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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: March 23, 2011

Project Title: Motokazieland Recreational Park

Description: The Motokazieland Recreational Park is proposing the construction of several off-highway all-terrain vehicle (ATV), dirtbike, BMX, and snowmobile recreational tracks/trails, camping, and associated facilities on 165.8 acres south of CSAH 9 in Section 6 of Cannon City Township, Rice County.

RGU: Rice County

Contact Person:

Julie Runkel
Environmental Services Director
Rice County Environmental Services
320 NW 3rd Street
Faribault, MN 55021
Phone: 507-332-6113
Fax: 507-332-6227
Email: jrunkel@co.rice.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: Forsman Farms Layer Hen Feedlot Expansion

Description: Forsman Farms (project proposer) is proposing an expansion to their existing egg laying facility in Section 1, Stockholm Township, Wright County that contains 1,440 animal units (AUs) in 6 barns. The proposed project includes three 98-foot wide by 450-foot long chicken confinement buildings, two 98-foot by 200-foot manure buildings, one 40-foot by 400-foot manure building, three water wells, and other associated infrastructure. The project proposer plans to add one laying barn and one manure barn per year until completed in 2012. When completed, there will be an additional 660,000 laying hens (less than 5 pounds) or 1,980 AUs, for a total of 3,420 AUs.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft National Pollution Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal (NPDES/SDS) Permit will also be available for public comment concurrently, beginning during the week of February 21, 2011. The contact person for the NPDES/SDS Permit is Courtney Ahlers at 651-757-2183.

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

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Charles Peterson
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: 651-757-2856

Project Title: Whipholt Gravel Mine Expansion

Description: Tri-City Paving is proposing a 19.3-acre expansion of an existing 14.0-acre gravel mining operation on a 69.2-acre parcel of property in Section 15, T141N, R30W, Turtle Lake Township, Cass County, Minnesota.

RGU: Cass County

Contact Person:

Paul Fairbanks
County Planner
303 Minnesota Avenue W.
P.O. Box 3000
Walker, MN 56484-3000
Phone: 218-547-7287

Fax: 218-547-7429

Email: paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us

Lake Ogechie Wild Rice Restoration Project

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) are proposing to restore historical wild rice beds of Lake Ogechie within Mille Lacs Kathio State Park in Mille Lacs County. This will be accomplished by decreasing the height of the existing water control structure (Buckmore dam) at the outlet of Lake Ogechie and constructing a new water control structure at the outlet of Mille Lacs Lake to replace the water level control function currently served by Buckmore dam. Lake Ogechie will be lowered approximately 2.5 feet while maintaining existing water levels in Mille Lacs Lake. The connected river and lakes system within this portion of the Upper Rum River downstream of Mille Lacs Lake is expected to serve as an important waterfowl, feeding, resting and staging area with the resurgence of wild rice.

The MDNR will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to Randall Doneen, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4025. Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us with "Lake Ogechie EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, please include your name and mailing address.

Public review copies of the EAW are available at the following locations:

- MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155;
- MDNR Regional Headquarters, 1201 E. Highway 2, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, 55744;
- MDNR Central Regional Headquarters, 1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55106;
- Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, 15066 Kathio State Park Road, Onamia, Minnesota 56359;
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55401;
- East Central Regional Library, 244 South Birch Street, Cambridge, Minnesota, 55008; and
- Isle: Mille Lacs Community Library, 285 2nd Avenue South, Isle, Minnesota, 56342.

The EAW is also posted on the MDNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us. (Click on "Public Input", then under the "Environmental Review" scroll-down list select "Lake Ogechie EAW"). Additional copies may be requested by calling (651) 259-5156.

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*.

- Sand Hill River Watershed District, Improvement, Laterals, and Outlet Extensions to Polk County Ditch No. 77 including Branches 1 and 2 and Improvements and Laterals to Polk County Ditch No. 166, February 1, 2011 (November 15, 2010)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Granite Falls Energy, LLC Ethanol Plant Expansion Project, February 3, 2011 (December 27, 2010)

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.

- City of Dundas, EAW for church addition at Holy Cross.

NOTICES

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
11-NO-008	Pioneer	Corn	Insect Resistance	Fillmore, Freeborn, Steele
11-NO-009	Monsanto	Corn	Insect Resistance	Steele
11-NO-010	Pioneer	Soybean	Insect Resistance Herbicide Tolerance Selectable Marker	Fillmore, Freeborn, Steele
11-NO-011	USDA-ARS	Barley	Disease Resistance	Dakota

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.

Transgenic Alpha Amylase Corn - Commercial Use Exemption

Syngenta Seeds, Inc. has requested an exemption from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permit for a corn line, designated as transformation event 3272, which has been genetically engineered to produce alpha amylase, an enzyme that facilitates ethanol production, and a plant selected marker protein. This corn line contains the stably integrated genes, *amy797E*, derived from *Thermococcales*, a hyperthermophilic microorganism, and *pmi(manA)*, from *E. coli*, a common bacterium. The corn line containing these genes is no longer regulated under USDA/APHIS guidelines. Under this exemption from state permit, Syngenta will be allowed to commercially use this alpha amylase producing corn line without further regulation. For additional information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651/201-6277, mary.hanks@state.mn.us

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security**

NOTICE OF PERMIT DECISION

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the Potato Lake 115 kV Transmission
Line and Substation in Park Rapids, Minnesota**

PUC Docket Number ET2/TL-10-86

At a meeting on November 9, 2010, and in an Order issued November 17, 2010, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission determined that the environmental assessment and the record created at the public hearing had adequately addressed the issues identified in the scoping decision. The Commission issued a high-voltage transmission line route permit for the Potato Lake project, authorizing Great River Energy to construct seven and one-quarter miles of 115 kilovolt transmission line in Hubbard County connecting Great River Energy's existing Mantrap Sub Tap 34.5 kV line to a new Mantrap substation to be located in Arago Township, Minnesota.

If you have any questions about this project or would like more information, please contact the Office of Energy Security state permit manager: Scott Ek, 85 - 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101, phone: (651) 296-8813, e-mail: scott.ek@state.mn.us.

Documents relative to this project may be viewed on the Commission's website:
<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=26124>