



Publication Date: September 17, 2012
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Next Publication: October 1, 2012
Submittal Deadline: September 24, 2012
Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

**This corrected *EQB Monitor* includes the following additional notice:
Stony Point Resort Channel Connection EAW**

Subscribe to receive the EQB Monitor. If you would like to receive the Monitor regularly, please subscribe at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/monitor.html>.

EQB Meetings are regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month. There may be additional special meetings as well. The calendar with scheduled meetings is located at http://server.admin.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/month.php?cat_id=3&date=20120801. All meeting packets and agendas can be viewed at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/agendas.html>.

Update your contact information! As your e-mail address changes, please ensure delivery by updating your contact information routinely at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/monitor.html>.

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: October 17, 2012

Project Title: Keene Creek - Channel Change and Bridge Replacement (10 ft. wide concrete box culvert classified as a bridge due to its width), Storm Sewer, Curb & Gutter, Pavement Replacement, City of Duluth, St. Louis County, Minnesota

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation is proposing to replace Bridge No. 88545 (concrete box culvert) at Keene Creek in Duluth, MN. The highway project is located on Trunk Highway (TH) 23 in St. Louis County, 0.1 miles west of the jct. of TH 35 and will include associated grading and utility work.

Copies of the EAW which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning September 17, 2012, at the following locations:

- MnDOT District 1 - Duluth, 1123 Mesaba Ave, Duluth, MN 55811
- MnDOT District 1 - Virginia, 101 N. Hoover Rd, Virginia, MN 55792
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior St, Duluth, MN 55802

Submitted comments will become part of the official project record.

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>

The EAW can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling Todd Campbell, Project Manager, at 218-725-2744 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 EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on September 17, 2012. Written comments will be accepted through October 17, 2012.

Project Proposer: Minnesota Department of Transportation

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Mr. Todd Campbell, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation
1123 Mesaba Ave.
Duluth, MN 55811
todd.campbell@state.mn.us

Project Title: Stony Point Resort Channel Connection

Description: The Stony Point Resort in Cass Lake, Minnesota proposes to connect an existing man-made harbor with a parallel channel to expand harbor space for the resort. The resort is now operating at capacity and is in need of additional harbor space for the guests. The existing harbor was excavated and connected to Cass Lake in the 1960s. The proposed harbor was excavated in the 1970s, but was never connected to the existing harbor or the lake.

Project Proposer: Stony Point Resort

RGU: City of Cass Lake

Contact: Sue Uhrinak, Clerk Treasurer
City of Cass Lake
330 2nd Street NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
Telephone: 1-800-332-6311
Fax: 218-335-2680
casslake@midconetwork.com

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The noted 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 Department of Natural Resources, Carlos Avery Brooder Shed Project, Anoka County, August 20, 2012 (June 11, 2012).
- City of Starbuck, Minnewaska Hospital Demolition Project, City of Starbuck, Minnesota, Pope County, August 13, 2012 (May 14, 2012).

EIS ADEQUACY DECISION

Project Title: U.S. Trunk Highway 14 New Ulm to North Mankato

On September 6, 2012, the Minnesota Department of Transportation determined that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for improvements to U.S Trunk Highway 14 from Front Street in New Ulm in Brown County to County Road 6 near North Mankato in Nicollet County is adequate. This decision completes the Minnesota environmental review process as found in Minnesota Rules chapter 4410.

The record supporting the Adequacy Determination is available via the internet at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/14newulmtonmankato/documents.html>.

Those without internet access may obtain a hard copy by request to Project Manager Peter Harff at 507-514-1095 or 1-800-657-3747. Notification has been provided to the EIS distribution list and other interested parties.

FINAL SCOPING DECISION DOCUMENT AND EIS PREPARATION NOTICE

Project Title: US 53 Virginia to Eveleth

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation proposes this project in response to a notice given in May 2010 that easement rights for a portion of existing US Highway 53 (US 53) between Virginia and Eveleth are being terminated. The project is located within Saint Louis County, Minnesota.

A Scoping Document (SD) was published in February 2012 to provide documentation of the proposed action and need for the US 53 project in Virginia, Minnesota and to provide information about alternatives and impacts. The SD was prepared to document the studies completed to-date and early decisions made in accordance with both Federal regulation (42 USC 4321 et seq.), and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4410. A 30-day comment period was held when the availability notice for the SD and a Draft Scoping Decision Document (DSDD) was published in the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Monitor on March 5, 2012. The SD and DSDD were distributed to federal, state, and local agencies and the public to provide an opportunity for review of the proposed project and comment on project issues and alternatives. The SD also served the same purpose as a Minnesota Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), required by Chapter 4410.

This final Scoping Decision Document (SDD) provides a summary of the scoping process findings and documents the proposed scope and focus of the EIS. This SDD also includes copies of all comments received during the public comment period (Appendix A and B) and responses to substantive comments (Appendix C). The final SDD and EIS Preparation Notice will be distributed to local governments, regulatory agencies, persons who commented on the Scoping Document, and others in accordance with EQB requirements and will also be posted on the project webpage at www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy53relocation.

The documents are also available for public viewing at the following locations:

- Eveleth Public Library, 614 Pierce St., Eveleth, MN
- Gilbert Public Library, 17 N. Broadway, Gilbert, MN
- Mountain Iron Public Library, 5742 Mountain Ave., Mt. Iron, MN
- Virginia Public Library, 215, 5th Ave. S., Virginia, MN
- Duluth Public Library, 520 West Superior St., Duluth, MN

- Minnesota Department of Transportation – District 1 Duluth Office, 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, MN
- Minnesota Department of Transportation – District 1 Virginia Office, 101 N. Hoover Road, Virginia, MN

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Roberta Dwyer, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation - District One
1123 Mesaba Avenue
Duluth, MN 55811
Telephone: 218-725-2781
roberta.dwyer@state.mn.us

To request an ASL interpreter or other reasonable accommodation, call Janet Miller at 651-366-4720 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to janet.rae.miller@state.mn.us. (Please make requests at least one week in advance.)

NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETINGS

In the Matter of the Applications for a Route Permit and Certificate of Need for the Chaska Area 115 kV Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Numbers: E002/CN-11-826 and E002/TL-12-401

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting will conduct public information and environmental assessment (EA) scoping meetings at the times and location listed below, on the certificate of need and high voltage transmission line (HVTL) route permit applications (RPA) submitted by Northern States Power (Xcel Energy) and Great River Energy (GRE) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the proposed Chaska Area 115 kV transmission line project. The purpose of the meetings is to provide information to the public about the project and to identify issues and alternatives to study in an EA that will be prepared by the Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff.

Public Information and Scoping Meetings

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Afternoon Session – 2:00 p.m.

Evening Session – 6:00 p.m.

**Chaska City Hall
Council Chambers
One City Hall Plaza
Chaska, MN 55318
952-448-9200**

During the meetings, EFP staff will give a presentation about the state's high voltage transmission line permitting process, certificate of need process, the proposed project, and how the public can participate. Xcel Energy and Great River Energy (Applicants) will have representatives at the public meetings who can answer general questions about the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, impacts and alternatives to be studied in the EA.

Review copies of the route permit application, certificate of need application, permitting process flowcharts, and comment forms will be available at the meetings. Each meeting will offer the same process and information, so interested persons need attend only one of the meetings.

The EFP staff will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until Friday, October 12, 2012. Please include PUC Docket Number TL-12-401 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to:

Bill Storm
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-297-7891
bill.storm@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted on the Energy Facility Permitting website:
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/>

Project Description. The project is located in eastern Carver County and northern Scott County near and within the city of Chaska, and through Laketown, Dahlgren, and Jackson townships. The western end of the project area is located in Dahlgren Township, Carver County, west of Aue Lake at existing structure #142. The project extends north along the existing Great River Energy MV-VTT line through Laketown Township, and east through the city of Chaska. The project route continues across the Minnesota River into Jackson Township in Scott County to the eastern terminus of the project at the Scott County Substation.

The proposed project covers approximately 12.75 miles, contains six segments, and primarily follows existing transmission line rights-of-way (ROW).

Project construction is expected to begin in third quarter 2013; the project is expected to be completed with an in-service date of early in 2014.

Review Process. Two separate Commission approvals are required to build the Chaska Area 115 kV transmission line project – a certificate of need (CN) and a HVTL route permit.

The Applicants submitted a CN application to the Commission on May 15, 2012 and a HVTL route permit application on July 11, 2012. The CN application was accepted as complete by the Commission in an order dated August 21, 2012. The RPA was accepted as complete by the Commission in its regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 2012.

Environmental Review. The EFP is responsible for conducting the environmental review for CN applications submitted to the Commission (Minn. Rules 7849.1200). EFP staff typically prepares an environmental report (ER) prior to the Commission's determination of need for a proposed project. An ER examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternatives to the project, and potential mitigative measures.

The EFP is also responsible for conducting the environmental review for route permit applications to the Commission (Minn. Rules 7850.3700). Environmental review for a project of this size requires the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). An EA examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternative routes for the project, and potential mitigative measures.

As two concurrent environmental reviews are required – one for the CN application and one for the route permit application – EFP has elected to combine the environmental review for the two applications (Minn. Rules 7849.1900). Thus, an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared to meet the requirements of both review processes.

Public Hearing. After completion of the EA, a public hearing will be held. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the EFP project mailing list (see below).

Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the records compiled for each proceeding (CN and route permit) will be presented to the Commission for final decisions. This review process is the only process during which alternatives to the project will be considered, including the “no build” alternative and alternatives related to the size, type, timing, and configuration of the project.

Eminent Domain. If issued a route permit by the Commission, the Applicants may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12.

Project Mailing List. Persons should contact the state permit manager or public advisor (noted below) or register online at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/> to get their name on the project mailing list. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meetings/hearings and notices of document availability for this project. **If you do not register to be on the mailing list you will not receive correspondence regarding this project after this notice.** Registration to the project mailing list is voluntary and may be done at any time.

Project Documents. A more detailed description of the proposed project is contained in the certificate of need and route permit applications. Electronic versions of these documents are available on the Energy Facility Permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32771>

Additionally, these documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year “12” and the number “401” for the route permit application and enter the year “11” and the number “826” for the CN application).

The CN and route permit applications are also available at the public libraries noted below:

Carver County Public Library
4 City Hall Plaza
Chaska, MN 55318

Shakopee Public Library
235 Lewis Street
Shakopee, MN 55379

Project Contacts. EFP staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, bill.storm@state.mn.us) has been designated as State Permit Manager. You may contact him at: Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 1-800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Public Utilities Commission. Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, michael.kaluzniak@state.mn.us) has been named Public Advisor for the route permit. The public advisor is available to answer questions from the public about the permitting process. The public advisor cannot give legal advice or other advice that may affect the legal rights of the person being advised and cannot act as an advocate on behalf of any person. His mailing address is 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147.

Xcel Energy. Information about this project is available from Xcel Energy. You can direct questions to Sage Tauber (612-330-2909, sage.tauber@xcelenergy.com). Ms. Tauber may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, (MP 8A), Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Great River Energy. Information about this project is available from GRE. You can direct questions to Carole Schmidt (763-4453-5214, cschmidt@greenergy.com). Ms. Schmidt may be contacted in writing at: GRE, 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard, Maple Grove, MN 55369

This document can be made available in alternative formats; i.e. large print or audio tape 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.

NOTICE OF SALE OF STATE METALLIC MINERALS LEASES

Notice is hereby given that a sale of leases to explore for, mine and remove metallic minerals in trust fund lands, lands and minerals forfeited for non-payment of taxes, lands and minerals otherwise acquired, and other state-owned land under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Natural Resources, and located in portions of Aitkin, Lake and Saint Louis Counties, is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. The sale will take place at the Central Offices of the Division of Lands and Minerals, 4th Floor, East-West Conference Room DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota. No land or water areas within the Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness or Voyageurs National Park are included in this or any State mineral lease sale.

The Commissioner will receive sealed bids and applications for leases covering minerals in state lands, in accordance with Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 through 6125.0700 – the metallic mineral rules issued under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 93. Each bid must be submitted on a form obtained from the

Commissioner. Each bid form must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or bank money order, payable to the Department of Natural Resources in the sum of the following amounts: a) an application fee of \$100.00 for each mining unit bid upon; and b) rental for one full calendar year for each mining unit bid upon. All bids must be received by the Commissioner at the office of the Division of Lands and Minerals, Fourth Floor, DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4045, before 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2012.

On Wednesday, October 24, 2012, at the time specified, the Commissioner or his representative will publicly open the bids and announce the amount of each bid separately. At a subsequent time, leases will be awarded by the Commissioner, with the approval of the State Executive Council, to the highest bidder for the respective mining units, but no bids will be accepted that do not equal or exceed the base royalty rates set forth in the Rules or that do not comply with all provisions of the Rules. The State reserves the right, through the State Executive Council, to reject any or all bids.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules is to promote and regulate the prospecting for, mining and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These Rules, and the leases issued under the Rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of minimum rentals that increase over the term of the lease; the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed; the submission of data and other reports; and the submission of exploration plans. In addition, the lessee must comply with all applicable regulatory laws.

After the conclusion of the sale, each high bidder will be required to provide evidence demonstrating that the bidder is qualified to hold a state mineral lease pursuant to Minnesota Rules, part 6125.0410. The Rules state that a lease will only be issued to an applicant qualified to do business in Minnesota and qualified to conduct exploratory borings in Minnesota. In addition, the Commissioner may request evidence that the lease applicant is technically and financially capable of performing under the terms of a state mineral lease. The requested evidence must be provided within 45 days of the request from the Commissioner or the bids from that high bidder will be rejected.

Upon the award of a lease, the application fee submitted with the bid will be deposited as a fee for the lease. All bids not accepted will become void, and the application fee and rental payment accompanying such bids will be returned to each respective bidder; provided however, the application fee and rental payment accompanying a bid shall not be returned if the bidder was the high bidder and subsequently withdrew the bid prior to the award of a lease.

Bid forms, instructions on how bids are to be submitted, copies of the rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 through 6125.0700) and copies of the Mining Unit Book listing the land areas designated by the Commissioner as mining units may be obtained from the Transactions Section, Division of Lands and Minerals, DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4045. E-mail inquiries may be sent to susan.damon@state.mn.us.

The Mining Unit Book will be available at least 30 days prior to October 24, 2012. Application for each copy of the Mining Unit Book must be accompanied by a check or money order payable to the Department of Natural Resources in the sum of \$25.00 as a fee for such Mining Unit Book plus shipping and applicable State of Minnesota sales tax. Mining Unit Books will also be available for inspection at the Hibbing and Saint Paul offices of the Division of Lands and Minerals, and on the internet through the DNR website at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/index.html.

By: Jess Richards, Director
Division of Lands and Minerals
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
September 7, 2012