



MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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EQB Meetings are regularly scheduled for the **third Wednesday of the month, which can be found on the EQB Calendar.** There may be additional special meetings as well. Meeting minutes, packets, and agendas are posted on the [EQB website](#).

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Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet Available

EAW Comment Deadline: December 26, 2013

CSAH 51 (UNIVERSITY AVENUE) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, PROGRAMMATIC SECTION 4(F), and PUBLIC HEARING

Project Title: County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 51 (University Avenue) Transportation Improvements, Coon Rapids and Blaine, Anoka County, Minnesota (S.P. 002-651-007)

Project Description: In 2014, Anoka County will initiate the reconstruction of CSAH 51 (University Avenue) in the Cities of Coon Rapids and Blaine from CSAH 12 (109th Avenue NE) to CSAH 14 (125th Avenue). Review and approval of the CSAH 51 Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) and Programmatic Section 4(f) document was completed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration in fall 2013. The County encourages the public to attend a Public Hearing and Open House for the proposed Transportation Improvements.

The Open House and Public Hearing will be held December 11, 2013 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (formal public hearing from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.) at the City of Coon Rapids, 11155 Robinson Drive, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

The proposed project includes reconstruction of 1.85 miles of a primarily rural two-lane roadway to a four-lane, urban roadway with center median; construction of storm sewer, storm water treatment ponds; and construction of an off road bituminous trail and sidewalk. As part of the project, intersection improvements will include a realignment of 111th Avenue to eliminate an offset intersection and turn lanes will be constructed at the intersections with 111th Avenue, 113th Avenue, 115th Avenue, 117th Avenue, and 121st Avenue. This project will impact wetlands and require the acquisition of right-of-way. The project will also impact 12,600 square feet of the Northdale Middle School Recreational Facility, a Section 4(f) resource. The tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction, dependent upon federal approvals, is Spring 2014 and Summer 2014, respectively.

The purpose of the open house is to answer questions about the proposed project. Maps, drawings and other pertinent information, including the Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) will be available. The EA/EAW is the federally-required document that outlines social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed project. The public is encouraged to discuss the project with staff and the consultant during the open house portion of the event.

The purpose of the public hearing is to collect comments and feedback on the EA/EAW document. During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to provide oral or written comments on the document. These comments will be documented during the public hearing. Comments collected during the hearing will be incorporated and responded to in the final EA/EAW. Staff from the county is not permitted to answer questions during the formal hearing.

During the public hearing, meeting participants will have the opportunity to submit verbal comments that will become part of the official public hearing record. The hearing will be extended appropriately to accommodate verbal comments.

Copies of the EA/EAW will be available for public viewing at the public meeting and for at least 15 days prior to the public meeting during business hours at the following locations from November 25, 2013 through December 27, 2013:

Anoka County Highway Department: 1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304
City of Coon Rapids, 11155 Robinson Drive, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

City of Blaine, 10801 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine, MN 55449
Johnsville Library, 12461 Oak Park Blvd., Blaine, MN 55434
Crooked Lake Library, 11440 Crooked Lake Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN 55433
Minnesota Department of Transportation Room 175 Transportation Building, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55155

In addition, a copy of the EA/EAW can also be viewed on the Anoka County Website at:
http://ww2.anokacounty.us/v3_highway/UniversityAvenueCSAH51.aspx

Written comments can be submitted at the public meeting or mailed, prior to the close of the public comment period on December 27, 2013, to Jason Orcutt, Anoka County Highway Department, 1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

Contact Person: Jason Orcutt
Anoka County Highway Department
1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304

Project Title: Sturgeon Lake Road Improvements EA/EAW Update – Notice of Availability

Project Description: As the designated Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU), the City of Red Wing in coordination with the Prairie Island Indian Community (PIIC) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA)/Discretionary Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) Update for improvements to Sturgeon Lake Road in the city of Red Wing.

The Sturgeon Lake Road project that is the subject of this environmental review document was previously evaluated in an EA/Discretionary EAW published in 2005. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Negative Declaration were issued in 2006, and no action has been taken on the project since that time. The update document focuses only on the changes between the project evaluated in the 2005 EA/EAW, and the currently proposed project.

The City of Red Wing and PIIC propose to realign approximately 4,300 feet of Sturgeon Lake Road, and build an overpass spanning the existing railroad. The project would address delay and safety issues with the existing at-grade railway crossing. Safety will also be improved through the addition of turn lanes at key intersections. A multi-use trail would be constructed to better facilitate non-motorized travel.

Copies of the Draft EA/EAW Update will be distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota Environmental Quality Board list. The Draft EA/EAW Update may be accessed electronically on the project website (<http://www.red-wing.org/sturgeonlake.html>) and paper copies will be available for review at the Red Wing Public Library (225 East Avenue, Red Wing).

RGU: City of Red Wing in coordination with the Prairie Island Indian Community

The public comment period opens November 25, 2103. A public hearing on the Draft EA/EAW Update will be held on December 10, 2013 at the PIIC Community Center at 1158 Island Boulevard. The meeting will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., with a brief presentation at 5:00 p.m. Written comments on the Draft EA/EAW Update will be accepted through December 26, 2013, and should be addressed to:

Mr. Jay Owens, P.E.
City Engineer
City of Red Wing

315 W. 4th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066
jay.owens@ci.red-wing.mn.us

Final EIS Available

Project Description: Jordan Aggregates, LLC proposes to mine sand and gravel from the property located at 17825 Valley View Drive in Sand Creek Township, Scott County, Minnesota. The mine will encompass 84.7 acres excavated up to 120 feet below the ground water into alluvial sand and gravel deposits, which serve as a local aquifer and is anticipated to operate for 25 years. When mining is complete a 36 acre ground water pond will remain. Reclamation will use on-site overburden materials and imported fill. The Draft EIS evaluates the impacts the mining operation will have on groundwater, traffic, and noise.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the adequacy of the Final EIS for a period of 30 days. The public comment period regarding the adequacy of Final EIS will end December 26, 2013.

Scott County, as required under 4410.2700 Subp. 3, will distribute copies of the Final EIS on November 25, 2013 on a compact disc to all persons which received the Draft EIS or submitted substantive comments on the draft EIS. The FEIS will also be available on the County's Website. Scott County will prepare and publish a press release for publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Scott County.

The Final EIS will be publicly distributed, and then brought to the Scott County Board of Commissioners for a decision on the adequacy of the FEIS. All persons on the project mailing list will be notified in advance of the Board adequacy decision meeting.

RGU: Scott County Environmental Health

Contact Person: Kate Sedlacek
Scott County Environmental Health
200 Fourth Ave W Shakopee, MN 55379
ksedlacek@co.scott.mn.us

Petitions Received

Comment deadline: December 26, 2013

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 St. Cloud, Cold Spring November 1, 2013, CUP Request for a Granite Quarry
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Notices

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In the Matter of the Applications for a Route Permit for the MP Deer River HVTL Project

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) announces the release of the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed MP Deer River HVTL project.

Electronic versions of the EA, the scoping decision, route permit application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Minnesota Department of Commerce's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=33631>, and on the Department of Commerce eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the Docket Number Year "13" and Number "68").

The Environmental Assessment is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the transmission line project (and selected alternative routes) and methods to mitigate such impacts. Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits under the alternative permitting process require a public hearing upon completion of the EA pursuant to Minn. R. 7850.3800. A portion of the hearing must be held in a county where the proposed project would be located.

A copy of the EA will be placed in the Grand Rapids Library:

- Grand Rapids Area Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids MN 55744

The public hearing will be noticed separately and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 216E.03, subdivision 6.

If you have any questions about this document or would like more information, please contact the DOC EFP Environmental Manager: Bill Storm, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101; Tel: 651.539.1844; e-mail: bill.storm@state.mn.us.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Notice of Permit Decision in the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Northern States Power Company and Great River Energy for the Southwest Twin Cities Chaska Area 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Carver and Scott Counties

In an order issued October 15, 2013, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission determined that the environmental assessment and record created at the public hearing adequately addressed the issues identified in the scoping decision for the project, and issued a high voltage transmission line route permit to Northern States Power Company and Great River Energy for the Southwest Twin Cities Chaska Area 115 kV Transmission Line Project.

The route permit authorizes Northern States Power Company and Great River Energy to upgrade an existing 69 kV transmission line and to construct a new 115 kV line in Carver and Scott Counties.

Further information about the project and the route permit can be found on-line at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32771> and on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets" and enter the year (12) and the docket number (401) and select "Search".

Inquiries about the project should be directed to Commission Staff Analyst, Tricia DeBleekere

at tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us or 651-201-2254.

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