



Publication Date: December 27, 2010
Vol. 34, No. 26

Next Publication: January 10, 2011
Submittal Deadline: January 3, 2011

EQB MONITOR

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: January 26, 2011

Project Title: Granite Falls Energy, LLC – Ethanol Plant Expansion Project

Description: Granite Falls Energy, LLC (GFE), is an existing fuel-ethanol production facility (Facility) located in Granite Falls, Minnesota. GFE proposes to expand its permitted undenatured ethanol production capacity from 49.9 million gallons per year (MMGY) to 70 MMGY. The expansion would be achieved by adding additional equipment to support ethanol production. This additional production equipment will be located within GFE's current property boundary. The primary source of fuel for the Facility is natural gas (propane can be used as a backup).

In addition to the EAW, the MPCA's draft Air Emissions Permit and draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Permit for the GFE Expansion Project will also be on public notice concurrently. The contact person for the draft Air Emissions Permit is Jim Robin (651-757-2739). The contact person for the draft NPDES/SDS Permit is Kate Frantz (651-757-2370).

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will host a public informational meeting on the EAW and permits. The meeting will be held on January 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the Minnesota West Community Technical College in Granite Falls. MPCA staff will also be available one hour prior to the meeting to answer questions in an open house format.

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>

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>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Steve Sommer
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division – 4th Floor
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2746

Project Title: Big Stone Quarry

Description: Strata Corporation is proposing to construct a granite quarry operation south of Ortonville in Ortonville Township, Big Stone County, MN. The project involves the development of a new granite aggregate mining and processing operation on a 95.55 acre quarry site plus related ancillary operations and features. Construction activities are planned to begin in 2011 with the site becoming fully operational in 2012.

RGU: Big Stone County

Contact Person:

Darren Wilke
Environmental Services Director
20 2nd St SE
Ortonville, MN 56278
Phone: 320-839-6376
Fax: 320-839-6253
Email: darren_w@co.big-stone.mn.us

Project Title: Interstate 494 (I-394 to East Fish Lake Road) Expansion Project EA/EAW (S.P.2785-330)

Description:

The proposed project will construct a new travel lane on the inside shoulder of north- and southbound I-494 from I-394 to the East Fish Lake Road overpass in the Cities of Minnetonka, Plymouth, and Maple Grove. Auxiliary lane improvements will also be constructed in the southbound direction at the I-494 interchange with I-394. Existing I-494 bridges over the Canadian Pacific Railway will be redecked and widened. Existing I-494 bridges at Schmidt Lake Road and CSAH 47 will be either replaced or redecked and widened. The southbound I-494 bridge at I-394 will require widening on the right shoulder. The project also includes construction of stormwater ponds and noise barriers. All construction activity is anticipated to take place within existing I-494 right of way.

Copies of the EA/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 **December 27, 2010**, at the following locations:

- Project Web site: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494plymouth>
- Mn/DOT Metro District Offices, 1500 West County Road B2, Roseville
- Maple Grove City Hall, 12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy., Maple Grove
- Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka
- Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth
- Hennepin County Library, 8001 Main St. N., Maple Grove
- Hennepin County Library, 17524 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka
- Hennepin County Library, 15700 36th Ave. N., Plymouth

To request this document in an alternative format, call Bruce Lattu at 651-366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to bruce.lattu@state.mn.us. (Please request at least one week in advance).

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EA/EAW, a public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at Plymouth City Hall – Medicine Lake Room (3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, Minnesota 55447-1482). The public hearing will be held in an open house format. 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 request at least one week in advance).

Copies of the EA/EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period for the EA/EAW will begin on Monday, December 27, 2010. Comments will be accepted through Wednesday, January 26, 2011. Written comments should be submitted to: Richard Dalton, Environmental Coordinator, Mn/DOT Metro District, 1500 W. County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113, Phone 651-234-7677, Email Richard.Dalton@state.mn.us.

Project Proposer

Minnesota Department of Transportation

RGU

Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact

Scott Pedersen, Project Manager

Mn/DOT Metro District

1500 West County Road B2

Roseville, MN 55113

Phone: (651) 234-7726

Email: Scott.Pedersen@state.mn.us

EIS ADEQUACY DECISIONS

Project Title: Trunk Highway 23 / U.S. Highway 71 Improvement Project, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota

On December 16, 2010, the Minnesota Department of Transportation determined that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for improvements to Minnesota Trunk Highway 23/U.S. Highway 71 in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota is adequate. This decision completes the Minnesota environmental review process as found in Minnesota Rules 4410.

The record supporting the Adequacy Decision is available at the following web address: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/hwy23and71/index.html>. Those without internet access may obtain a hard copy by contacting the Project Manager Lowell Flaten, Mn/DOT District 8, 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar, MN 56201, phone: 320-214-6367.

AUAR ADOPTED

Project Title: Maple Grove Gravel Mining Area AUAR Update

At their meeting on Monday, December 6, 2010, the Maple Grove City Council adopted Resolution No. 10-141 designating and approving the 2010 Update of the 2005 Maple Grove Gravel Mining Area Alternative Urban Area Wide Review and Mitigation Plan dated August 23, 2010 (the "GMA AUAR Update"), and the Responses to Comments on an Amendments to the 2010 Update of the 2005 Maple Grove Gravel Mining Area AUAR and Mitigation Plan dated November 1, 2010, as the "Revised Environmental Analysis Document and Plan for Mitigation" in accordance with Minnesota Environmental Quality Board Rules 4410.3610, Subd.5.

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 Pollution Control Agency, Shamrock Environmental, LLC – Industrial Waste Landfill at Cloquet, Carlton County, Denied.

PETITION FILED

The following petitions have 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.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Finlayson Demo LLC Landfill, Pine County

NOTICES

Minnesota Department of Administration

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
11-NO-001	Monsanto	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance Altered Oil Composition	Redwood (4)

For more information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651/201-6277, mary.hanks@state.mn.us.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD
STATE METALLIC MINERALS LEASE SALE**

State Lands to be Offered for Metallic Minerals Exploration

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announces that plans are being developed to hold the state's 32nd sale of metallic minerals exploration and mining leases. The sale is tentatively scheduled for April 2011. The lease sale plans are being announced at this time in order to give mining companies, public interest groups and all other interested parties additional time to review the areas under consideration.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 - .0700) is to promote and regulate the exploration for, mining and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These rules, and the leases issued under these rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of rentals that increase with the passage of time, the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed, the submission of data and other reports, and the addressing of environmental considerations. In addition, the state lessee must comply with all applicable regulatory laws.

The areas under consideration for the lease sale cover portions of Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and Saint Louis Counties. Some of the lands being considered have been offered in previous metallic minerals lease sales, but based upon the interest shown by industry, new geologic data, and exploration techniques developed during the past few years, it is felt that within these lands there is significant potential for the discovery of mineral resources. Certain new lands of interest are also being considered for the lease sale.

The exact time and place of the lease sale will be announced by legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the sale. Mining unit books, listing the state lands to be offered at the lease sale, will be available for inspection or purchase at that time.

A map showing the general areas under consideration may be obtained from the Division of Lands and Minerals, Box 45, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155-4045, telephone 651-259-5959, or by visiting the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Dated: December 14, 2010

By: _____



Marty K. Yadis, Director
Division of Lands and Minerals

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Public Utilities Commission & Office of Energy Security

Issued: December 14, 2010

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT

**In the matter of Prairie Rose Wind, LLC, Applications for a Certificate of Need and
Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit
for the 101 MW Prairie Rose Wind Farm in Rock and Pipestone Counties**

**Certificate of Need Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6838/CN-10-80
Site Permit Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6843/WS-10-425**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the application of Prairie Rose Wind, LLC (Applicant), for a Certificate of Need, in conjunction with a public meeting on the draft for a Site Permit for the proposed Prairie Rose Wind Farm (Project). The hearing and public meeting will address respectively: (1) whether the proposed Project is needed and in the public interest, and (2) issues related to the proposed siting of the Project. The hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. The hearing may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded

HEARING DATE & LOCATION

December, 28, 2010	7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Memorial Hall 101 East Wall Street Jasper, MN 56144
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Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Richard Luis from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the need for the Project or the proposed siting can do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Luis: Richard Luis, Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620; (fax) 651-361-7936; e-mail: Richard.Luis@state.mn.us.

Written Comments. Written comments on the Certificate of Need or the Draft Permit should be submitted to Judge Luis at the address listed above. Comments will be accepted through January 27, 2011. Mailed comments must be postmarked by this date. Faxed and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on this date.

Purpose and Conduct of the Hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input about the Project. 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 Site Permit Applications, Environmental Report, Draft Site Permit 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 the written comment period Judge Luis will prepare a written summary of the comments received at the hearing and file it with the Commission, which will consider them in its deliberations of the certificate of need and site permit applications.

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).

Environmental Report. The Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting, has completed and issued an environmental report for the proposed Prairie Rose Wind Farm. The environmental report addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives. For a copy of the environmental report, please see project contacts and information below.

Draft Site Permit. On October 28 2010, the Commission issued an order approving a draft site permit for distribution and public comment. For a copy of the draft site permit, please see project contacts and information below.

Project Description. The Applicant proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 101 megawatts (MW). Depending on which turbines are selected, the wind turbine layout will consist of up to 67 turbines. If General Electric (GE) 1.5 MW wind turbines are selected, the hub height will be 80 meters (263 feet) and the rotor diameter will be 77 meters (252 feet). If Vestas 1.8 MW wind turbines are selected, the hub height will be 80 meters (263 feet) and the rotor diameter will be 90 meters (295 feet). If Siemens 2.3 MW wind turbines are selected, the hub height will be 80 meters (263 feet) and the rotor diameter will be 101 meters (331 feet). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, a meteorological tower, a Sonic Detection and Ranging unit or Light Detection and Ranging unit, an electrical collection system, project substation, a metering yard, transmission line and an operations and maintenance building. Power will ultimately be delivered to the Prairie Rose substation located in Rose Dell or Denver Township, where it will be converted to 115 kV and will then be transported via a new 115 kV line to the Split Rock substation near Brandon, South Dakota.

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 35,335 acres located in Denver, Rose Dell and Springwater Townships in Rock County and Elmer and Eden Townships in Pipestone County. The Applicant has acquired easements, or made lease agreements, for the Project on approximately 23,145 acres in the Townships.

Eminent Domain. The Applicant 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.

Authority and Statement of Issues to be Decided. In order to proceed with this Project, the Applicant must obtain a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, to issue a certificate of need for a large wind energy facility if the applicant can demonstrate that there is a need for the Project. A certificate of need is a state permit that is issued upon a determination that construction of an energy facility is in the public interest. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, subdivision 4, to hold a hearing on the application for a certificate of need.

The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 216F.04 to issue LWECS site permits for certain wind energy facilities. When the Commission designates a site, it issues a site permit for the construction of a facility specifying the design, location, preparation, and operation of the facility, along with any other appropriate conditions it deems necessary. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes section 216F.05 and Minnesota Rule 7854.0900 to hold a public meeting on an application for a site permit for an LWECS.

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 Rule 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Judge Luis in writing by 4:30 p.m. on January 27, 2011. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason that 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 or not to authorize construction of the Project.

Project Contacts and Information. For more information on the **Certificate of Need**, please contact:

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

For additional information regarding the **Site Permit** application, or to place your name on the project mailing list maintained for this project, please contact:

David Birkholz, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: (651) 296-2878
Fax: (651) 297-7891
david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Jamie MacAlister, Public Advisor
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: (651) 296-1335
Fax: (651) 297-7891
jamie.macalister@state.mn.us

The certificate of need application and environmental report can be found on the eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "10" and the number "80"). The LWECS site permit application and draft site permit can be found on the eDockets website (enter the year "10" and the number "425").

The site permit application, draft site permit, environmental report, and other relevant documents, including Minnesota's statutes and rules governing the site permitting process, are also available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=28286>.

You can also place your name on the Project mailing list at this website.

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the: County Courthouses of Pipestone and Rock Counties; City offices in Luverne and Pipestone; and Township Clerks of Denver, Eden, Elmer, Rose Dell and Springwater.

Questions regarding the Prairie Rose Wind farm and its permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting:

Patrick Smith
Geronimo Wind Energy
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Edina, MN 55435
Phone: (952) 988-9000
Email: patrick@geronimowind.com

Scott Briffett
Geronimo Wind Energy
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725
Edina, MN 55435
Phone: (507) 337-1959
Email: scott@geronimowind.com

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.

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