



Publication Date: December 13, 2010
Vol. 34, No. 25

Next Publication: December 27, 2010
Submittal Deadline: December 20, 2010

NOTICE: The EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2011 is included in this edition.

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: January 12, 2011

Project Title: County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard NW) Reconstruction Project, Anoka and Ramsey, Anoka County, Minnesota (SP 02-716-11)

Description: Anoka County is proposing the expansion of 1.4 miles of CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard NW) from two to four lanes within the cities of Anoka and Ramsey. The project will include a raised median, shoulders, turn lanes, a traffic control signal at Sunfish Lake Boulevard, and a pedestrian/bicycle path. The project limits are from Basalt Street to Germanium Street NW. Anoka County plans to begin the project construction in 2011.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration completed review and approval of the Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) in fall, 2010.

The Open House and Public Hearing for the project will be held on Monday, January 10, 2011 from 4:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the Community Room in Anoka City Hall, 2015 1st Avenue North in Anoka, MN. The formal public hearing is scheduled from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m., and will continue if needed to hear all comments.

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>

The Open House will provide information about the proposed project and answer questions. Maps, drawings and other pertinent information, including the EA/EAW, will be available. The public is encouraged to attend the Open House to discuss the project with staff. The purpose of the public hearing is to collect comments and feedback on the EA/EAW document. 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 public is encouraged to provide oral or written comments on the document. Comments will be incorporated and responded to in the final EA/EAW. Written comments may be submitted to the County through Jan. 18, 2011.

Copies of the EA/EAW will be available for public viewing at the public meeting during business hours at the following locations from December 13, 2010 through January 12, 2011:

- Anoka County Highway Department: 1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN, 55304
- City of Anoka: 2015 1st Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303
- City of Ramsey: 7550 Sunwood Dr NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
- Anoka County Library, 4201 6th Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Room 175 Transportation Building, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55155

A copy of the EA/EAW can also be viewed on the Anoka County Website at:
http://ww2.anokacounty.us/v3_highway/CSAH116/welcome.html.

Written comments can be submitted at the public meeting or mailed, prior to the close of the public comment period on January 12, 2011, to Jack Corkle, Anoka County Highway Department, 1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304.

Accessibility and ASL

For accessibility or ASL, please make your request by December 31, 2010.

To request an ASL interpreter or other reasonable accommodations, call Jack Corkle at 763-862-4219 or e-mail your request to jack.corkle@co.anoka.mn.us.

RGU: Anoka County Highway Department

Contact Person:

Jack Corkle
Anoka County Highway Department
1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304
Phone: 763-862-4219
Email: jack.corkle@co.anoka.mn.us

NOTICES

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Notice of Annual Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will convene the annual public hearing on the Power Plant Siting and Transmission Line Routing Program at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 28, 2010**, in the Large Hearing Room at the Commission's offices on the third floor of the Metro Square Building, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101.

The annual hearing is required by Minnesota Statute 216E.07, which provides that:

The commission shall hold an annual public hearing at a time and place prescribed by rule in order to afford interested persons an opportunity to be heard regarding any matters relating to the siting of large electric generating power plants and routing of high-voltage transmission lines. At the meeting, the commission shall advise the public of the permits issued by the commission in the past year.

While the Commission has multiple statutory authorities for the permitting of several types of energy infrastructure, the scope of the annual hearing is limited to the above cited statute and associated administrative rules in Minn. Rule 7850. The purpose of the hearing is not to take testimony regarding open dockets before the Commission.

The Commission has prepared an Agenda for the meeting, which is available on its webpage at www.puc.state.mn.us (click on December 28 under Upcoming Events). Docket number E999/M-10-222 has been opened for creation of a record in this matter.

At the hearing the public will be afforded an opportunity to be heard through presentation of oral or written statements. Written statements and relevant exhibits may also be submitted for inclusion in the annual hearing record by eFiling (see PUC website link above) or by delivery to the Commission's offices at the address above by the close of business on February 1, 2011. The staff recognizes that the time and location may make it difficult for all interested persons to attend, and emphasizes that written comments are encouraged and will be given equal consideration. The report of the 2009 Annual Hearing is available in edockets for Docket 09-1351. Direct all inquires and written comments regarding the annual hearing to: Bret Eknes, Phone 651-201-2236, email: bret.eknes@state.mn.us

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

Issued: November 30, 2010

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Pleasant Valley to Byron 161 kV Transmission Line Project.

Copies of the FEIS can be obtained through the OES State Permit Manager and may be viewed at the Public Utilities Commission website:

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

and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website:

<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.)

Copies will also be available for viewing at the public libraries listed below:

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

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, and 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 FEIS.

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.

Project Documents.

Electronic versions of the permit application and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and downloading on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25695>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website: <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.)

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

Matthew Langan
State Permit Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2096
matthew.langan@state.mn.us

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2011

Volume Number	Deadline for Submission	Publication Date	EAW Comment Deadline
35-1	January 3	January 10	February 9
35-2	January 14 (Friday)	January 24	February 23
35-3	January 31	February 7	March 9
35-4	February 14	February 21	March 3
35-5	February 28	March 7	April 6
35-6	March 14	March 21	April 20
35-7	March 28	April 4	May 4
35-8	April 11	April 18	May 18
35-9	April 25	May 2	June 1
35-10	May 9	May 16	June 15
35-11	May 23	May 30	June 29
35-12	June 6	June 13	July 13
35-13	June 20	June 29	July 27
35-14	July 1 (Friday)	July 11	August 10
35-15	July 18	July 25	August 24
35-16	August 1	August 8	September 7
35-17	August 15	August 22	September 21
35-18	August 29	September 5	October 5
35-19	September 12	September 19	October 19
35-20	September 26	October 3	November 2
35-21	October 10	October 17	November 16
35-22	October 24	October 31	November 30
35-23	November 7	November 14	December 14
35-24	November 21	November 28	December 28
35-25	December 5	December 12	January 11, 2012
35-26	December 19	December 26	January 25, 2012