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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: November 4, 2009

Project Title: Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) – Fergus Falls SE Electrical Substation

Description: OTP is proposing to construct a new 115 kV substation to serve the City of Fergus Falls. A tap to an existing 115 kV transmission line along the east side of the substation will supply power to the City through a distribution line located on the south side of substation.

The project area is located within the City of Fergus Falls at 1332 East State Highway 210.

A copy of EAW is available for review at the City Hall, 112 Washington Avenue W, Fergus Falls, MN. Copies of the EAW are also available on the City's website (<http://www.ci.fergus-falls.mn.us/>). The City's office hours are posted on the website. They may be contacted at 218-332-5400.

Written comments will be accepted through October 15th, 2009. Comments should be directed to Mr. Dan Edwards, City Engineer, Fergus Falls City Hall, 112 Washington Avenue W, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

RGU: City of Fergus Falls

Contact Person:

Dan Edwards, City Engineer
Fergus Falls City Hall
112 Washington Ave W.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Phone: 218-332-5400
Email: Dan.Edwards@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us

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>

Project Title: Manox 3 – Manthey Hog Barns

Description: Manox 3 – Manthey Hog Barns (Manox 3) proposes to expand one wean-to-finish hog barn (Manox Site 3) in Section 7 of Vivian Township, Waseca County, Minnesota. The existing wean-to-finish barn (Manox Site 2) has 3,300 wean-to-finish hogs, is 51 feet by 528 feet, and is located in Section 8 of Vivian Township. The proposed barn will be 102 feet by 260 feet. Upon completion of the project, there will be 3,300 wean-to-finish hogs (990 animal units) in each barn of a total of 6,600 swine (1,980 animal units) at the two locations. Manure will be stored underneath the barns in eight-foot deep concrete pits and pumped out annually during the fall. Manure ownership will be transferred and subsequently land applied in accordance with the manure management plan requirements in Minn. R.7020.2225, when ownership of manure is transferred.

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:

Nancy Drach
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2317

EAW NEED DECISIONS

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an EAW in response to a citizen petition.

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Preston to Forestville State Trail in Fillmore County, Minnesota. Denied.

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 Department of Transportation, Trunk Highway 52/Lafayette Bridge Replacement and Roadway Modification Project, City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, September 18, 2009 (April 20, 2009)

- City of Mantoville, Relocation of a Nationally Registered Greek Revival Building, September 28, 2009 (August 24, 2009)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY – FONSI and EA Update

Project Title: 20th Street SE Connection Project – Rochester, MN

The City of Rochester announces the availability of the EA Update for the 20th Street SE Connection Project in Rochester, MN and the issuance of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by the FHWA. The FONSI was issued following preparation and review of an EA and EA Update that were prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. The City of Rochester assessed the potential impacts of construction associated with constructing of a new, one-mile long roadway between 11th Avenue SE to Marion Road SE. The FONSI is a determination that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required because the extension of 20th Street SE will have only minimal to moderate short-term and long-term environmental impacts, with implementation of the identified mitigation measures.

A hard copy of the FONSI/EA Update is available for public review at the Rochester Public Works Department, 201 4th Street, SE, Room 108, Rochester, MN 55904. Additionally, a copy of the environmental documents and the FONSI can be downloaded at <http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/publicworks/hottopics/index.asp>.

Contact Person:

Barbara J. Huberty
Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Coordinator
City of Rochester Public Works Department
201 4th St. SE, Rm 108
Rochester, MN 55904
Phone: 507-328-2425
Email: bhubert@rochestermn.gov

AUAR UPDATE ADOPTED

Project Title: Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project-Rochester, MN

The City of Rochester has finalized and the City Council has adopted the first update to the Alternative Urban Areawide Review and Mitigation Plan (AUAR Final Update #1), originally prepared for the 2002 Marion Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer Project.

After the public comment period on the draft AUAR Update #1 (December 2008), revisions were incorporated into the AUAR Final Update #1 (April 2009) to address comments received and the final document was distributed to the EQB distribution list and other interested agencies. An objection was filed by the DNR, which had concerns about potential impacts to nearby Wood Turtle habitat. The City incorporated additional mitigation measures into the AUAR Final Update #1 (September 2009) to create nesting habitat, protect existing riparian habitat, and to help prevent turtle migration over the new roadway. The DNR was satisfied that these additional measures would address their concerns and they withdrew their objection. Therefore, the Common

Council of the City of Rochester adopted the AUAR Final Update #1 at its September 21, 2009 meeting. Copies of all the AUAR documents are posted online at <http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/publicworks/auar/index.asp>

RGU: City of Rochester

Contact Person:

Barbara J. Huberty
Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Coordinator
City of Rochester Public Works Department
201 4th St. SE, Rm 108
Rochester, MN 55904
Phone: 507-328-2425
Email: bhuberty@rochestermn.gov

NOTICE OF EIS PREPARATION

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Notice of EIS Preparation: Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement:
Minnesota Trunk Highway 371 North Improvement Project, Cass and Crow Wing Counties, Minnesota

AGENCY: Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT)

ACTION: Notice of EIS preparation to supplement the Environmental Impact Statement for the **Highway 371 North Improvement Project**.

SUMMARY: The Minnesota Department of Transportation hereby issues notice of its intent to prepare a Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) for a project on Minnesota Trunk Highway 371 from Nisswa to Pine River, Minnesota. The Notice of Availability of the Final EIS appeared in the January 17, 2005 *EQB Monitor*. That FEIS also served as the Final EIS for the Federal Highway Administration pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. Mn/DOT determined the FEIS was Adequate on March 28, 2005. Notice of that Determination appeared in the April 11, 2005 *EQB Monitor*. The title of the 2005 EIS was **Highway 371 North Improvement Project**.

The FEIS completed in 2005 analyzed a project which encompasses a sixteen-mile segment of State Highway 371, including the cities of Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Jenkins and Pine River, Minnesota. The project includes the expansion of the existing two-lane roadway to a divided four-lane facility.

The intention to supplement the 2005 FEIS resulted from a proposal by the City of Pequot Lakes (2009 Proposal) to change the TH 371 preferred alternative within their community. The 2009 Proposal is to rescind the through-town alternative as the preferred alternative in Pequot Lakes and to adopt a Pequot Lakes bypass alternative that was studied in the Draft EIS but not selected as the preferred alternative at that time principally due to high cost and lack of local government support.

The 2009 Proposal for the Pequot Lakes area is to construct approximately 3.7 miles of new rural four-lane divided expressway approximately one-half mile east of existing Highway 371. This by-pass option has been proposed and endorsed by the Pequot Lakes City Council as the new preferred alternative to address previous City concerns related to

safety and congestion in the urban areas of their community. The Pequot Lakes by-pass alternative (Alternative 3) was studied in the 2005 DEIS as a freeway concept. The 2009 Proposal is a modified version of Alternative 3. The SFEIS is being prepared to insure that environmental impacts of the bypass option (identified as Alternative 3MOD) are appropriately analyzed, and that the public and agencies are provided full knowledge of the project impacts and proposed mitigation.

SCOPE: The format of the SFEIS will be similar to that of the 2005 FEIS, but the scope of the SFEIS analyses will focus on only those topic areas related to the 2009 Proposal in the Pequot Lakes area, including (but not limited to) right-of-way acquisition, community impacts, recreational trails, historic resources (federal Section 106), wetlands, water quality/surface water and noise. A revised Section 4(f) Evaluation will also be included as an appendix to the SFEIS. Because more than three years have elapsed since the FEIS/ROD, the SFEIS will also include a re-evaluation of the other segments of the Highway 371 corridor documented in the 2005 FEIS.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: It is anticipated the SFEIS will be circulated to the public during the Fall of 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Project Manager

Timothy Bray, P.E., Civil Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation
7694 Industrial Park Road, Baxter, Minnesota, 56425
Telephone: (218) 828-5796, Fax (218) 828-5814

Project Website

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d3/projects/hwy371/index.html>

NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

Issued: October 2, 2009

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE, DRAFT SITE PERMIT ISSUANCE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

In the Matter of the enXco Development Corporation, Application for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit for the Nobles Wind Project in Nobles County

**LWECS Site Permit Application
PUC Docket Number: IP6646/WS-09-584**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff will hold a public information meeting on the application by enXco Development Corporation to the

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Site Permit for the Nobles Wind Project, a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of approximately 201 megawatts (MW) to be located in Larkin, Summit Lake, Olney and Dewald Townships in Nobles County, west of Reading and approximately 6 miles Northwest of Worthington.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday, October 15, 2009 – 1:30 and 7:00 p.m.
at
Reading Community Center
McCall Ave and 200th Street
Reading, MN

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information about the proposed Project and to take public comment and input on the enXco Development Corporation, site permit application and the draft site permit issued by the Commission. EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit. Representatives of enXco Development Corporation will be present to answer questions about the Project.

Prior to the public information meetings, the Applicant will host open houses beginning at **1:00 p.m.** and **6:30 p.m.** at the same location.

Project Description

The Project will consist of up to 134 General Electric wind turbine generators, about 80 meters high (262 feet), each generating approximately 1.5 megawatts (MW) of electricity. The rotor diameter will be 77 meters (253 feet). The maximum overall height of the wind turbines will be approximately 118.5 meters (389 feet) above grade when one blade is in the vertical position. A map showing the project boundary is attached. The Project also requires a number of associated facilities including access roads, a permanent meteorological tower, an underground electrical collection system, a project substation, and a connection to the electric transmission system. The Applicant anticipates that the Project will ultimately require approximately 140 acres for all the facilities. The Applicant expects to begin construction on the Project in 2010 and to place it in operation by December 31, 2010.

Project Review Process

enXco Development Corporation filed an LWECS Site Permit Application with the Commission on July 22, 2009. The Commission accepted this application on August 11, 2009, and authorized the issuance of a draft Site Permit on October 1, 2009. The application and draft site permit are available from the web site and contacts listed below. Landowners and governments within the site boundary have received an application directly from the Applicant and will be sent a copy of the Draft Site Permit.

The EFP staff is responsible for the public participation process for the Site Permit Application, and is now initiating the public participation process under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 7836). Upon completion of the public participation process, the EFP staff will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision.

Public Comments

Interested persons may comment orally at the public meeting on the application and the draft site permit and on the Project. In addition, written comments may also be submitted to the Office of Energy Security by the close of business (**4:30 p.m.**) on **November 4, 2009**. Written comments may be submitted by mail, fax, email, or directly on line at the PUC website maintained for this project (see below). Please include the project docket number (**IP6646/WS-09-584**) on all written comments. All comments should be directed to Larry Hartman at the address below.

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 Rules part 7836.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Mr. Hartman in writing by 4:30 p.m. on November 4, 2009. 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 Application.

Eminent Domain for enXco

enXco Development Corporation 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.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process, the Project or to place your name on the Project mailing list, contact the persons listed below. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

OES Project Manager
Larry Hartman
651-296-5089

larry.hartman@state.mn.us

OES Public Advisor
Matthew Langan
651-296-2096

matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place E., Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

The site permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24616> and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 09-584).

The site permit application and draft site permit are also available for review at the public library in, Worthington, the Auditor's Office in Nobles County, and the city offices in Reading. Landowners and governments inside the LWECs Project boundary have been mailed a copy of the Site Permit Application and will be mailed a copy of the draft site permit directly from the Applicant.

Persons interested in adding their names to the project mailing list should contact the OES project manager or public advisor, or register online at the above PUC site.

Questions about the Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Jinnie Hall, Tel: (612) 746-0770; jinnieh@enXco.com

