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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: November 17, 2010

Project Title: MCES-Hopkins Pump Station and MSB-7026 Forcemain Improvements Project

Description: The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) is proposing to reconstruct the L-27 pump (lift) station at Lake Street and Blake Road in Hopkins. In addition, MCES is proposing to construct a new redundant forcemain and rehabilitate the existing forcemain from the new pump station through the cities of Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis. The L-27 pump station capacity will be increased from the existing capacity of 6.0 million gallons per day (mgd) to a firm capacity of 6.3 mgd after construction.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

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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>

EA AVAILABLE

**Northern States Power d/b/a Xcel Energy,
Courtland Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota
Proposed Structure Replacement on Existing 115 kV Transmission Line**

PROJECT NEED

Northern States Power, doing business as Xcel Energy, has determined that two of the existing structures supporting the transmission line that follows along the section line between Sections 30 and 31 and Sections 29 and 32 in Township 110, Range 29 W, are failing and are in need of replacement. The existing 115kV line currently follows a non-linear path thru the Swan Lake Wildlife Management Area (Swan Lake WMA) where two of the four existing structures in the water body are leaning and consequently need to be replaced.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will entail the following construction activities:

- Creating temporary access for installing new structures and removing existing structures.
- Installing two concrete piling foundations within the water body upon which single pole structures (approximately 95 feet tall) will be mounted.
- Direct imbedding two 5-pole structures on either side of water body in upland areas (approximately 88 ft.).
- Transferring existing transmission lines (conductors) from the existing structures to the new structures (approximately 3,100 feet).
- Removing the four existing H-frame structures from the water body and two existing H-frame structures from the upland areas.
- Restoring site conditions.

Once complete, the project will provide stable structures for the transmission line crossing the water body. It will also result in a net loss of two structures within the water body and a straighter, more in-line route crossing the Swan Lake WMA. The line voltage will remain the same.

CONSTRUCTION DATES

Both civil and line construction are planned for winter 2010/2011.

PUBLIC HEARING

Environmental Assessment (EA) Scoping Meeting at Nicollet County Public Hearing, 8:30 PM, July 19th, 2010.

Contacts:

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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, Proposed Paul and Connie Magedanz Farm 1 Project, September 30, 201 (July 12, 2010)

FEIS Addendum Available

Project Title: **Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Addendum for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project** – September 30, 2010 Agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project through the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities – Minneapolis Campus.

Description: The Metropolitan Council is publishing notice of the availability of an Addendum to the June 2009 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). This FEIS Addendum for the CCLRT Project identifies in greater detail the specific mitigation measures, previously addressed in the FEIS, that the Metropolitan Council and the University of Minnesota agree will be implemented to address potential adverse impacts on the University of Minnesota resulting from the construction and/or operation of the CCLRT Project. The FEIS Addendum also incorporates the parties' September 30, 2010 Agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project through the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities – Minneapolis Campus as Appendix M to the FEIS.

This FEIS Addendum was prepared pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4410.3000, subp.2. The applicable rules do not establish a period for public comment on the FEIS Addendum and no responses will be made to any comments received.

Document Availability: The \ CCLRT FEIS Addendum is available online at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/CCLRTEnvironmentalDocumentation.htm>

The CCLRT FEIS Addendum is also available at the following area libraries and resource centers.

Metropolitan Council Library
390 N. Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Mn/DOT Library
Transportation Building
395 John Ireland Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rondo Community Library
461 N. Dale
St. Paul, MN 55102

Central Corridor Project Office
540 Fairview Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Central Corridor Resource Center
1080 University Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55014

St. Paul Central Library
90 West 4th Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

St. Anthony Park Branch Library
2245 West Como Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Rice Street Library
1011 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55104

Franklin Library
1314 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Southeast Library
1222 4th Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Hamline-Midway Library
1558 West Minnehaha Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Minneapolis Central Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

For people with special needs, please contact community outreach coordinator Jessica Hill for reasonable accommodations. Her contact information is jessica.hill@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1840.

RGU: Metropolitan Council

EIS Adequacy Decision

UNIMIN North Mine Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Determination of Adequacy

The Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners announces that a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was completed for a proposed expansion of the UNIMIN Minnesota Corporation silica and mining operation consisting of approximately 1015.5-acres is available for public comment. Property is located in Sections 15, 21, 22, 23, and 27 of Ottawa Township, Le Sueur County, Minnesota.

The project is nonmetallic mineral mining of a 1,015.5-acre site in an area where mining has occurred for 80 years. The mining involves excavation of overburden to expose sandstone that is blasted, placed in slurry form, and pumped to an existing processing plant. Reclamation will be ongoing as mining is conducted. The UNIMIN Minnesota Corporation, with offices located in Le Sueur County, Minnesota is the proposer of the project.

Copies of the FEIS were available for public examination locally, at the Le Sueur County Environmental Services office, 515 South Maple Avenue, Le Center, MN 56057-1652; the Le Center Public Library, 10 W. Tyrone St, Le Center, MN 56057; the Saint Peter Library, 601 South Washington Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082; the Le Sueur Public Library, 118 Ferry Street, Le Sueur, MN 56058; and the Blue Earth County Library, 100 East Main Street, Mankato, MN 56001.

Comments on the adequacy of the FEIS were requested from individuals on the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board distribution list, as well as from other persons or agencies to whom the proposed project may be of interest. The 10-day comment period on the adequacy of the FEIS began on August 9, 2010 and extended through August 23, 2010. Comments received on the FEIS will be considered during the Conditional Use

Permit process. On Tuesday, September 28, 2010, the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners determined that the UNIMIN North Mine FEIS was adequate.

Metropolitan Airports Commission/Assessment of Environmental Effects of the 2011-2017 Capital Improvement Program for MSP and Reliever Airports

Minnesota Statutes 1988, Chapter 664, requires the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to prepare an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AOEE) for projects in the Commission's seven-year Capital Improvement Program (2011-2017) for airports included in its system.

An EAW, EA or EIS has been previously prepared and public hearing held for each MSP and reliever airport project in the 2011-2017 CIP that requires an EAW under Chapter 664. An assessment of the cumulative environmental effects of CIP projects at each affected airport in the system is presented in the AOEE.

A copy of the AOEE can be downloaded on the Internet at:
www.macnoise.com/pdfs/MAC-2011-AOEE-10-18-10.pdf

Additionally, a copy of the AOEE can be obtained by contacting Christene Sirois-Kron, Metropolitan Airports Commission, 6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55450; 612-725-6455. Comments concerning the AOEE can be given at a Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in room 3048, Mezzanine level, Lindberg Terminal, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, or in writing to Christene Sirois-Kron at 6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55450. Comments on the AOEE must be received by the close of business on Friday, November 19, 2010. Persons planning to attend the public hearing should call Christene Sirois-Kron at 612-725-6455 for security checkpoint information.

NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

Issued: October 4, 2010

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS, AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) Applications for a High Voltage Transmission Line Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Pleasant Valley to Byron 161 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project in Dodge, Olmsted and Mower counties (PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-08-992 and TL-09-1315)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Pleasant Valley to Byron 161 kV Transmission Project for public comment, as well as the date, location and times for the informal public meetings and formal public hearings.

Copies of the DEIS can be obtained through the OES State Permit Manager, or may be viewed at the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) web site:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25695>

A hard copy will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

<i>Informal Meetings Formal</i>	Rochester Public Library 101 2 nd Street Southeast Rochester, MN 55904-3776	Kasson Public Library 16 1 st Avenue Northwest Kasson, MN 55944-1471	<i>Public and Public</i>
	Stewartville Public Library 110 2 nd Street SE Stewartville, MN 55976		

Hearings

OES will conduct public information meetings to obtain comments on the DEIS. Administrative Law Judge Manuel J. Cervantes from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will preside over public and evidentiary hearings following the meetings. The meetings and hearings will be held on:

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

***Informal meetings to begin at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.**

***Formal hearings to begin at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.**

at

American Legion - Byron

505 Frontage Road

Byron, MN 55920-1275

[*Note: The public needs only attend either the afternoon or evening session. The same material and format will be used in each session.]

Project Description

Xcel Energy has submitted Applications to construct and operate a new 161 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between an existing substation in Pleasant Valley Township, Mower County, to an existing substation in the city of Byron, Olmsted County. The applicant's preferred route would be located primarily in Mower and Dodge counties, and the alternative route would be located in Mower and Olmsted counties. During the public scoping process, three alternative route segments and one route alternative that follows an existing transmission line were recommended for review. These alternatives are evaluated in the DEIS.

The proposed 18-mile line will be constructed on single-pole, weathering steel, brace-post type structures. The height of the poles will range from 70 to 90 feet, with the spans between poles ranging from 400 to 650 feet. The typical right-of-way width for the transmission line is 80 feet.

Construction of the Project is proposed to begin in the first quarter of 2011 and be completed and the line in-service by fourth quarter 2011.

Environmental Review

Two separate Commission approvals are required to build the Pleasant Valley to Byron 161 kV Transmission Line Project. First, the Applicant must obtain a Certificate of Need under Minnesota Statute 216B.243. Second, a Route Permit for a high voltage transmission line under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E is also required. The two applications were filed by Xcel Energy on December 3, 2009. The certificate of need application was accepted as complete on February 18, 2010. The route permit application was accepted as complete by the Commission on February 9, 2010.

OES is responsible for preparing an Environmental Report (ER) for the Certificate of Need Application under Minnesota Rule 7849.1200. An ER considers size, type, timing, voltage and system configurations and general environmental impacts of a project.

Route permit applications for high voltage transmission lines are subject to environmental review (Minn. Rules 7850). Environmental review for an HVTL project of this size requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS contains information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and examines mitigating measures for anticipated impacts. To focus the content or “scope” of the EIS, OES staff conducted public meetings in March, 2010 to gather comments and suggestions on the proposed project.

In this Project, the Director of the Office of Energy Security has elected to combine environmental review for the two applications. An EIS (in lieu of an ER) has been prepared as provided for under Minn. Rule 7849.1900, supd. 2. The EIS includes an analysis of alternatives as required for the certificate of need under Minn. Rule 7849.1200.

Public Participation – DEIS review

In addition to accepting verbal and written comments at the informal public meeting, OES will also accept written comments through **Tuesday, November 9, 2010**, on the DEIS. Comments can be faxed, mailed or emailed to the OES Project Manager (see contact information below). Comments can also be submitted electronically at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html>

OES will respond to the timely substantive comments received on the Draft EIS consistent with the scoping decision and prepare the final EIS.

Purpose of 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 route permit applications, 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 will write a report and make a recommendation to the Commission on which route to authorize and on any appropriate permit conditions. The Commission will consider them, and the entire record, in its deliberations of the certificate of need and route permit applications.

Conduct of Public Hearings

OES staff will be present at the hearing and make a brief presentation about the project and introduce into the record a number of documents relating to the project, including the application and certain procedural documents. Representatives of the applicant (Xcel Energy) will be present to offer evidence and to answer questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of OES and Xcel Energy representatives, to make statements, and to offer written comments and material into the record at the public hearing.

The hearing will be conducted pursuant to Minnesota Rules Chapters 1400 and 1405. The applicable statutes and rules can be found on the Revisor's webpage at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs/>. Rules and statutes may also be purchased at the State Bookstore, 660 Olive St., St. Paul, Mn. 55155; phone (651) 297-3000.

Electronic versions of the Route Permit Application, Certificate of Need Application, Draft EIS, and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing or download on eDockets at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (Enter "08" year and "992" number for the Certificate of Need, or "09" year and "1315" number for the Route Permit docket).

Written Comments

Written comments regarding the certificate of need and route permit should be submitted directly to Judge Cervantes. Comments may be submitted by U.S. Mail, fax or email. Comments will be accepted through November 9, 2010, and should include the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number 16-2500-21470-2. Mailed comments must be postmarked by that date. Faxed, emailed, and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 P.M. that date.

Identified Parties and Intervention

Persons interested in intervening in these proceedings have until October 11, 2010, (Pre-hearing Order) to file a Petition for Intervention with the ALJ (See Minn. Rules Part 1405.0900). The only party to this proceeding is the applicant (Xcel Energy).

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).

Eminent Domain

If issued a Site Permit by the Commission, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 216E.12.

Project Contacts and Information

Administrative Law Judge: Manuel J. Cervantes, Office of Administrative Hearings, 600 North Robert Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101, (651) 361-7945, manuel.cervantes@state.mn.us

OES Legal Counsel: Karen Finstad Hammel, Minnesota Attorney General's Office, 1400 Bremer Tower, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-2127, Phone (651) 757-1248, karen.hammel@state.mn.us.

OES State Permit Manager (Draft EIS): Matthew Langan, 85 7th Place E., Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198, (651) 296-2096, matthew.langan@state.mn.us

OES Public Advisor: Deborah Pile, 85 7th Place E., Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198, (651) 297-2375, deborah.pile@state.mn.us

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

Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, ask for DOC.