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Submit to [EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us](mailto:EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us)

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

*EAW Comment Deadline: June 13, 2012*

### **Project Title: Fairmont Energy Station Expansion Project**

**Description:** The Fairmont Energy Station is an existing peaking power plant located at 215 West 7th Street in Fairmont, Minnesota. The power plant is owned and operated by the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA). SMMPA proposes to install four new 6,520-kilowatt Caterpillar natural gas fired electrical generating units within a new building at the power plant. The generators will be used for peak-shaving and emergency purposes. The power plant also has two existing electrical generating units on site. The proposed project would increase the facility's electrical generating capacity from 14.4 to 40.5 megawatts.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) website, at the following:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>. Written comments on the EAW should be submitted to Steve Sommer. A copy of the EAW may also be obtained by contacting Mary Osborn at 651-757-2101.

In addition to the EAW, the MPCA's draft Air Emissions Permit will also be available for public comment beginning May 14, 2012. The contact person for the Air Permit is Richard Cordes at 651-757-2291.

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**Contact Person:** Steve Sommer  
Planner Principal  
Environmental Review Unit – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Resource Management and Assistance Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
651-757-2746  
[steve.sommer@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:steve.sommer@pca.state.mn.us)

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

**Project Title: Minnewaska Hospital Demolition Project, City of Starbuck, Minnesota**

**Description:** The proposed Minnewaska Hospital Demolition project is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> St. and Wollan St. in the City of Starbuck in Pope County. The proposed project includes demolition of the old Minnewaska Hospital. The demolition will also include restoration of the property to a bare lot.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), which documents the purpose and need for the project along with anticipated environmental impacts, are available for public viewing beginning May 14th during regular business hours at the following locations:

City of Starbuck  
PO Box 606  
Starbuck, MN 56381

Widseth Smith Nolting Inc.  
610 Fillmore St.  
Alexandria, MN 56308

To request the document in an alternative format, call 651-366-4718 or e-mail [ADArequest@state.mn.us](mailto:ADArequest@state.mn.us).

The EAW comment period will begin on May 14, 2012. Written comments will be accepted through June 13, 2012. Comments should be submitted to the RGU contact listed below.

**RGU:** City of Starbuck

**Contact Person:** Diana Schlieff, Clerk/Treasurer  
City of Starbuck  
PO Box 606  
Starbuck, MN 56381  
Phone: 320-239-2525  
Fax: 320-239-2545  
E-mail: [clerkstarbuck@hcinet.net](mailto:clerkstarbuck@hcinet.net)

## 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, Xcel Red Wing Ash Disposal Facility (SW-307) Expansion Project, May 9, 2012 (March 19, 2012)
- Otter Tail County, Little McDonald Lake Outlet Project, April 24, 2012 (January 9, 2012)

## DRAFT AUAR AVAILABLE

The *South Loop District Alternative Urban Areawide Review and Mitigation Plan* dated April, 2002 (original title: "Airport South AUAR"), was adopted in August 2002 and a subsequent update was adopted in December 2009. The 2009 update extended the timeframe of the AUAR through the year 2014 when new traffic studies will be completed after the South Loop District Plan is formally adopted in Fall 2012. This 2012 (interim) update is intended to incorporate infrastructure projects not anticipated in the 2009 update that are now scheduled for construction. Specifically, the Lindau Corridor Projects, including the lowering of Lindau Lane between 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue and related storm sewer improvements. Other minor updates regarding the status of various infrastructure projects are included as well.

The AUAR study area is the 2,350-acre South Loop District in the City of Bloomington. The area is bounded by I-494 and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on the north, TH 77 (Cedar Ave) on the west, and the Minnesota River and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on the south and east.

The AUAR update document will be available for review in the Planning Division offices at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. It will also be available for review on the City's website: [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us) (type in key word "AUAR").

Written comments on the AUAR update report can be addressed to:

Julie Farnham, Planner  
City of Bloomington  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431-3027  
Phone: 952-563-4739  
Fax: 952-563-8949  
E-mail: [jfarnham@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jfarnham@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

## PETITION FILED

The following petition has 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.

- City of Andover, Proposed 150,000 Square Foot Retail Development at 1851 Bunker Lake Boulevard, Andover, Minnesota

**NOTICES****MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT****In the Matter of the Certificate of Need Application for the  
Black Oak Wind and the Getty Wind Projects****PUC Docket Number: IP6853, 6866/CN-11-471**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff has completed an environmental report (ER) for the proposed project. The ER analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives to the project.

The ER, and all material constituting the official record for the certificate of need, can be found on the eDockets system at: <https://www.eDockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>; search on the year “11” and number “471.”

Electronic versions of the ER and selected other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing on the Department’s energy facility permitting website:  
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32459>.

The ER is also available at the locations noted below:

<p><b>Great River Regional Library</b> Bryant Library 430 Main Street South Unit 1 Sauk Centre, MN 56378</p>	<p><b>City Office in Sauk Centre</b> City Hall 320 Oak Street South Sauk Centre, MN 56378</p>
<p><b>Stearns County Auditor’s Office</b> 705 Courthouse Square Room 148 St. Cloud, MN 56303-4701</p>	

**Project Description.** The proposed Project is comprised of two adjacent large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) projects located in Stearns County, approximately 2 miles southwest of Sauk Centre (see accompanying map). Black Oak Wind, LLC proposes to construct the Black Oak Wind Farm on a site comprised of approximately 7,100 acres of agricultural land in Ashley and Raymond townships. Depending upon final layout, approximately 13.5 to 20 acres would be converted to turbines and associated infrastructure. Getty Wind Company, LLC proposes to construct the Getty Wind Project on a site comprised of approximately 7,600 acres of agricultural land in Sauk Centre and Getty townships. Depending upon final layout, approximately 30 to 50 acres of agricultural land would be permanently converted to turbines and associated infrastructure.

Applicants have not selected a turbine for the Project. Depending upon the turbine selected Applicants plan to install between 27 and 32 turbines with tower heights ranging from 262 to 328 feet (80 to 100 meters), with rotor diameters of 270 to 367 feet (82.5 to 112 meters), for a total height of 397 to 492 feet (121 to 150 meters). The Project would also include installation of electric feeder and collection lines, an operations and maintenance facility, permanent meteorological towers, and a substation. Applicants intend to seek a permit from Stearns County for a 69 kV transmission line to connect the Project substation with Xcel Energy's Black Oak Substation.

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

***Department of Commerce – Environmental Review***

Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
651-296-2888  
[suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)

Ray Kirsch, Public Advisor  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
651-296-7588  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

***Public Utilities Commission – Certificate of Need Process***

Tricia DeBleekere  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
651-201-2254  
[tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us](mailto:tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us),

***Applicants***

Patrick Smith  
Black Oak Wind, LLC/  
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7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725|  
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952-988-9000

Roland Jurgens  
Getty Wind Company, LLC  
P.O. Box 321  
Chokio, MN 56221  
320-324-7122

Christina K. Brusven  
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.  
200 South Sixth Street,  
Suite 4000  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612-492-7412

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 reach the Department through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Crop</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>County</b>
12-NO-063	Forster & Associates Consulting, LLC	Sugarbeet	Agronomic Properties: Nitrogen utilization efficiency increase	Clay (2)
12-NO-064	Bayer CropScience	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant	Olmsted

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](mailto:tina.seeland@state.mn.us).