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Submittal Deadline: April 9, 2012
Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

EQB MONITOR

EIS NEED DECISION

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*.

- Scott County, Great Plains Sands Non-Metallic Mineral Mining Operation, Louisville and Sand Creek Townships, March 13, 2012 (September 5, 2011)

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.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Iron Augmentation in Rush Lake, Chisago County

AUAR UPDATE ADOPTED

Project Title: County State Aid Highway 42/Akron, Rosemount

The County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 42/Akron AUAR Update was sent to review agencies on February 6, 2012. The comment period ended March 7, 2012. The City of Rosemount City Council adopted Resolution #2012-18 adopting the AUAR Update for this study area on March 20, 2012.

RGU: City of Rosemount

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
520 Lafayette Road – 4th Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2873
Fax: 651-297-2343
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

NOTICES

Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

Project Title: Tamarac Line, LLC 115kV Transmission Line-Clay and Otter Tail County

Description: Tamarac Line, LLC proposes an approximately 8.5-mile, 115kV, single-circuit transmission line (Project) to serve as a feeder line for a less than 50 MW large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) permitted under a separate permitting authority. The Project will run from the LWECS substation near 120th Ave. S. and County Road 125 (280th Street South) in Clay County to the existing Tamarac Substation near the intersection of State Highway 34 and 183rd Avenue in Scambler Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota (see attached map). In Clay County the line runs through Sections 1 and 2, T137N, R44W and Sections 35 and 36, T138N, R44W. In Otter Tail County the line is located in Sections 4, 5, 6, 9, 16, 21, and 28, T137N, R43W. The Project will be designed using single pole, horizontal- or braced-post structures of wood or weathering steel. The poles will be 60-75-feet in height with a span length of 300 to 400 feet.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project, entitled Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Tamarac 115kV Transmission Line, is available for review by contacting Tim Magnusson at Clay County Planning and Zoning, Clay County Courthouse, 807 11th Street North, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560.

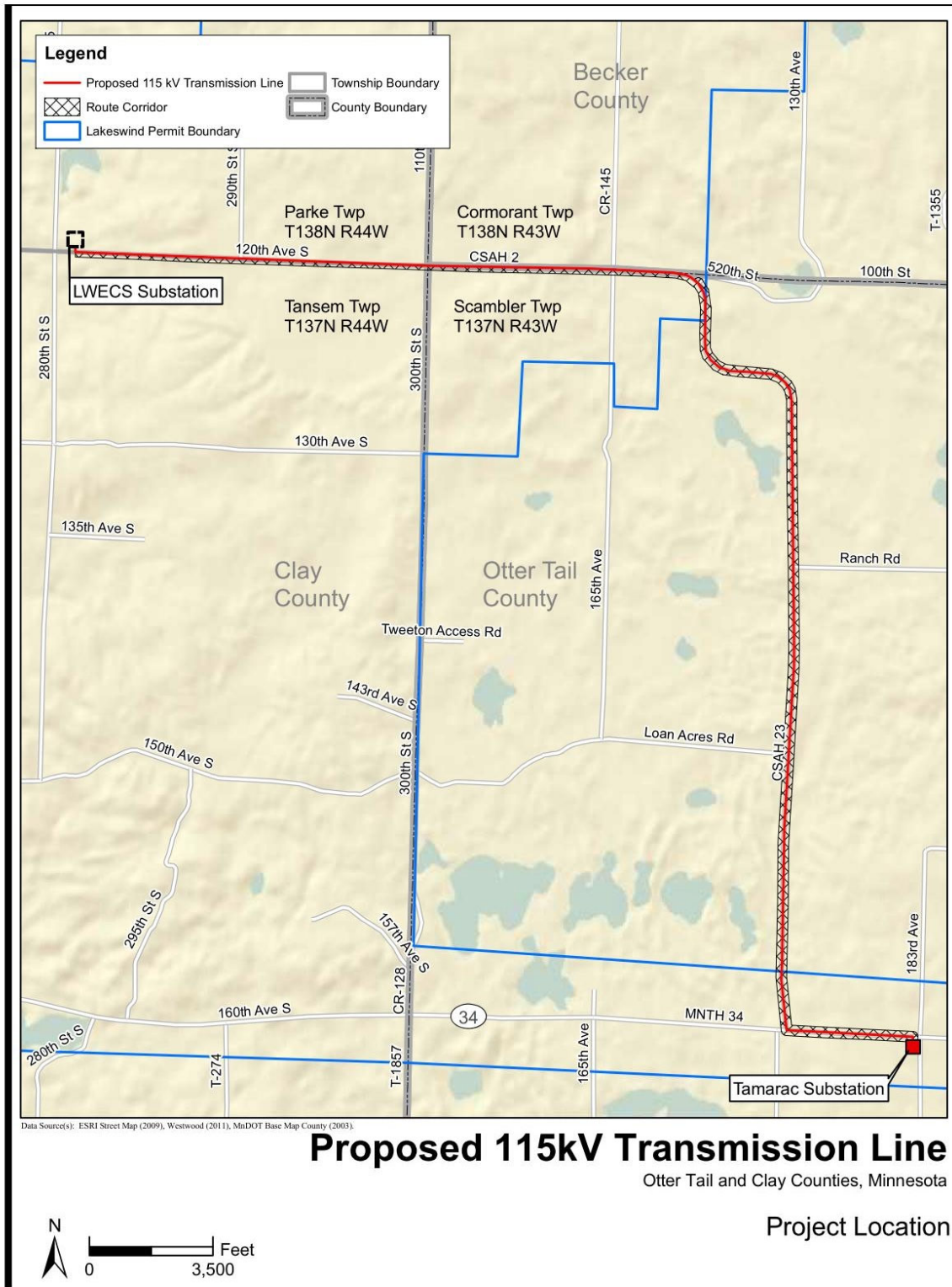
Comments may be submitted to Tim Magnusson at the address below or to tim.magnusson@co.clay.mn.us or Fax: 218-299-5195.

Comment Period Deadline: 10-day Comment Period

RGU Decision: Anticipated for Tuesday, April 17, 2012. Clay County Board of Commissioners Meeting at 8:30 a.m.

RGU: Clay County Board of Commissioners

Contact Person: Tim Magnusson
Clay County Planning and Zoning
Clay County Courthouse
807 11th Street North
Moorhead, MN 56560
Phone: 218-299-5002
Fax: 218-299-5195
E-mail: tim.magnusson@co.clay.mn.us



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Enterprise Park to Crooked Lake 115 kV
Transmission Line Project in Anoka County, Minnesota**

OAH Docket # 7-2500-22654-2 / PUC Docket # ET2/TL-11-915

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application by Great River Energy for a new, approximately 5.8-mile long, 115 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line in Anoka County, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. The hearing will run no later than 8:00 p.m. and may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been completed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, April 16, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Anoka City Hall
2015 First Ave
Anoka MN 55303

Project Description. On October 4, 2011, Great River Energy (Applicant) filed a route permit application under the alternative permitting process for the construction of approximately 5.8 miles of new, overhead 115 kV transmission line between Xcel Energy's existing Crooked Lake Substation in Coon Rapids, Minn., and Anoka Municipal Utility's existing Enterprise Park Substation in Anoka, Minn., in Anoka County. The project will remove, rebuild, and attach Anoka Municipal Utility's existing overhead (12.5 kV) distribution lines to the new 115 kV transmission line where the new line overtakes the existing distribution lines. (Alternatively, Anoka Municipal Utility may choose to bury some of the distribution lines.) The project would also include modifications to the Crooked Lake and Enterprise Park substations to accommodate the new transmission line, including a new ring bus, breaker additions, step down transformers, and associated switch gear.

The Applicant is requesting a route width as narrow as 100 feet in some locations, and as wide as 400 feet in others, except for the area near Anoka High School where the requested route width is 800 feet. The variation in route width is due to the developed nature of the project area. The typical right-of-way for the 115 kV line is 50-75 feet, depending on the structure used. The typical span between poles without underbuild is 300 to 400 feet, and 250 to 300 where 12.5 kV distribution lines are attached. Poles range in height from 60 to 85 feet. Most poles will be constructed as single-pole, wood structures with horizontal post insulators.

The Applicant states the purpose of the proposed project is to meet future electric load requirements in the area, to provide relief on the existing transmission system, and to provide backup service to an existing 69 kV transmission line.

EFP held an open public scoping process from November 14, 2011, to December 19, 2011, and held Public Information and Environmental Assessment Scoping meetings on December 1, 2011. The purpose of the meetings and comment period was to solicit public comment on the issues and route alternatives that should be evaluated in the environmental assessment. The Department of Commerce issued its scoping decision on January 5, 2012, which included one route segment alternative (see figure on next page.)

Environmental Assessment. EFP staff has completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project. The EA addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project. Electronic versions of the EA, maps of the proposed project, and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the eDockets website at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (Search “11” Year and “915” Number)

The Environmental Assessment can also be viewed at the following public libraries in the project area:

Anoka County Law Library
325 E Main St # E130
Anoka, MN 55303

Anoka County Library: Rum River Branch
4201 6th Ave
Anoka, MN 55303

Champlin Library
12154 Ensign Avenue North
Champlin, MN 55316

Crooked Lake Branch Library
11440 Crooked Lake Boulevard NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statute 216E.04, subdivision 6, and Minnesota Rule 7850.3800. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of EFP staff and Great River Energy representatives and to offer oral and written comments and submit material into the record. The Honorable Richard Luis, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

Comment period. The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Monday, April 30, 2012**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Luis at:

The Honorable Richard Luis
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
Fax: (651) 361-7936
routecomments@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will provide EFP staff a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the prescribed comment period. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

Additional Information. For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

Matthew Langan, State Permit Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2096 or 1-800-657-3794
matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Deborah Pile, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 297-2375
deborah.pile@state.mn.us

Mailing List. Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by EFP staff for future mailings pertaining to this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting the state permit manager.



Minnesota
Department of
Commerce

Enterprise Park to Crooked Lake 115 kV Transmission Project

Great River Energy • Xcel Energy • Anoka Municipal Utility

Figure 1
Project Overview

March 2012

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Parkers Prairie
115 kV Transmission Line Project in Otter Tail County, Minnesota**

PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-11-867 | OAH Docket Number: 7-2500-22631-2

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application by Great River Energy for the Parkers Prairie 115 kV transmission line project. The public hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. Hearings may conclude earlier where all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 -- 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Prairie Event Center
201 East Main Street
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361
(218) 338-4115

The purpose of the hearing is to gather public comments on the most prudent route and alignment for the Parkers Prairie project and issues that should be addressed in a route permit for the project. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Richard Luis will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the route and alignment for the project or issues that should be addressed in a route permit may do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Luis.

The hearing record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Friday, April 27, 2012**, for the receipt of written comments. Please include PUC Docket No. TL-11-867 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed directly to Judge Luis at:

The Honorable Richard Luis
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55164-0620
Fax: 651-361-7900
E-mail: routecomments@state.mn.us

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. 216E, Minn. Rules 7850.3800). Members of the public will have an opportunity to offer testimony, submit materials into the record, and ask questions. Any person who wishes to ask a question, but does not want to ask the question personally, may submit it in writing to the ALJ who will then ask the

question during the hearing. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If necessary, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ. Upon completion of the hearing, a transcript of the proceedings will be available at the Parkers Prairie City Hall.

At the close of the written comment period, Judge Luis will provide a report including a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the comment period to the Commission. Upon receipt of the ALJ's report, the Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application.

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).

Environmental Assessment. Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff has completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project. The EA analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project as well as possible mitigative measures. Electronic versions of the EA, maps of the proposed project, and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing on the Commission's energy facility permitting website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32307>. Additionally, documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "867").

The EA is also available at the location noted below:

Parkers Prairie City Hall
102 North Otter Avenue
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

Project Description. Great River Energy (GRE) proposes to replace approximately 2.1 miles of an existing 41.6 kV transmission line in Otter Tail County, Minn. with a new line at a voltage of 115 kV. In addition, GRE, in collaboration with Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC), proposes to modify and update the existing Parkers Prairie distribution substation, and to connect the substation and new line to an existing GRE 115 kV line through a switch structure (see attached map).

GRE has requested a route width of 300 feet centered on County Road 6 (CSAH 6), which would allow for the new transmission line to be constructed on the north or south side of CSAH 6, or some combination thereof. GRE has indicated the 115 kV line will require a right-of-way (easement) of 100 feet (50 feet on each side of the transmission line). Wood poles, ranging in height from 60 – 85 feet, will be used for the new line. Some specialty poles (e.g., taller poles) may be required at specific locations. The footprint of the Parkers Prairie distribution substation will be expanded 40 feet to the south to accommodate a new 115 kV transformer.

Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like further information about this project, please contact:

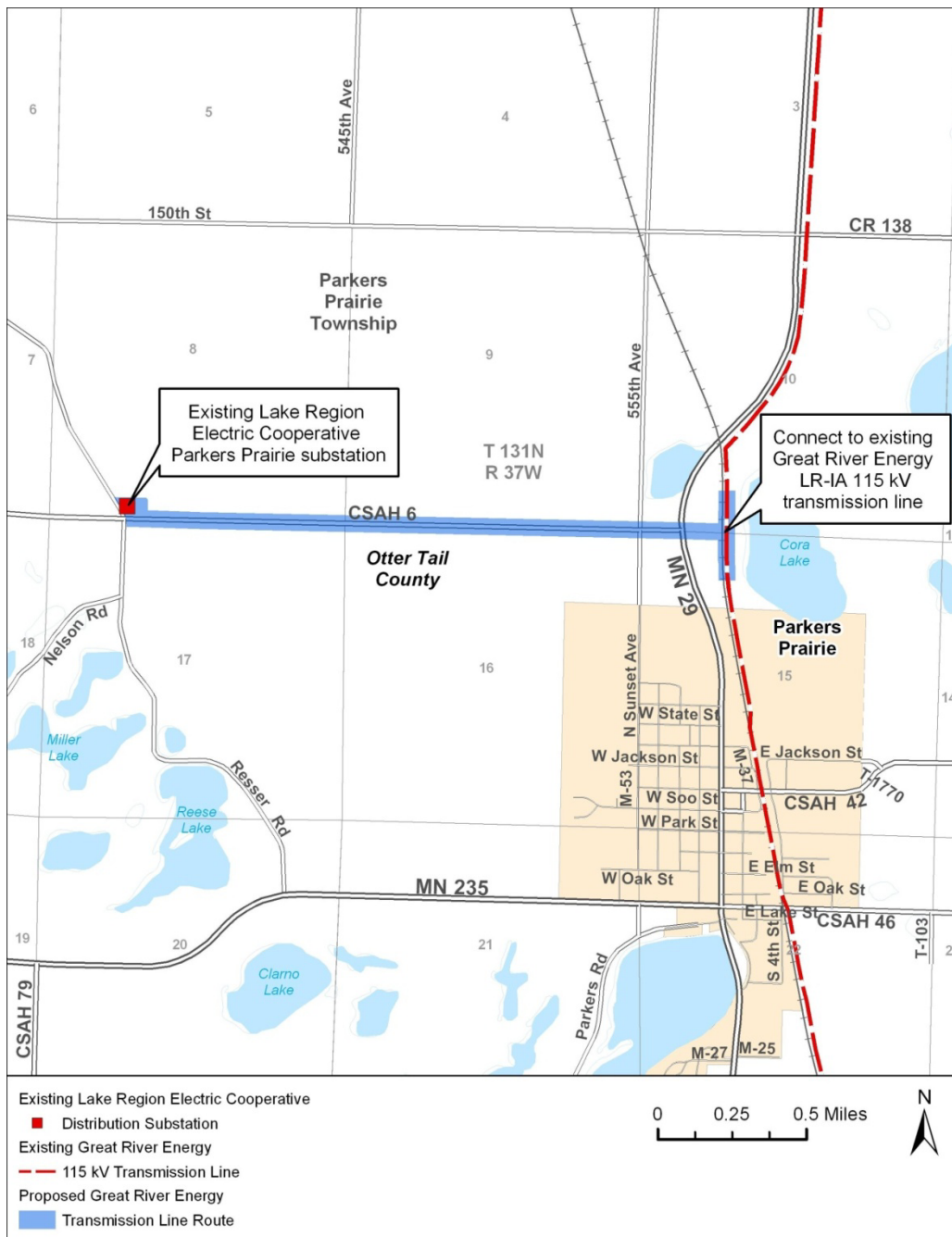
Ray Kirsch, State Permit Manager
651-296-7588
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

David Birkholz, Public Advisor
651-296-2878
david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Information about the project may also be obtained by contacting Rick Heuring at 763-445-5979, rheuring@greenergy.com or Marsha Parlow at 763-445-5215, mparlow@greenergy.com, Great River Energy, 12300 Elm Creek Blvd., Maple Grove, MN 55369.

Project Mailing List. Interested persons can add their names to the mailing list for this project by contacting the state permit manager or public advisor, or by registering on-line at: www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.



Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
12-NO-037 Withdrawn	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide Tolerant, Insect Resistant	Blue Earth, Brown, Clay, McLeod, Mower, Renville, Rice, Steele, Waseca
12-NO-047	M.S. Technologies, LLC	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant	Blue Earth, Clay, Grant, Kandiyohi (2), Lac qui Parle, Martin, Norman, Renville, Rice, Traverse, Yellow Medicine
12-NO-048	Monsanto	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant, Agronomic Properties: Yield Increased	Clay, Grant
12-NO-049	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant	Fillmore, Freeborn, Olmsted
12-NO-050	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant	Chippewa, Dodge, Fillmore, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Mower, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Polk (2), Renville (2), Sibley, Steele, Swift, Traverse, Wabasha
12-NO-051	Dow AgroSciences	Corn	Herbicide Tolerant	Freeborn (2), Rock (2), Steele (2)
12-NO-052	Bayer CropScience	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant	Becker, Clay

For more information contact Tina Seeland, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6404, tina.seeland@state.mn.us.

Transgenic Drought Tolerant Corn - Commercial Use Exemption

Monsanto Company has requested an exemption from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permit for a corn line, designated as transformation event MON 87460, which has been genetically engineered for drought tolerance. This corn line contains a stably integrated cold shock protein B (cspB). The corn line containing these genes is no longer regulated under USDA/APHIS guidelines. Under this exemption from state permit, Monsanto Company will be allowed to commercially use this drought tolerant corn line without further regulation. For additional information contact Tina Seeland, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651/201-6404, tina.seeland@state.mn.us.

Transgenic Soybean with Modified Fatty Acid Profile and Herbicide Tolerance - Commercial Use Exemption

Monsanto Company has requested an exemption from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permit for a soybean line, designated as transformation event MON 87705, which has been genetically engineered to have a modified fatty acid profile and for tolerance to the herbicide glyphosphate. This soybean line contains stably integrated genes that confer lower levels of saturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids, and higher levels of monounsaturated (oleic) fatty acid than those found in non-modified soybean seeds. The soybean line containing these genes is no longer regulated under USDA/APHIS guidelines. Under this exemption from state permit, Monsanto Company will be allowed to commercially use this drought tolerant soybean line without further regulation. For additional information contact Tina Seeland, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651/201-6404, tina.seeland@state.mn.us