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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: July 14, 2010

Project Title: Two Harbors Public Water Access Reconstruction Project

Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) proposes to reconstruct the existing public boat access at Agate Bay on Lake Superior, in the City of Two Harbors. The reconstruction will provide improvements including 3 concrete launch ramps, a new launch ramp dock, a new kayak access dock/ramp, a crib dock, recreation/pedestrian trails, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility, parking for vehicles/trailers, stormwater treatment, and a vault toilet building.

The MDNR will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to Randall Doneen, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4025. Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us with "Two Harbors Public Water Access Reconstruction EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, please include your name and mailing address.

Public review copies of the EAW are available at the following locations:

- MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155;
- MDNR Regional Headquarters, 1201 E. Highway 2, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, 55744
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401;
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802; and
- Two Harbors Public Library, 320 Waterfront Drive, Two Harbors, MN 55616-1534

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>

The EAW is also posted on the MDNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us. (Click on "Public Input", then under the "Environmental Review" scroll-down list select "Two Harbors Public Water Access Reconstruction EAW"). Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-5156.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person:

Randall Doneen
EAW Project Manager
Environmental Policy and Review Unit
Division of Ecological Resources
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Project Title: ISD 2142, Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 North School Development

Description: The project involves the construction of a new pre-kindergarten through grade 12 public school complex for 650 students located in northern rural St. Louis County. The project includes a single story classroom and administration building, accessory buildings, parking lots, roads, sidewalks, athletic fields, water and septic system, and lighting fixtures.

RGU: St. Louis County Planning & Development Department

Contact Person:

Scott Smith
Land Use Manager
100 Missabe Bldg. 227 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-725-5005
Fax: 218-725-5029
Email: smiths@co.st-louis.mn.us

Project Title: Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail – Edina Segment

Description: Plan a multi-use, paved 10' wide regional trail through the City of Edina with connections to the Edina High School campus, Edina Promenade, greater regional trail system, employment centers, residential areas, and other regional destinations.

RGU: Three Rivers Park District

Contact Person:

Kelly Grissman
Senior Manager of Planning
3000 Xenium Lane North

Plymouth, MN 55441
Phone: 763-694-7635
Fax: 763-557-5248
Email: kgrissman@threeriversparkdistrict.org

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Title: Interstate 94 Capacity Improvement Project, Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) is proposing to construct additional travel lanes in each direction of Interstate 94 between Trunk Highway 280 and 5th/6th Streets. This action will also involve correcting the existing geometric problems that exist between Vandalia Street and Trunk Highway 55/Hiwatha Avenue. These improvements will provide congestion relief, improve safety and provide advantages for transit.

Copies of the EA, which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning **June 14, 2010**, at the following locations:

- Mn/DOT's Metro District Building, 1500 West County Road B-2, Roseville, MN
- Minneapolis Central Library, Government Docs. – 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN
- Mn/DOT Library, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155
- Franklin Library, 1314 E. Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404,
- Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104
- A link to a pdf-file containing the EA will also be placed on Mn/DOT's web page at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i94resurfacing/index.html>

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EA, a public hearing has been scheduled for June 29, 2010 at Augsburg College's Kennedy Center, Room 303/305 located at 715 23rd Avenue South in Minneapolis from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Mn/DOT Project Manager (see below) or the Minnesota Relay Service at the telephone numbers listed below.

The EA can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling Scott Pedersen Project Manager, at (651) 234-7726 or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 or (651) 296-9930 TTY.

Copies of the EA are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on **June 14, 2010**. Comments will be accepted through **July 14, 2010**.

Written comments should be submitted to Richard Dalton, Environmental Coordinator, Mn/DOT – Metro Division, 1500 West County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113-3174, Phone 651-234-7677, richard.dalton@state.mn.us

Project Proposer: Minnesota Department of Transportation

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:

Scott Pedersen

Project Manager

Mn/DOT Metro District

1500 West County Road B2

Roseville, MN 55113-3174

Phone: 651-234-7726

Email: scott.pedersen@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 Department of Transportation, Northbound I-35W Express Lane Extension Project, June 1, 2010 (February 22, 2010)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Cooperative Mineral Resources Bulk Sample Project, May 24, 2010 (February 22, 2010)
- City of Plymouth, Plymouth Creek Stream Bank Stabilization Project, May 25, 2010 (April 5, 2010)

PETITION 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.

- Wright County, Dean Lake Preserve project

NOTICES

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Public Notice: Aerial Application of Herbicides
Division of Forestry**

The MN Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is planning to aerially apply herbicides on state lands. Herbicide applications will occur on approximately 595 acres and involve 14 individual sites. These applications will be used to prepare sites for the planting of trees as well as for the release of planted trees from

overtopping and competing vegetation. Aerial application will begin on approximately August 15 and end on approximately September 12, 2010.

Administrative Area	# Sites	Acres	Herbicides
Blackduck	1	18	Accord, Garlon
Deer River	1	7	Accord, Oust
Littlefork	3	47	Accord, Oust
Orr	2	33	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Park Rapids	1	22	Accord
Tower	1	39	Garlon, Oust
Two Harbors	5	429	Accord, Oust
TOTALS	14	595	

For further information regarding this project, contact:

Bill Schnell, Forest Management Aerial Program Leader
MN DNR Forestry
1201 E. Hwy 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-999-7842

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security

Issued: May 27, 2010

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

In the Matter of the
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
Minnesota Power
HVTL Route Permit Application
Essar Steel Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Number: E280/TL-09-512

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Essar Steel Transmission Line Project.

Copies of the FEIS can be obtained through the OES Project Manager and maybe viewed at the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) web site:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24526>

Copies will also be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

Hibbing Public Library 2020 East 5 th Ave Hibbing, MN 55746 218-362-5959	Calumet Library Gary Street & 3 rd Ave. Calumet, MN 55716 218-247-3108
Grand Rapids Library 140 NE 2 nd St. Grand Rapids, MN 218-326-7640	Keewatin Public Library 125 W 3 rd Ave Keewatin, MN 55753 218-778-6377

Project Description

NPUC and MP propose to construct four 230 kV transmission lines and two 230 kV substations. The purpose of the project is to supply reliable electric power to a single source entity - Essar Steel Minnesota (ESM). ESM has obtained state approvals to reactivate the former Butler Taconite mine by developing new facilities, including a taconite pellet plant and steel production plant. The Essar taconite pellet facility is expected to commence initial operation by early 2011, with initial steel plant operation planned for early 2014, at which time the projected demand would be approximately 300 megawatts. Although not committed to, ESM has site approvals for a second steel slab melt line, which would increase the ESM facilities' total electric power requirements to approximately 500-550 megawatts if constructed and at full operation.

The four routes would require approximately 37 miles of new transmission lines.

Additional information on the route permitting process is available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

Project Documents

A more detailed explanation of the proposed project is contained in the NPUC/MP route permit application. An electronic version of the application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24526> or on eDockets by entering "09" and "512" at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651- 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

Issued: June 9, 2010

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING,
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT,**

AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT
In the Matter of the Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC, Applications for a Certificate of Need and
Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the Pleasant Valley Wind Project
in Dodge and Mower Counties.

Certificate of Need Docket Number: IP-6828/CN-09-937
Site Permit Docket Number: IP-6828/WS-09-1197

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the applications of Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC (Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. (RES Americas), for a certificate of need and site permit for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project (Project). The hearing will address: (a) whether the proposed project is needed and in the public interest, and (b) issues related to the proposed siting of the project. The hearing will be held at the following time and location:

Thursday, July 1, 2010
6:30 p.m.
Austin High School Cafeteria
301 3rd Street Northwest
Austin, Minnesota 55912

Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Manuel J. Cervantes from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the need for the Project or the proposed site can do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Cervantes: Manuel Cervantes, Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620; (fax) 651-361-7936.

Written Comments. Written comments should be submitted to Judge Cervantes at the address listed above. Comments will be accepted through **July 16, 2010**. Mailed comments must be postmarked by this date. Faxed and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on this date.

Environmental Report. The Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting, has completed and issued an environmental report for the proposed Pleasant Valley Wind Project (see "Project Contacts and Information" below). The environmental report addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives.

Draft Site Permit. The Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting, prepared a draft site permit for consideration by the Commission. On April 23, 2010, the Commission issued an order approving the draft site permit for distribution and public comment.

Purpose and Conduct of the Hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input on or about the Project from members of the local community and general public. During the public hearing, members of the public may offer either oral or written testimony, offer exhibits for inclusion in the public hearing record, and ask questions of the applicant and agency representatives. Any person who wishes to ask questions, but does not

want to ask the questions personally, may submit them in writing to the ALJ who will then ask the question during the hearing.

Interested persons may comment on the certificate of need and site permit applications, environmental report, draft site permit, or on the project generally. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If needed, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ. At the close of written comment period, Judge Cervantes will prepare a written summary of the comments received at the hearing and file it with the Commission which will consider them in its deliberations of the certificate of need and site permit applications.

Request for Accommodation. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

Project Description

Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC, proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 300 MW using between 130 and 200 utility scale wind turbine generators, depending on what turbines are ultimately selected. Turbines between 1.5 MW and 2.3 MW in nameplate capacity are under consideration and a rotor diameter of 82.5 meters (270 feet) and 101 meters (331 feet), respectively. Each turbine model has a hub height of 80 meters (262 feet). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, six temporary and two permanent meteorological towers, electrical collection system, three substations, and three transmission lines. The Applicant expects to begin commercial operation in December 2012.

Proposed Site Location

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 70,000 acres located in southern Dodge and northern Mower counties in Hayfield and Vernon townships of Dodge County and Waltham, Sargeant, Pleasant Valley, Red Rock, and Dexter townships of Mower County. The Project area is located six miles northeast of the city of Austin and approximately 15 miles west of Rochester. Approximately 52,000 acres within the Project area are under the Applicant's control via wind easements.

Eminent Domain for Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC

The Applicant 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 facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicant.

Authority and Statement of Issues to Be Decided. In order to proceed with this Project, the Applicant must obtain both a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statute section 216B.243, subdivision 2, to issue a certificate of need for a large energy facility if the Applicant can prove that there is a need for the Project. A certificate of need is a state permit that is issued upon a determination that construction of an energy facility is in the public interest.

The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 216E.02 to designate sites and issue site permits for certain projects. When the Commission designates a site, it issues a site permit for the construction of a project specifying the design, location, preparation, and operation of the facility, along with any other appropriate conditions it deems necessary. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes sections

216B.243, subdivision 4, and 216F.05, subdivision 3, to hold public meetings and hearings on such applications.

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 Rule 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Judge Cervantes in writing by 4:30 p.m. on July 16, 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 it in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the Project. Upon completion of the public participation and hearing process, the record created will be presented to the Commission for final decisions on the applications.

Project Contacts and Information. For more information on the **Certificate of Need**, please contact:

Bret Eknes
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,
121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147,
(651) 201-2236
bret.eknes@state.mn.us.

For additional information regarding the **Site Permit** application, or to place your name on the project mailing list maintained for this project, please contact

Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-297-7039
Fax: 651-297-7891
ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us

Larry Hartman, Public Advisor
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-296-5089
Fax: 651-297-7891
larry.hartman@state.mn.us

A copy of the certificate of need application can be found on the Commission's eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "09" and the number "937"). The LWECs site permit application and draft site permit can be found on the eDockets website (enter the year "09" and the number "1197").

Copies of the site permit application, draft site permit, environmental report, and other relevant documents, including Minnesota statutes and rules governing the site permitting process, are also available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25724>

Copies of the site permit and certificate of need applications are also available for review at the: Auditor's Offices in Dodge and Mower counties; City Offices in Sargeant, Hayfield, Waltham, Brownsdale, and Dexter; Township Clerks of Hayfield, Vernon, Waltham, Sargeant, Pleasant Valley, Red Rock, Dexter, and Rock Dell; and the Grand Meadow Library in Mower County and the Dodge Center Public Library in Dodge County.

Questions about the Pleasant Valley Wind, LLC, LWECS Site Permit Application can also be directed to the applicants by contacting:

Joseph Grennan

Permitting Director

Renewable Energy Systems Americas, Inc.

11101 W. 120th Ave., Suite 400

Broomfield, CO 80021

(303) 439-4281

joe.grennan@res-americas.com

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