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# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: December 15, 2010

**Project Title:** Northwoods Regional OHV Trail Project (Phase 2 of Aitkin/Itasca 70-Mile Trail project)

**Description:** The project connects three existing recreational trails in an extensive, quality ATV/OHV trail system in Aitkin and Itasca Counties, Minnesota. The new designated trail is designed to be environmentally sensitive, economically beneficial, and community supported. A project goal is to reduce natural resource impacts associated with unregulated cross-country travel.

**RGU:** Aitkin County

**Contact Person:**

Terry Neff, Director  
Aitkin County Environmental Services  
209 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
Phone: 218-927-7342  
Fax: 218-927-4372  
Email: [tneff@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:tneff@co.aitkin.mn.us)

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 posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>.

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 on the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board  
658 Cedar St., 300 Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1388  
Phone: 651-201-2480  
Fax: 651-296-3698  
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

**Project Title: Wayzata Yacht Club and Wayzata Community Sailing Center (Sites 2 and 3)**

**Description:** This project involves multiple dock facilities on Wayzata Bay. Wayzata Yacht Club and Wayzata Community Sailing Center propose to consolidate two of their five existing sites, with increased Boat Storage Units (BSUs) at consolidated Site 2 (existing Sites 2 and 4); to increase the number of BSUs from 27 to 33 at Site 3; and to make a number of changes to the parking areas buildings.

**RGU:** Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD)

**Contact Person:**

Gregory S. Nybeck  
Executive Director  
23505 Smithtown Road (Suite 120)  
Shorewood, MN 55331

**Project Title: SHRWD Project No. 24 – Improvements, Laterals, and Outlet Extensions to Polk County Ditch No. 77 including Branches 1 and 2**

**Description:** This project is located in the southwestern part of Polk County, near Nielsville. Public Drainage Systems Polk County Ditch No's 77 & 166 have insufficient capacity and outlets. The Project proposes to improve said ditches and extend outlets into a tributary of the Red River of the North and the Sand Hill River, respectively. The project also proposes to add lateral ditches to both drainage systems.

**RGU:** Sand Hill River Watershed District

The documents may be downloaded at <http://www.sandhillwatershed.org/>.

**Contact Person:**

Daniel Wilkens, Administrator  
Sand Hill River Watershed District  
106 Stephen Drive NW  
Fertile, MN 56540  
Phone: 218-945-3204  
Fax: 218-945-3213  
Email: shrwd@gvtel.com

**DRAFT EA and PUBLIC HEARING****Project Title: County Road 96 and US Highway 10 Grade Separation Project**

Ramsey County encourages the public to attend a Public Hearing for the proposed Grade Separation of County Road 96 and US Highway 10 (S.P. 62-696-26 and 62-596-03). The proposed project is located in the City of Arden Hills, Ramsey County, Minnesota. The Open House and Public Hearing will be held Wednesday,

December 1, 2010 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Ramsey County Public Works building located at 1425 Paul Kirkwold Dr.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to inform the public about the project, and to encourage the public to comment and ask questions. Maps, drawings, and other pertinent information will be available for public inspection and copying including the Draft Environmental Assessment, other project documents, and written views received from local, state, and federal agencies. During the Open House the public will be able to discuss the project in an informal matter with Ramsey County and Mn/DOT officials. 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 decisions.

The proposed scope of the project includes the grade separation of the at-grade Hwy 10/County Rd 96 intersection and construction of ramps for westbound County Rd 96 to northbound Hwy 10 and southbound Hwy 10 to County Rd 96. The project also includes reconstruction of approximately 1/3 mile of County Road 96 east of I-35W as a four-lane divided roadway, signalized intersections at Round Lake Road W and Old Highway 10, a pedestrian/bicycle trail, and a sidewalk.

The Draft Environmental Assessment documents the purpose and need of the project along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts. Copies are available for public viewing during business hours at the following locations:

Minnesota Department of Transportation  
Room 175 Transportation Building  
395 John Ireland Boulevard  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Ramsey County Public Works  
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive  
Arden Hills, Minnesota 55112

Shoreview Library  
4570 N. Victoria Street  
Shoreview, MN 55123

Arden Hills Library  
1941 W. County Road E-2  
Arden Hills, MN 55112

Comments can be mailed, prior to the close of the public comment period on December 15, 2010, to *Nancy Hanzlik*, Project Manager, at *Bonestroo 2335 W Highway 36, St Paul, MN 55113*.

#### **Accessibility and ASL for the Public Hearing**

For accessibility or ASL, please make your request by November 26, 2010

To request an ASL interpreter, call 651-366-4720.

To request other reasonable accommodation(s) call 651-604-4728.

Or email your request (for either of above) to [ADArequest@state.mn.us](mailto:ADArequest@state.mn.us).

**Documents – Alternative Format**

To request any document in an alternative format, call 651-604-4728 or email [nancy.hanzlik@bonestroo.com](mailto:nancy.hanzlik@bonestroo.com).

**Hearing Impaired**

To reach any of the above numbers, hearing impaired persons can call the Minnesota Relay Service toll free at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY, Voice or ASCII) or 711.

## FEIS AVAILABLE

**Project Title: Keetac Mine Expansion Project**

**Description:** The Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) has prepared a joint state-federal final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Keetac Mine Expansion Project. U.S. Steel Corporation is the project proposer.

The Proposed Project includes expanding an open-pit taconite mine, restarting an idle indurating line and upgrading plant components. The mine pit, and waste rock and overburden stockpile areas would be expanded. The tailings basin would grow vertically and the footprint would increase slightly. Tailings thickeners would be added. Additional haul trucks, shovels and other equipment would be put into service. A woody biomass facility would be added. New air emissions control technologies would be added as well as plant energy efficiency technologies.

The Proposed Project would increase Keetac's annual iron pellet production output by 3.6 million tons to a total output of 9.6 million tons per year. Iron ore pellets would be transported to offsite steel production facilities. The Proposed Project would be located near the City of Keewatin on the border of St. Louis and Itasca counties. The Proposed Project would begin in approximately the year 2013.

The final EIS discusses potential environmental impacts from the Proposed Project, a no action alternative, a stockpile alternative and options for stationary air emissions controls. The document also considers mitigation of adverse effects.

The final EIS is posted on the MNDNR website at the following address:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/keetac/index.html>

The final EIS is available at the following locations:

- MNDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W. Superior St., Duluth
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis
- Hibbing Public Library, 2020 E 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hibbing
- Keewatin Public Library, 125 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West, Keewatin
- Legislative Reference Library, 645 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul

The final EIS, executive summary, or a compact disc containing the final EIS may be requested using the contact information below.

**Public Comment:** The MNDNR and USACE invite comments on the final EIS during the public comment period that ends December 20, 2010 at 4:30 PM. Comments should address the adequacy of the final EIS. An adequacy determination will be made by the MNDNR following the public comment period. The final EIS shall be determined adequate if it:

- A. Addresses the potentially significant issues and alternatives raised in scoping so that all significant issues for which information can be reasonably obtained have been analyzed in conformance with Minnesota Rules, part 4410.2300, items G and H;
- B. Provides responses to the substantive comments received during the draft EIS review concerning issues raised in scoping; and
- C. Was prepared in compliance with the procedures of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act and Minnesota Rules, parts 4410.0200 to 4410.6500.

Written comments may be sent to the contact listed below or to this email address: [environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us). The words, "Keetac Mine Expansion Project" must be in the subject line of the email. All emails should include a name and legal mailing address.

**RGU:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Contact Person:**

Erik Carlson, Principal Planner  
Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025  
Ph: (651) 259-5162  
[erik.carlson@state.mn.us](mailto:erik.carlson@state.mn.us)

## EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparations 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, Bailey Lake Trunk Sanitary Sewer, Woodbury, November 1, 2010 (August 23, 2010)
- Hubbard County Board, Common Interest Community Plat No. 28, Little Sand Bay Villas, A Planned Community, November 3, 2010 (September 20, 2010)

## EIS ADEQUACY DECISION

**Project Title: US Highway 14 Improvement Project**

On November 3, 2010 the Minnesota Department of Transportation determined that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for improvements to Minnesota Trunk Highway/US Highway 14 between Owatonna and Dodge Center in Dodge and Steele Counties is adequate. This decision completes the Minnesota environmental review process as found in Minnesota Rules 4410. The record supporting the Adequacy Determination is available via the internet at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14>. Those without internet access may obtain a hard copy by contacting Project Manager Heather Lukes at 507/286-7694. Notification has been provided to the EIS distribution list and others.

**Project Title: Minnesota Truck Highway 371, Cass and Crow Wing Counties**

As the Responsible Government Unit, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has determined that the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) for the reconstruction of Trunk Highway (TH) 371 in Cass and Crow Wing Counties is adequate. This notice of the adequacy determination is being distributed pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4410.2800, subpart 6.

As described in Minnesota Rules 4410.3000, subpart 5.# and 4410.2800, subpart 4, a final EIS shall be determined adequate if it:

- a. Addresses the potentially significant issues and alternatives raised in scoping so that all significant issues for which information can be reasonably obtained have been analyzed;
- b. Provides responses to the substantive comments received during the draft EIS review concerning issues raised in scoping; and
- c. Was prepared in compliance with the procedures of the act and parts 4410.0200 to 4410.6500.

All conditions specified above have been satisfied. The record of this decision is found in the Adequacy Determination document, which can be reviewed at the following locations:

- Mn/DOT District 3 – Baxter Office, 7694 Industrial Park Road, Baxter, Minnesota
- Kitchigami Regional Library, 212 Park Avenue, Pine River, Minnesota
- Pequot Lakes Public Library, 4638 County Road 11, Pequot Lakes, Minnesota
- Brainerd Public Library, 416 Fifth Street South, Brainerd, Minnesota
- Pine River City Hall, 200 Front Street North, Pine River, Minnesota
- Nisswa City Hall, Post Office Box 410, Nisswa, Minnesota
- Pequot Lake City Hall, 4638 County Road 11, Pequot Lakes, Minnesota
- Jenkins City Hall, 33861 Cottage Avenue, Jenkins, Minnesota

The document can also be view on the Minnesota Department of Transportation Web site at:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d3/projects/hwy371/index.html>.

Requests for a copy of this document may be made by contacting the Baxter office at 218-828-5700 or 1-800-657-3971.

## NOTICES

### STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

#### NOTICE OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT ISSUANCE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**In the Matter of the Application of Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC for a 41 Megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties**

**PUC Docket No. IP6846/WS-10-798**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) will hold a public information meeting on the application by Lake Country Wind Energy, LLC (Lake Country), to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a site permit to build and operate a 41 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) near Atwater, Minnesota.

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**  
Wednesday, December 1, 2010 – 6:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center  
107 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North  
Atwater, Minnesota 56209  
(320) 974-8599

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The purpose of the public information meeting is to provide information about the proposed project and to solicit public comment on the site permit application submitted by Lake Country and the draft site permit issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit. Representatives of Lake Country will be present to answer questions about the proposed project.

**Public Comments.** In addition to receiving comments at the public information meeting, EFP staff will also accept written comments on the proposed project, site permit application, and draft site permit until **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 15, 2010**. Please include Docket Number IP6846/WS-10-798 on your comments. Comments should be mailed, faxed, or emailed to:

Scott Ek  
State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198  
Fax: (651) 297-7891  
Email: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us)

**Project Description.** The project is a proposed 41 megawatt (MW) wind farm to be located on approximately 16,047 acres of agricultural land in Kandiyohi and Meeker counties, near the city of Atwater, Minnesota. Lake Country, in its LWECS Site Permit Application, designated 16,047 acres of land as the project area. Upon completion of the project, approximately 19.4 acres of the 16,047 acres would be converted to turbines and associated infrastructure, as indicated by Lake Country.

Lake Country anticipates using an array of 20 REpower 2.05 MW MM92 wind turbines. The turbines would consist of 328 foot towers with 269 foot diameter rotors for a maximum wind turbine height of 479 feet. The project would also require the following associated facilities as identified in the permit application:

- pad mount transformers;
- collection lines;
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) communication lines;



- a project substation with switching and protection equipment, metering equipment, a small control house, and a 48 K transformer;
- turbine access roads;
- two temporary meteorological towers and one permanent meteorological tower; and
- an operations and maintenance facility (1 to 2 buildings with an approximate footprint of 3,000 to 5,000 square feet).

The project would interconnect to an existing Xcel Energy 69 kV transmission line with a proposed project substation in section 6 of Acton Township in Meeker County.

As indicated in the site permit application, Lake Country intends on commencing construction of the LWECS in August 2012, with commercial operation by December 31, 2012.

**Review Process.** EFP staff, on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the permit review process for this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules 7854).

On August 4, 2010, Lake Country filed an application with the Commission for a site permit to build and operate a LWECS near Atwater, Minnesota. The Commission accepted the site permit application as complete on September 9, 2010. EFP staff solicited comments on issues to be considered in developing a draft site permit for this project until October 4, 2010. Staff prepared a draft site permit for consideration by the Commission. On October 22, 2010, the Commission issued an Order approving the draft site permit for distribution and public comment and authorized the EFP staff to implement the public participation process outlined in Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. Upon completion of this process, the EFP staff will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision. Under the LWECS siting process, environmental review is incorporated into the development of the site permit application and the site permit itself; there is no separate environmental review document prepared on the project.

**Contested Case Hearing Request.** Any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the LWECS pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with the Commission in writing by 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 15, 2010.

The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the contested case hearing will aid the Commission in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

**Eminent Domain.** Lake Country does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the LWECS facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and Lake Country.

**Project Documents.** Electronic versions of the site permit application, the draft site permit and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Commission's website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=29189> and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter "10" and "798" docket number).



A hard copy of the LWECS Application and Draft Site Permit are also available for public review at the at the Auditor's Offices in Kandiyohi and Meeker counties; the city offices in Atwater; the township offices in Acton, Harrison, and Genessee townships, and at the public library in the city of Atwater.

**Mailing List.** Persons interested in adding their names to the mailing list for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#MailingLists>.

**Project Contacts.** For more information about the permit process and the proposed project please contact:

Scott Ek, State Permit Manager  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-8813  
[scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us)

Jamie MacAlister, Public Advisor  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 297-1335  
[jamie.macalister@state.mn.us](mailto:jamie.macalister@state.mn.us)

Questions about the LWECS permit application may also be directed to Lake Country by contacting the company's representatives, Mr. Chuck Burdick (612) 746-6338 or [cburdick@nationalwind.com](mailto:cburdick@nationalwind.com)

## STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

### NOTICE OF PERMIT DECISION

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a 345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County,  
South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota**

**PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474**

At meetings on July 13 and 15, 2010, and in an Order issued September 14, 2010, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued a high-voltage transmission line route permit for Sections 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line project to be located in Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Redwood, Renville, Scott, and Dakota counties and determined that the Environmental Impact Statement had adequately addressed the issues identified in the Scoping Decision for those Sections. Section 4, which would connect the Cedar Mountain Substation in Renville County on the west to the Helena Substation in Le Sueur County in the east, was remanded back to the Administrative Law Judge for further contested case proceedings in a separate Order issued by the Commission on July 27, 2010.

If you have any questions about this project or would like more information, please contact the Office of Energy Security state permit manager: Scott Ek, 85 - 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101, phone: (651) 296-8813, e-mail: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us).

Documents relative to this project may be viewed on the Commission's website:  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19860>