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# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: March 11, 2009

### Project Title: Kohl's Duluth Parking Replacement Project

**Description:** A Minnesota Department of Transportation realignment project for Miller Trunk Highway 53 resulted in a substantial loss of parking stalls for Kohl's Department Store in Duluth. To mitigate the loss of stalls and to provide adequate infrastructure for the store, Kohl's proposes to build a parking replacement area adjacent to the existing parking lot. The project will impact 18,891 sq. ft. of floodplain forest and shrub-carr wetlands. Mitigation is proposed to satisfy Wetland Conservation Act and US Army Corps of Engineers standards.

**RGU:** City of Duluth

#### Contact Person:

Chuck Froseth  
Senior Planner  
411 West 1<sup>st</sup> St. Room 402  
Duluth, MN 55802  
Phone: 218-730-5325  
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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: Lake Olaf Drawdown**

**Description:** Lake Olaf is located in the northwestern part of Otter Tail County. The water level in Lake Olaf has consistently increased since 1999 and currently threatens the submergence of CSAH 30. As such, the Project proposes to draw down Lake Olaf through mechanical means and open channels and discharge to the Pelican River.

The project area is located just west of Pelican Rapids, MN, within Norwegian Grove and Pelican Townships.

A copy of the EAW is available for review at the Otter Tail County Highway Department, 505 S. Court St., Fergus Falls, MN. Copies of the EAW are also available on the Otter Tail County Highway Department Website (<http://www.co.otter-tail.mn.us/highway/>), under the General Information Section. The County Highway Department office hours are posted on the website also. They may also be contacted at 218-998-8470.

Written comments will be accepted through March 11, 2009. Comments should be directed to Mr. Rick West, PE, Otter Tail County Engineer, Otter Tail County Highway Department, 505 S. Court St., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

**RGU:** Otter Tail County

**Contact Person:**

Rick West, PE, County Engineer  
Otter Tail County Highway Department  
505 S. Court St.  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
Phone: 218-998-8470  
Fax: 218-998-8488  
Email: [rwest@co.otter-tail.mn.us](mailto:rwest@co.otter-tail.mn.us)

**Project Title: Rush Creek Habitat Restoration Project**

**Description:** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) proposes to remove a failed low-head dam in Rush City, Chisago County, Minnesota and to restore and stabilize a portion of Rush Creek upstream of the dam. The proposed stream channel restoration is a natural channel design that is achieved by adjusting the dimension, pattern, and profile for 2,830 feet of stream to improve stream stability and fish habitat. Off-channel ponds will also be created in the project area to provide benefits for wildlife and recreation.

The MDNR will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, March 11, 2009 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 [environmental.review@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:environmental.review@dnr.state.mn.us) with "Rush Creek 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, 1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106;
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401;
- Rush City Public Library, 240 W. Fourth Street, Rush City, MN 55069;
- East Central Regional Library, 244 S. Birch Street, Cambridge, MN 55008.

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

**RGU:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Contact Person:**

Randall Doneen  
EAW Project Manager  
Environmental Policy and Review Unit  
Division of Ecological Resources  
Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025  
Email: [environmental.review@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:environmental.review@dnr.state.mn.us)

## 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 95 Improvement Project in the City of Princeton, January 14, 2009 (September 8, 2008)
- Olmsted County, Olmsted CR 104/60<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, January 20, 2009 (November 3, 2008)
- City of Woodbury, Odawa Pond Restoration, January 28, 2009 (December 1, 2008)
- Pope County Board of Commissioners, Deer Park Addition, January 20, 2009 (June 2, 2008)
- Town of Gnesen, Island Lake Campground, January 12, 2009 (September 22, 2008)

## Notice of DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement and Public Informational Meeting

### Project Title: Concrete Products for New London, Highway 23 Aggregate Mining Expansion

**Description:** Concrete Products of New London, Inc. (The Proposer) intends to expand an existing 39-acre mining and aggregate operation onto the adjacent 248 acres over the next 30 years. Anticipated activities associated with the proposed project include mining, crushing, screening, washing of aggregates, and the crushing and recycling of concrete for reuse.

**Public Informational Meeting:** A public informational meeting to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be held on March 5 2009, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building (2200 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NE in Willmar, MN). The meeting will take place in the Multi Purpose Room, located on the lower level, room number 0030. Copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at the Willmar Public Library (410 5<sup>th</sup> St. SW) or at the Kandiyohi County Planning and Zoning Office (400 Benson Avenue SW, Willmar). All written comments must be submitted to the Kandiyohi County Planning and Zoning Office by March 20, 2009.

**RGU:** Kandiyohi County

#### Contact Person:

Gary Geer  
Kandiyohi County Zoning Administrator  
400 SW Benson Avenue  
Willmar, MN 56201  
Phone: (320) 231-6229  
Email: gary\_g@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

## NOTICES

### Minnesota Department of Agriculture Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
09-NO-005	Pioneer	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance	Olmsted; Waseca (2)
09-NO-006	Pioneer	Canola	Herbicide Tolerance	Clay; Norman
09-NO-007	Pioneer	Corn	Combinations of: Altered Feed Properties, Fatty Acid Level, Amino Acid Composition, Fiber Quality, Cell Wall, Lipid Profile, Starch Metabolism, Oil Profile, Starch Content and Protein	Benton, Blue Earth, Chisago, Clay, Goodhue, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Mower, Murray,

			Quality; Herbicide Tolerance; Insect Resistance; Increased Oil Content, Starch Level and Lysine Level; Improved Digestibility, Food Quality, Animal Feed Quality and Nutritional Quality; Reduced Phytate; Disease Resistance; Gene Repression; Visual and Selectable Markers; Production of Novel Proteins	Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pine, Renville, Stevens, Todd, Wabasha, Waseca, Wilkin, Winona, Yellow Medicine
09-NO-008	Pioneer	Soybean	Combinations of: Altered Feed Properties, Fatty Acid Level, Amino Acid Composition, Lipid Profile, Starch Metabolism, Carbohydrate Metabolism, Maturity, Plant Development and Protein Quality; Herbicide Tolerance; Insect and Nematode Resistance; Increased Oil Content, Lysine Level, Yield, Yield Stability, and Nitrogen Use Efficiency; Improved Animal Feed Quality and Nutritional Quality; Disease Resistance; Gene Repression; Drought Tolerance; Visual and Selectable Markers; Production of Novel Proteins	Blue Earth, Clay, Faribault, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Redwood, Renville, Sherburne, Sibley, Waseca
09-NO-009	Pioneer	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance and Altered Fatty Acid Level	Clay, Freeborn, Norman, Steele
09-NO-010	Pioneer	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance, Insect Resistance and Altered Feed Properties	Blue Earth, Clay, Dakota, Freeborn, Norman, Steele
09-NO-011	Monsanto	Canola	Increased Yield	Pennington (2), Polk, Red Lake
09-NO-012	Monsanto	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance and Modified Seed Composition	Blue Earth, Lincoln, McLeod, Nicollet, Renville, Sibley, Stearns, Swift
09-NO-013	Monsanto	Canola	Increased Yield	Pennington (2), Polk, Red Lake

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](mailto:mary.hanks@state.mn.us)

**Public Meeting Notice – Southeast Regional Landscape Committee  
Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The Southeast Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Thursday, February 12, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Weaver Dunes TNC Office south of Kellogg, Minnesota.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at 320-256-8300 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

**Public Meeting Notice – Northern Regional Landscape Committee  
Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The Northern Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in International Falls at the Holiday Inn.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at 320-256-8300 or go to the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

**Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Office of Energy Security**

Issued: January 31, 2009

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Route Permit Application for the South Bend-Stoney Creek 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line and Substations Project**

**PUC Docket Number: E-002, ET-2/TL-08-734**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed for the South Bend-Stoney Creek Transmission and Substations Project and is available to the public. Copies of the EA and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19642> or

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

Search eDockets using year “08” and number “734.” Paper copies may be requested from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) staff listed at the end of this notice.

***Project Description***

The proposed HVTL would be an 115 kilovolt (kV) alternating current transmission line with two new substations. The permit application is for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new 115 kV transmission line circuit approximately eight miles in length, connecting a new substation in Rapidan Township to a new substation in Mankato Township, through to the existing Pohl Road Substation. The proposed facilities also would include substation and equipment upgrades at the Wilmarth and Eastwood substations to accommodate the upgraded transmission facilities.

Applicants have proposed to 1) construct a new South Bend 115-161/69 kV substation and rebuild an existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV to the Ballard Corner Switches on 200<sup>th</sup> Street; 2) construct a new Stoney Creek 115/69 kV substation and rebuild an existing 69 kV transmission line to a 115/69 kV double circuit transmission line from the Ballard Corner Switches to the proposed Stoney Creek Substation; and 3) rebuild the existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV from the proposed Stoney Creek Substation to the existing Pohl Road Substation.

***PUC Review Process***

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy have submitted an Application for a Route Permit to the Public Utilities Commission. OES was assigned to hold a public meeting and prepare an environmental assessment of the proposed transmission lines under the alternative review process found in Minn. Rule 7849.5510-5720. OES has prepared the EA, analyzing the environmental impacts and alternatives to the proposed transmission route.

A Public Hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings will be held in Mankato in February, 2009. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed by U.S. Mail to persons receiving this notice.

***Project Contacts and Information***

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact the OES Project Manager, David Birkholz (Tel: 651-296-2878 or [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)) or the OES Public Advisor Suzanne Steinhauer (Tel: 651-296-2888 or [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)) Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. 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.