in the Community Development Division Office in the County Courthouse in Shakopee.

The Q-Prime EIS Scoping Document was approved by the Scott County Board of Commissioners on May 23, 2000, and subsequently revised on July 3, 2001, to reflect agreements reached with the project proponent in regard to consideration of alternatives in accordance with Minnesota Rule 4410.2100, Subpart 8. The final Scoping Document for the Q-Prime EIS was noticed in the EQB Monitor on September 17, 2001.

For more information, contact Allen Frechette, Environmental Health Manager, Scott County, 200 Fourth Avenue West, Shakopee, MN 55379; (952-496-8354).

Comments on this FEIS must be in writing and may be mailed to the following address: Allen Frechette, Environmental Health Department - Q Prime Deis, Government Center A 208, 200 Fourth Avenue West, Shakopee, Mn 55379-1220, Faxed to: 952-496-8489 or Emailed: QPrimeEIS@co.scott.mn.us

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT EIS AND PUBLIC HEARING

Albert Lea Municipal Airport Proposed Runway 16/34 Improvement Project

A Draft State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared which evaluates a proposed City Airport improvement project. The project includes shifting Runway 16/34 400 feet west of its current location at a length of 5000 feet and improving the existing runway to allow its use as a full-length taxiway to Runway 16/34. This document, which was prepared to satisfy both State EIS and Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements, was distributed by letter dated January 9, 2004. Copies of the document are available for review at the City's Adult Library at the City Center at 221 East Clark Street. Identified impacts include those to floodplain and wetlands.

A Public Hearing will be held at the February 9, 2004 City Council Meeting to consider the economic, social and environmental effects of the development and its consistency with the goals and objectives of such urban planning as has been carried out by the community. The City Council meeting is scheduled at 7:30 pm and will be held in the

Council Chambers at City Hall, 221 E. Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN.

Comments will be accepted through March 1, 2004 and will be considered for inclusion in the Final EIS/EA. Comments may be directed to Laura Morland, P.E., Mead & Hunt, Inc. 6501 Watts Road, Madison, WI. 53719; Email:Laura.Morland@meadhunt.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC, Large Wind Energy Conversion System Martin and Jackson Counties

Certificate of Need Application

Public Meeting

February 3, 2004

Trimont, Minnesota

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC (Trimont), has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a certificate of need for a large wind energy conversion system of approximately 100 megawatts. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board will prepare an Environmental Report on the project. A public meeting will be held at the Trimont Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2004.

a.) **Project Description:** The Trimont Area Wind Farm Project is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of approximately 100 MW comprising up to 67 turbines with a nameplate capacity of

1.5 MW and associated facilities like access roads and power lines. The project will be located in Jackson and Martin Counties, six miles west of the city of Trimont, on approximately 22,400 acres in Kimball and Cedar townships. The project is to be sited in the area surrounding Great River Energy's Lakefield Junction Generating Station, a 550 MW natural gas peaking plant. The project will be connected to the electrical grid at Xcel Energy's Martin County Substation, located at the Lakefield Junction Generating Station.

The turbine manufacturer is General Electric Company. The wind turbines will be 80 meters high at the hub and the blades will have a rotor diameter of either 70.5 or 77 meters. At the base of each turbine will be a "step-up" transformer. A network of access roads and underground power and communication cables will also be installed.

b.) **Certificate of Need Application** The Trimont wind project is a "large energy facility" as defined in Minnesota Statutes

§ 216B.2421, subp. 2, and a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required for such a project under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243. Trimont filed a certificate of need application with the PUC on November 18, 2003. PUC Docket No. IP-6339/CN-03-1841. The PUC accepted the application as complete with the supplemental information that was filed Monday, January 12, 2004.

The PUC has authorized the holding of a contested case hearing on the application. An administrative law judge will be assigned to preside at the hearing. The actual hearing will be held shortly after the EQB completes preparation of the Environmental Report. The PUC has six months from January 12 to complete the process and make a decision on the certificate of need application. Under state law, the PUC proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility will be considered. These items will not be readdressed in the EQB Site Permit process.

c.) **EQB Environmental Report** Under Minnesota Rules parts 4410.7010 to 4410.7070, the EQB is responsible for preparing an Environmental Report on any proposed large energy facility for which a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243. The Environmental Report is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed facility, alternatives to the project, and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The Environmental Report must be prepared before the PUC can make a decision on the certificate of need application.

The Environmental Quality Board will provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the determination of the scope of the Environmental Report. Public comment can be made to the address below until February 24, 2004. Once the scope is determined, the EQB will prepare the Environmental Report by no later than May 12, 2004. The Environmental Report will be introduced into the record at the hearing and the EQB staff will be available to answer questions about information in the Report.

d.) **Public Meeting** The EQB will hold a public information meeting on the project at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, in the Trimont Community Room, 41 2nd Avenue NW, Trimont, Minnesota. The purpose of the public meeting is to inform the public of the Trimont project and to gather public input into the scope of the Environmental Report. The meeting provides the public with an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to suggest alternatives and impacts to address in the Environmental Report.

e.) **Available Information** All pertinent information regarding this matter, including the certificate of need application and the Environmental Report when it is completed, can be accessed at <http://www.eqb.mn.us> or by contacting David Birkholz at 651.296.2878 or at EQB, 658 Cedar Street, 300 Centennial Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155.

f.) **Eminent Domain** Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC, does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for this project.

g.) **Mailing List** Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the EQB for future mailings regarding the Trimont project. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Birkholz or electronically by visiting the EQB website:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=5208>

EQB Wind Site Permit

Trimont will also be applying to the Environmental Quality Board for a Wind Site Permit for the project. The EQB will administer the permit application under the wind rules, Minnesota Rules chapter 4401, at the same time it is preparing the Environmental Report for the PUC process. A draft site permit will be available a few weeks following the actual application. The EQB will use the same mailing list created for the certificate of need application to notify interested persons of matters regarding the permit.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION BY XCEL ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF A MINOR ALTERATION TO A TRANSMISSION LINE IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY

Xcel Energy has applied to the Environmental Quality Board for approval to reroute a short portion of a 115 kilovolt transmission line near the Willmar substation in Kandiyohi County. Xcel intends to remove fourteen structures on the north side of the substation and reroute the line along an existing transmission line parallel to 45th Avenue S.W. in Willmar on the south side. This reroute of the line will eliminate fourteen structures along the existing alignment on the north side of the substation. There is other work going on at the Willmar substation, including the rebuild of a 115 kV line to Kerkhoven and the relocation of a 230 kV line to Paynesville.

Xcel maintains that the relocation of the line constitutes a minor alteration of an existing line. A minor alteration is a change in an existing transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility. In accordance with EQB rules, part 4400.3820, the EQB Chair is providing notice to the public that Xcel has applied for approval of this project. The public has until

February 6, 2004, to submit comments on this project. After close of the comment period, the Chair will decide whether to grant the request for approval of a minor alteration, bring the matter to the Board for decision, or to require that a full permit be applied for.

To submit comments or to ask questions or to seek further information about this proposed project, please contact David Birkholz (651) 296-2878 or Alan Mitchell at (651) 296-3714, or email at david.birkholz@state.mn.us or alan.mitchell@state.mn.us

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF REVISIONS TO THE MN FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL'S TIMBER HARVESTING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (Council) is requesting public review and comment on the proposed revisions to the timber harvesting and forest management (TH/FM) guidelines. The TH/FM guidelines were published in April 1999 as part of the process to promote sustainable forest management in Minnesota through implementation of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act of 1995. The Act requires the Council to complete a review of the guidelines and approve any changes by June 30, 2005.

The Council has identified TH/FM guideline issue areas that are being considered for review. These include:

- Improvement of some guideline definitions.
- Clarification of the filter strip recommendations.
- Providing examples of silvicultural prescriptions and guideline application flexibility.
- Development of site infrastructure.
- Additional emphasis on minimizing soil compaction, considerations for soil operability, and minimizing site rutting.
- Modifications to erosion control practice recommendations for roads and skid trails.
- Modifications of seasonal pond recommendations.
- Clarification of the use of leave tree clumps for wildlife habitat.
- Desirability of linking site level guideline recommendations to the broader landscape/cumulative perspectives.
- Establishing a minimum size of open water wetland for requirement of a riparian management zone.

Members of the public wanting to review and provide comment on the proposed changes to the TH/FM guidelines

can view the current guidelines on the Council web site (www.frc.state.mn.us) and can receive a copy of the proposed changes to the TH/FM guidebook by contacting: Mike Phillips, MN Forest Resources Council, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4044; 651-297-4924 Fax 651-296-5954 Email: mike.phillips@dnr.state.mn.us

Written comments must be received by Mike Phillips by Friday, April 16, 2004.

NOTICE OF CONTRACT

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Notice of Availability of Contract for: **Monitoring implementation of timber harvesting and forest management guidelines on public and private forestland in Minnesota**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is requesting proposals for the purpose of collecting field data to document and evaluate the application of the timber harvesting and forest management guidelines on randomly selected timber-harvesting sites on public and private forestland in Minnesota. For purposes of this project, forestland ownership categories in Minnesota are state, county, USDA Forest Service, other public agency, forest industry, non-industrial private forest, and American Indian land. The selected harvest sites will be located throughout all regions of the state.

Work is proposed to start after April 15, 2004.

A Request for Proposals will be available by mail from this office through January 23, 2004. **A written request (by direct mail or fax) is required to receive the Request for Proposal.** After January 23, 2004, the Request for Proposal must be picked up in person.

The Request for Proposal can be obtained from: Rick Dahlman, BMP Program Coordinator, DNR/Division of Forestry, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4044; 651-296-6502 Fax: (651) 296-5954 Email: rick.dahlman@dnr.state.mn.us

Proposals submitted in response to the Request for Proposals in this advertisement must be received at the address above **NO LATER** than 4:00 p.m. on Monday February 16, 2004. Late proposals will not be accepted. Fx or e-mailed proposals will **not** be considered.

This request does not obligate the State to complete the work contemplated in this notice. The State reserves the right to cancel this solicitation. All expenses incurred in responding to this notice are solely the responsibility of the responder.



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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: <mailto:egb.monitor@state.mn.us>
