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Submittal Deadline: March 28, 2011

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: April 20, 2011

Project Title: Jona Baer, Inc., Egg Laying Retrofit

Description: Jona Baer, Inc. (or proposer) is proposing to expand the existing Jona Baer, Inc. layer hen total confinement facility (facility or project). The existing facility includes an egg-grading barn (Barn 1), a feed barn (Barn 2), four egg-laying barns (Barns 3, 4, 5, and 6), a dry manure storage building, manure stockpile sites, as well as a compost site. The facility is located in Section 24 of Eglon Township in Clay County. The project includes remodeling of an existing poultry laying barn (Barn 5) to install new battery cages as well as a continuous manure air drying and conveyor system, and extending the existing 80-foot by 200-foot manure storage barn by an additional 80 feet. The continuous manure air drying system will allow for further drying of manure before removal via a conveyor to the enlarged manure storage barn. Both Barns 3 and 4 already have continuous manure air drying and conveyor systems. Barn 6 is not undergoing modifications at this time. Total animal units (AUs) after the project is completed will be 1,326.

The proposer has applied for coverage under the National Pollutant discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System General Feedlot Program (NPDES/SDS Permit). The public notification of the application for coverage will be available on the MPCA website beginning March 23, 2011. The contact person for the NPDES/SDS Permit is Mike Sharp at 218-846-8139.

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

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>

Contact Person:

Nancy Drach
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: 651-757-2317

Project Title: Airlake 70 Industrial Park

Description: Airlake Development, Inc. is proposing an industrial/warehouse development on a 66± acre agricultural parcel in the southeast corner of the City of Lakeville. Development of the EAW study area has the potential of providing up to 916,000± square feet of industrial/warehouse space

RGU: City of Lakeville

Contact Person:

David Olson
Community & Economic Development Director
City of Lakeville
20195 Holyoke Avenue
Lakeville, MN 55044
Phone: 952-985-4420
Fax: 952-985-4409
Email: dolson@lakevillemn.gov

Project Title: University of Minnesota Norris Hall Demolition

Description: Norris Hall and Gymnasium originally completed in 1914, with a subsequent 1934 Field House addition, was vacated in 2010. It is being considered for deconstruction by the University of Minnesota. Deconstruction will involve salvaging useable materials, underground utility and tunnel work, and landscape restoration to open green space.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the University of Minnesota Capital Planning and Project Management Web Site, at the following: http://www.cppm.umn.edu/master_planning.html

RGU: Regents of the University of Minnesota

Contact Person:

Kathleen O'Brien
Vice President for University Services
c/o James Litsheim
Capital Planning and Project Management

400 Donhowe Building
319 15th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612-624-4359
Fax: 612-625-0770
Email: litsh002@umn.edu

Project Title: East Cove Sediment Removal Project

Description: 3M's East Cove Sediment Removal project will remove approximately 17,000 cubic yards of sediment containing perfluorochemicals (PFCs) from the East Cove at the 3M Cottage Grove plant and a portion of the sandbar at the cove outlet. The project removal area is approximately 1.5 acres in size and is located on 3M property at the base of a ravine adjacent to and east of the 3M Cottage Grove Plant. The sediment in the cove is being removed by dredging to a depth of 6.5 to 7 feet below the top of the sediment and within the defined boundaries approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

This project is part of the Settlement Agreement and Consent Order between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and 3M in May 2007.

The 30-day public comment period for the EAW will be March 21, 2011 to April 20, 2011. A press release briefly describing the project, where the EAW can be reviewed, the comment period deadline, and to whom comments should be submitted to will be published in the *South Washington County Bulletin*.

The schedule is as follows:

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|---|----------------|
| • Publish notification of EAW in the Environmental Quality Board <i>Monitor</i> | March 21, 2011 |
| • 30-day Comment Period Ends | April 20, 2011 |
| • Planning Commission Review | April 25, 2011 |
| • Environmental Commission Review | May 11, 2011 |
| • City Council Determination on EAW | May 18, 2011 |

RGU: City of Cottage Grove

Contact Person:

John McCool
City of Cottage Grove
7516 – 80th Street South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Phone: 651-458-2874
Email: jmccool@cottage-grove.org

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*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Proposed Johnson's Rolling Acres – Dairy Feedlot Expansion, March 2, 2011 (January 10, 2011). Negative Declaration.

NOTICES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

NOTICE OF SALE OF STATE METALLIC MINERALS LEASES

Notice is hereby given that a sale of leases to explore for, mine and remove metallic minerals in trust fund lands, lands and minerals forfeited for non-payment of taxes, lands and minerals otherwise acquired, and other state-owned land under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Natural Resources, and located in portions of Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and Saint Louis Counties, is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. The sale will take place at the Central Offices of the Division of Lands and Minerals, 4th Floor, East-West Conference Room DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota. No land or water areas within the Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness or Voyageurs National Park are included in this or any State mineral lease sale.

The Commissioner will receive sealed bids and applications for leases covering minerals in state lands, in accordance with Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 through 6125.0700 – the metallic mineral rules issued under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 93. Each bid must be submitted on a form obtained from the Commissioner. Each bid form must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or bank money order, payable to the Department of Natural Resources in the sum of the following amounts: a) an application fee of \$100.00 for each mining unit bid upon; and b) rental for one full calendar year for each mining unit bid upon. All bids must be received by the Commissioner at the office of the Division of Lands and Minerals, Fourth Floor, DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4045, before 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2011.

On Thursday, April 28, 2010, at the time specified, the Commissioner, or his representative will publicly open the bids and announce the amount of each bid separately. At a subsequent time, leases will be awarded by the Commissioner, with the approval of the State Executive Council, to the highest bidder for the respective

mining units, but no bids will be accepted that do not equal or exceed the base royalty rates set forth in the Rules or that do not comply with all provisions of the Rules. The State reserves the right, through the State Executive Council, to reject any or all bids.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules is to promote and regulate the prospecting for, mining and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These Rules, and the leases issued under the Rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of minimum rentals that increase over the term of the lease; the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed; the submission of data and other reports; and the submission of exploration plans. In addition, the lessee must comply with all applicable regulatory laws.

After the conclusion of the sale, each high bidder will be required to provide evidence demonstrating that the bidder is qualified to hold a state mineral lease pursuant to Minnesota Rules, part 6125.0410. The Rules state that a lease will only be issued to an applicant qualified to do business in Minnesota and qualified to conduct exploratory borings in Minnesota. In addition, the Commissioner may request evidence that the lease applicant is technically and financially capable of performing under the terms of a state mineral lease. The requested evidence must be provided within 45 days of the request from the Commissioner or the bids from that high bidder will be rejected.

Upon the award of a lease, the application fee submitted with the bid will be deposited as a fee for the lease. All bids not accepted will become void, and the application fee and rental payment accompanying such bids will be returned to each respective bidder, provided, however, the application fee and rental payment accompanying a bid shall not be returned if the bidder was the high bidder and subsequently withdrew the bid prior to the award of a lease.

Bid forms, instructions on how bids are to be submitted, copies of the rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 through 6125.0700) and copies of the Mining Unit Book, listing the land areas designated by the Commissioner as mining units, may be obtained from the Transactions Section, Division of Lands and Minerals, DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4045. E-mail inquiries may be sent to aaron.vande-linde@state.mn.us.

The Mining Unit Book will be available at least 30 days prior to April 28, 2011. Application for each copy of the Mining Unit Book must be accompanied by a check or money order payable to the Department of Natural Resources in the sum of \$25.00 as a fee for such Mining Unit Book plus shipping and applicable State of Minnesota Sales Tax. Mining Unit Books will also be available for inspection at the Hibbing and Saint Paul

offices of the Division of Lands and Minerals, and on the internet through the DNR website at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/index.html.

By: Larry R. Kramka, Director
Division of Lands and Minerals
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
March 14, 2011

OAH Docket No. 3-2000-21889-2

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

FOR THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the Matter of the Appeal by Rice Creek
Watershed District of the Public Waters Restoration
and Replacement Order for Judicial Ditch No. 2.

**NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND
ORDER FOR HEARING**

TO: RESPONDENT RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT, and its attorneys Thomas M. Scott, Campbell, Knutson, P.A., 317 Eagandale Office Center, 1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121.

NOTICE OF HEARING

RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT (“RCWD”) IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) has initiated this action pursuant to RCWD’s appeal of the Public Waters Restoration and Replacement Order regarding repair of the sheetpile weir located in Judicial Ditch No. 2 (“JD2”). This matter is brought pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 103G.2372 and .311 (2010).

ORDER FOR PREHEARING CONFERENCE

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a contested case prehearing conference will be held on April 18, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. at the Office of Administrative Hearings, Harold E. Stassen Office Building, State Capitol Complex, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101. **All mail sent to the Administrative Law Judge assigned to this matter should be directed to P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620.**

ORDER FOR HEARING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103G.311, a contested case hearing in this matter will be held at a time and place to be decided by the Administrative Law Judge at the prehearing conference.

The Chief Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, has assigned this matter to Kathleen D. Sheehy, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, telephone (651) 361-7848.

The hearing will be conducted pursuant to the contested case procedures set out in chapter 14 of Minnesota Statutes, the Rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minn. Rules 1400.5010-.8500, and Minn. Stat. §§ 103G.301-.315 (2010). A copy of these materials may be purchased from the Minnesota Book Store, telephone (651) 297-3000, or are available at www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us. Copies of the rules are also available at www.oah.state.mn.us. The rules generally provide for the procedural rights of the parties, including: rights to advance notice of witnesses and evidence, right to a prehearing conference, rights to present evidence and cross-examination, and right to purchase a transcript of the record.

The attorney for the DNR, David P. Iverson, Assistant Attorney General, 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 900, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2127, telephone (651) 757-1466 may be contacted to discuss discovery or informal disposition of this matter.

After the hearing in this matter, the record and the Administrative Law Judge's recommendations will be forwarded to the Commissioner of Natural Resources to make a final decision. DNR staff involved in the pretrial conference and subsequent hearing will not participate in the Commissioner's deliberations in this matter. In addition, the Commissioner will be advised by an attorney other than David P. Iverson.

ALLEGATIONS

1. RCWD is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota established pursuant to Minn. Stat. ch. 103B (2010), with jurisdictional boundaries that includes Rice Lake (82-146P), a public water pursuant to Minn. Stat. ch. 103G (2010) located in the City of Hugo, Washington County, Minnesota. RCWD is also the designated drainage authority charged with management of public ditch systems within its jurisdictional boundaries, including JD2, which drains Rice Lake and acts as the control for the water level of Rice Lake.

2. Following a maintenance project undertaken on JD2 downstream of Rice Lake in March 2004 and again in winter 2004-05 by RCWD, Rice Lake drained to the point where, by late May 2005, virtually all surface water was absent from the lake and the former open water basin consisted of mud flats.

3. By Public Waters Restoration and Replacement Order dated September 8, 2005, (2005 Restoration Order), DNR directed RCWD to initiate and complete the restoration of Rice Lake through the construction of a sheetpile weir in JD2 as was originally proposed by RCWD in a DNR Public Waters Work Permit Application dated August 10, 2005. The 2005 Restoration Order was ultimately enforced by the Washington County District Court. RCWD then reestablished the preexisting outlet elevation of Rice Lake by installing the sheetpile weir within JD2 at the lake outlet location, completing the restoration by October 10, 2005. By letter dated October 12, 2005, DNR notified RCWD that its affirmative actions complied with the conditions of the 2005 Restoration Order and, therefore, the restoration was considered complete.

4. By letter dated April 27, 2010, DNR and RCWD were notified that the sheetpile weir had been breached as a result of erosion around the northwest side of the structure. Subsequent inspection by DNR revealed that the sheetpile weir was no longer maintaining the water level of Rice Lake, as the water level on the upstream side of the weir was 4 inches below the outlet elevation of the weir and water was flowing around the breached side of the weir.

5. DNR issued to RCWD a Public Waters Restoration and Replacement Order on June 9, 2010 (“2010 Restoration Order”). In the 2010 Restoration Order, DNR stated that the washout on the northwest side of the sheetpile weir “has reduced the ultimate run out of Rice Lake by at least one foot. If the washout is not repaired, Rice Lake will eventually be completely drained, as it was in 2005, and such drainage could occur rapidly under the right climatological conditions.”

6. In the 2010 Restoration Order, DNR directed RCWD to “[r]epair the erosion at the end of the weir and install erosion prevention measures to keep this from happening again.” RCWD was given three weeks from the date of the 2010 Restoration Order to complete the required work.

7. Pursuant to Minn. R. 6115.0255, subp. 5.A (2009), RCWD appealed the terms and conditions of the 2010 Restoration Order to the Commissioner of DNR by letter dated July 8, 2010. By letters dated July 12, 2010; September 1, 2010; and October 29, 2010, the appeal deadline was extended by mutual agreement of the Commissioner of DNR and RCWD.

8. An inspection of the site on November 15, 2010, by DNR revealed that the water level upstream of the weir was 4 inches below the runout elevation and the surface water level in the mainbody of Rice Lake was 3.6 inches below the runout elevation.

9. By letter dated December 13, 2010, the Commissioner of DNR denied the RCWD’s administrative appeal of the 2010 Restoration Order. RCWD timely appealed the decision of the Commissioner of DNR in a letter dated January 4, 2011, pursuant to Minn. R. 6115.0255, subp. 5.A (2009), and Minn. Stat. § 103G.311, subd. 5 (2010) demanding a contested case under the Administrative Procedures Act.

ISSUE

1. Whether the 2010 Restoration Order requiring RCWD to repair the sheetpile weir is consistent with applicable Minnesota statutes and Minnesota rules.

The relevant statutes and rules include, but need not be limited to, Minn. Stat. §§ 103G.245, subd. 1 and 103G.251, subd. 2 (2010); Minn. R. 6115.0160-.0170, .0200, .0210, .0215, .0220, and .0270, subps. 3 and 4 (2009).

ADDITIONAL NOTICE

1. Respondent's failure to appear at the hearing or prehearing conference may result in a finding that the Respondent is in default, that the DNR's allegations contained in this Notice and Order may be accepted as true, and its proposed action may be upheld.

2. If any party has good cause for requesting a delay of the hearing or any prehearing conference, the request must be made in writing to the Administrative Law Judge at least five days prior to the prehearing conference. A copy of the request must be served on the other party.

3. Any party intending to participate as a party at the prehearing conference must file a Notice of Appearance form and return it to the Administrative Law Judge within 20 days of the date of service of this Notice and Order. A copy must be served on the DNR's attorney. A Notice of Appearance form is enclosed.

4. All parties have the right to be represented by legal counsel, by themselves, or by a person of their choice if not otherwise prohibited as the unauthorized practice of law. The parties are entitled to the issuance of subpoenas to compel witnesses to attend the hearing. The parties will have the opportunity to be heard orally, to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses, and to submit evidence and argument. Ordinarily the hearing is tape-recorded. The parties may request that a court reporter record the testimony at their expense.

5. Persons attending the hearing should bring all evidence bearing on the case, including any records or other documents. Be advised that if data that is not public is admitted into the record, it may become public data unless an objection is made and relief is requested under Minn. Stat. § 14.60, subd. 2.

6. Requests for subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents at the hearing shall be made in writing to the Administrative Law Judge pursuant to Minn. R. 1400.7000. A copy of the subpoena request shall be served on the other parties. A subpoena request form is available at www.oah.state.mn.us or by calling (651) 361-7900.

7. This case may be appropriate for mediation. The parties are encouraged to consider requesting the Chief Administrative Law Judge to assign a mediator so that mediation can be scheduled promptly.

8. The Office of Administrative Hearings conducts contested case proceedings in accordance with the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct and the Professionalism Aspirations adopted by the Minnesota Supreme Court. A Guide to Participating in Contested Case Proceedings at the Office of Administrative Hearings is available at www.oah.state.mn.us or by calling (651) 361-7900. Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 1400.5100, subpart 3a and 1400.5500, filing may be accomplished by mail, delivery, fax or licensed overnight express mail service. The fax number for the Administrative Law Judge is (651) 361-7936.

9. Any party who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this hearing process may request one. Examples of reasonable accommodations include wheelchair accessibility, an interpreter, or Braille or large-print materials. If any party requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, the administrative law judge must be promptly notified. To arrange for an accommodation or an interpreter, contact the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, or may call (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TTY).

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2011.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TOM LANDWEHR
Commissioner

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

ANNOUNCEMENT

Identifying priority forest resources research needs in Minnesota

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) is charged with identifying forest resources research needs in Minnesota, with the intention of encouraging and guiding investments by the public, non-profit and private sectors. The MFRC has engaged a panel of senior researchers and administrators to begin to develop these priorities and would like your input. An interim report with the proposed priority topics and research questions can be found on the MFRC website (http://www.frc.state.mn.us/initiatives_research.html). The panel would like to get your input to further shape these topics and questions. We will be holding two forums, one in St. Paul on the UMN campus (Tuesday, April 5th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.) and one in Duluth at the Natural Resources Research Institute (Thursday, April 7th from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.). We anticipate a robust discussion. If you are unable to attend, please send your comments utilizing the 'questions for consideration' on our website by Friday, April 8th. Questions for your consideration and meeting logistics are available online (http://www.frc.state.mn.us/initiatives_research.html).

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
11-NO-009 WITHDRAWN	Monsanto	Corn	Insect Resistance	Steele
11-NO-025 WITHDRAWN	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance	Brown, Dakota, Goodhue, Mower, Rice, Waseca
11-NO-031	Monsanto	Canola	Yield Increase	Pennington, Polk, Red Lake
11-NO-032	Monsanto	Canola	Yield Increase	Pennington, Polk, Red Lake
11-NO-033	Syngenta	Corn	Disease Resistance	Goodhue
11-NO-034	Monsanto	Canola	Yield Increase Herbicide Tolerance	Pennington, Polk, Red Lake
11-NO-035	Monsanto	Canola	Yield Increase Disease Resistance	Pennington, Polk, Red Lake
11-NO-036	Monsanto	Canola	Yield and Quality Increase	Pennington, Polk, Red Lake
11-NO-037	Syngenta	Corn	Insect Resistance	Brown, Dakota, Mower, Rice, Waseca, Winona
11-NO-038	Dow	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance Insect Resistance	Fillmore
11-NO-039	Monsanto	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance Yield Increase	Blue Earth, Clay (3), Grant, Kandiyohi, Redwood (5), Steele, Sibley

11-NO-040	Monsanto	Canola	Herbicide Tolerance	Stearns
11-NO-041	Syngenta	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Olmsted
11-NO-042	Dow	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance	Dakota, Fillmore, Wilkin (2)
11-NO-043	Betaseed	Sugarbeet	Improved Plant Quality	Carver (2), Dakota (2)
11-NO-044	Monsanto	Corn	Increased Yield	Blue Earth, Martin, McLeod, Mower, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Steele, Waseca
11-NO-045	M.S. Technologies	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Becker (2), Blue Earth, Clay (2), Grant, Jackson, Kandiyohi (2), Lac qui Parle, Norman, Renville (2), Rice, Stevens, Traverse, Yellow Medicine
11-NO-046	Dow	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Fillmore, Wilkin (2)
11-NO-047	Down	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Fillmore, Wilkin (2)
11-NO-048	Betaseed	Sugarbeet	Disease Resistance	Dakota (2), Le Sueur, Scott (6)

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.

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

NOTICE OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT ISSUANCE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**In the Matter of the Site Permit Application for the Black Oak Wind Farm,
a 42 Megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Stearns County**

PUC Docket No. IP6853/WS-10-1240

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) will hold a public information meeting on the application by Black Oak Wind, LLC (Black Oak Wind), to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a site permit to build and operate a 42 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) near Sauk Centre, Minnesota (see attached map).

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Thursday, April 7, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.

Sauk Centre City Hall
320 Oak Street South
Sauk Centre, Minnesota 56378

To be preceded by an Open House hosted by
Black Oak Wind, LLC
2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of the public information meeting is to provide information about the proposed project and to solicit public comment on the site permit application submitted by Black Oak Wind and the draft site permit issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). Black Oak Wind, LLC, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC. Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the draft site permit. Representatives of Geronimo Wind will be present to answer questions about the proposed project. **Prior to the public information meeting, Black Oak Wind, LLC, will host an open house beginning from 2:30 to 5:30 at the same location.**

Public Comments. In addition to receiving comments at the public information meeting, EFP staff will also accept written comments on the proposed project, site permit application, and draft site permit until **4:30 p.m., Friday, April 22, 2011.** Please include Docket Number IP6853/WS-10-1240 on your comments.

Comments should be mailed, faxed, or emailed to:

Suzanne Steinhauer
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500 | St. Paul, Minnesota | 55101-2198
Fax: (651) 296-2568 | email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted electronically: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>

Project Description. The proposed site is comprised of approximately 7,100 acres of agricultural land in Ashley and Raymond townships in Stearns County, located approximately five miles southwest of Sauk Centre. Black Oak Wind, in its LWECs application, states that approximately 6,565 acres are under site control. Depending upon the turbine model selected and final layout, approximately 13.5 to 20 acres would be converted to turbines and associated infrastructure.

Black Oak Wind is considering three turbine models; depending upon the actual turbine model selected the Project may be comprised of 26 General Electric 1.6 xle 1.6 MW turbines, 23 Vestas V90 1.8 MW turbine, or 14 Vestas V112 3.0 MW turbine. Depending upon turbine models selected, towers would range from 262 to 328 feet (80 to 100 meters), with rotor diameters of 270 to 367 feet (82.5 to 112 meters), for a total height of 397 to 492 feet (121 to 150 meters). The project would also require associated facilities identified in the permit application, such as electric feeder and collection lines, a project substation, turbine access roads, an operations and maintenance facility, and two permanent meteorological towers.

The project would interconnect with the electrical grid at Great River Energy's Black Oak substation. The applicant intends to seek a permit from Stearns County for a project substation and a 69 kV transmission line to connect the project substation with GRE's Black Oak substation. Black Oak Wind anticipates that the project will begin commercial operation in late 2012.

Review Process. EFP staff, on behalf of the Commission, is initiating the permit review process for this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules 7854).

The applicant filed an application with the Commission for a LWECS site permit on December 6, 2010. The Commission accepted the application as complete in its order of January 14, 2011. An amended LWECS site permit application, containing updated information required by the Commission, was filed on January 14, 2011. EFP staff solicited comments on issues to be considered in developing a draft site permit for this project until February 11, 2011. Staff prepared a draft site permit for consideration by the Commission. On March 11, 2011, the Commission issued an Order approving the draft site permit for distribution and public comment and authorized EFP staff to implement the public participation process outlined in Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. Upon completion of this process, EFP staff will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision. Under the LWECS siting process, environmental review is incorporated into the development of the site permit application and the site permit itself; there is no separate environmental review document prepared on the project.

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 Rules 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with the Commission in writing by **4:30 p.m., Friday, April 22, 2011.**

The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why 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 the Commission in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

Eminent Domain. Black Oak Wind 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 LWECS facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and Black Oak Wind.

Project Documents. Electronic versions of the site permit application, the draft site permit and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=30578> and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter "10" and "1240" docket number).

A hard copy of the LWECS application and draft site permit are also available for public review at the auditor's offices in Stearns County; the city offices in Sauk Centre; the township offices in Ashley and Raymond townships, and at the public library in the Sauk Centre.

Mailing List. Persons interested in adding their names to the mailing list for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#MailingLists>.

Project Contacts. For more information about the permit process and the proposed project please contact:

Suzanne Steinhauer , State Permit Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2888
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

Ray Kirsch, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-7588
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Questions about the LW ECS permit application may also be directed to the applicant by contacting the company's representative, Karyn O'Brien, Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC, 7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 7250. (952)988-9000. karyn@geronimowind.com.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.

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