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# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: April 22, 2009

**Project Title:** Runway Extension – Bigfork Township, Minnesota

**Description:** The proposed project includes reconstruction the existing runway at the Bigfork Municipal Airport, and extending the northwest end of the runway 900 feet. Once extended, the new runway will have a total length of 4,000 feet. Associated runway safety zones will also be moved to accommodate the longer runway.

Copies of the EAW document are available for public review at the Bigfork City Hall and at the Bigfork Municipal Airport.

Written comments on the EAW must be submitted to the City of Bigfork during the 30 day review period that ends on April 22, 2009. Written or emailed comments should be submitted to Angie Storlie, City Clerk, City of Bigfork, 200 Main Avenue, P.O. Box 196, Bigfork, MN 56628, Phone: 218-743-3782, Fax: 218-743-3782; Email: [ctyclerk@bigfork.net](mailto:ctyclerk@bigfork.net).

**Project Proposer:** City of Bigfork

**RGU:** City of Bigfork

**Contact Person:**

Angie Storlie, City Clerk  
City of Bigfork  
200 Main Avenue  
PO Box 196  
Bigfork, MN 56628  
Phone: 218-743-3782; Fax: 218-743-3782  
Email: [ctyclerk@bigfork.net](mailto:ctyclerk@bigfork.net)

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: Phil Gervais Hog Conf II Feedlot Expansion**

**Description:** Phil Gervais is proposing an expansion of an existing swine finishing facility in the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 29 of Lake Sarah Township in Murray County. The facility currently has a maximum physical capacity of 2,200 finishing hogs (660 animal units) housed in one barn. The proposed facility expansion will consist of the construction of one additional barn that will have a maximum physical capacity of 2,200 finishing hogs (660 animal units). After construction, the maximum physical capacity of the entire facility will be 4,400 finishing swine (1,320 animal units). The existing and proposed barns will be identical total confinement, power-ventilated buildings. Manure will be stored in reinforced concrete pits located beneath each of the barns.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Agency Web site 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 East Feedlot Unit  
Regional Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 651-757-2856

**Project Title: Wetzel Pork, LLC**

**Description:** Wetzel Pork, LLC is proposing an expansion of an exiting swine finishing facility in Section 3 of Walnut Lake Township in Faribault County. The facility currently has a maximum physical capacity of 2,400 finishing hogs, or 720 animal units, housed in one barn. The proposed facility expansion will consist of the construction of one additional barn that will have a maximum physical capacity of 2,400 finishing hogs. After construction, the maximum physical capacity of the entire facility will be 4,800 finishing swine (1,440 animal units). The existing and proposed barns will be total confinement, curtain-ventilated buildings. Manure will be stored in reinforced concrete pits located beneath each of the barns.

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

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**Contact Person:**

Karen Kromar  
Planner Principal  
Environmental Review and Feedlot Unit  
Regional Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 651-757-2508

**Project Title: Willow Creek Development**

**Description:** The 130-acre Willow Creek development is proposed to the north of County State Aid Highway 45 and approximately 1 mile east of CSAH 1 in the City of Sauk Rapids, Benton County, Minnesota. The development will include a 275 unit assisted living home, and up to 35 attached residential units and 120 unattached residential units. Anyone wishing to submit comments on the EAW can view a copy of the document at the City of Sauk Rapids and send written comments to City Planner Marney Curfman, City of Sauk Rapids, 115 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, Sauk Rapids no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 22, 2009.

**RGU:** City of Sauk Rapids

**Contact Person:**

Todd Schultz  
Community Development Director  
115 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue No.  
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379  
Phone: 320-258-5300  
Fax: 320-258-5359  
Email: [tschultz@ci.sauk-rapids.mn.us](mailto:tschultz@ci.sauk-rapids.mn.us)

**Project Title: 257<sup>th</sup> Street Mixed Use Development Area**

**Description:** The City of Wyoming has prepared an EAW for the proposed 257<sup>th</sup> Street Mixed Use Development Area located adjacent to 105.85 acres west of TH 61 (Forest Blvd.), north of 250<sup>th</sup> Street, and east of I-35 in Wyoming, MN. The land is currently cultivated agricultural land, wetlands, grasslands, and wooded.

**RGU:** City of Wyoming

**Contact Person:**

Craig Mattson  
City Administrator/Clerk  
26885 Forest Blvd.  
Wyoming, MN 55092  
Phone: 651-462-0575  
Fax: 651-462-0576  
Email: [cmattson@wyomingmn.org](mailto:cmattson@wyomingmn.org)

**Project Title: Manston Wildlife Management Area**

**Description:** The Manston Slough Restoration is a cooperative undertaking between the BRRWD, State, and Federal agencies. The combination of dikes and water control structures will restore the wetland and grassland complex to enhance wildlife habitat, improve water quality, provide groundwater recharge, and reduce local flooding.

An Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) has been prepared and is available upon written request to the BRRWD at Box 341, Barnesville, MN 56514. Written comments concerning the EAW will be received until April 22, 2009. The comments shall address the accuracy and completeness of the material contained in the EAW, potential impacts that may warrant further investigation before the project is commenced, and the need for an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed project.

**RGU:** Buffalo-Red River District (BRRWD)

**Contact Person:**

Bruce E. Albright  
District Administrator  
123 Front Street North  
Barnesville, MN 56514  
Phone: 218-354-7710  
Fax: 218-354-2503

## **EAW NEED DECISIONS**

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an EAW in response to a citizen petition.

- Stearns County, Alexander Pointe. Denied.

## **EIS POSITIVE DECLARATION**

**CITY OF SCANDIA  
RESOLUTION NO. 03-03-09-02**

**DECLARING A POSITIVE NEED FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR THE ZAVORAL MINING AND DECLAMATION PROJECT,  
LOCATED IN SECTIONS 18 AND 19, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 19 WEST IN  
THE CITY OF SCANDIA, MINNESOTA**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Scandia is the Responsible Governmental Unit in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project, located in Sections 18 and 19, Township 32 North, Range 19 West in the City of Scandia; and

**WHEREAS**, the EAW is based on operation of a gravel mine and processing operation on a dormant, un-reclaimed gravel mine site of 114 acres located along St. Croix Trail North (State TH 95) near its intersection with State TH 97, and a portion of the site is located in the St. Croix River District Zone; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Scandia has submitted a copy of the EAW to all public agencies on the EAW distribution list, publishing EAW availability in the EQB Monitor on January 12, 2009, all of which were done in accordance with applicable State laws, rules and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Scandia acknowledges the comments received from forty-six (46) agencies or individuals during the official comment period, and seven (7) of the comment letters were received from regulatory agencies, including the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the National Park Service-St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District and the Washington Conservation District; and

**WHEREAS**, the comments received indicated that the proposed Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project is lacking sufficient information to determine the potential for, or significance of, the possible environmental effects of the proposed project, and that additional appropriate studies could be reasonably obtained; and

**WHEREAS**, the City concurs with the comments received that the EAW does not contain the information necessary to make a reasoned decision about the potential for, or significance of, possible environmental impacts, and that such information is necessary to allow the City to decide whether the project has the potential for significant environmental effects as described in Minnesota Rules 4410.1700, Subpart 7;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLVED** that the City Council of the City of Scandia does make a positive declaration on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project located in Sections 18 and 19, Township 32 North, Range 19 West in the City of Scandia, and adopts the Record of Decision, Findings of Fact and Conclusions included as "Attachment A" to this resolution.

**PASSED** by the City Council of the City of Scandia this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis D. Seefeldt, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk/Administrator

## NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING

The City of Scandia wishes to notify all interested parties that a public meeting to review the scope of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project will be held on **Thursday, April 7, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Scandia Community Center, 14727 209<sup>th</sup> St. N, Scandia, MN 55073.

The project would consist of the mining and reclamation of a dormant, un-reclaimed gravel mine on 64 acres of a 114 acre site located east of Highway 95 (St. Croix Trail) and the intersection of Highway 95 and Highway 97 (Scandia Trail). The operation is proposed to include extraction, crushing, washing, stockpiling, hauling and reclamation operations. An EIS was recently ordered by the Scandia City Council, after a finding that an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) prepared for the project was lacking sufficient information to make a reasoned determination about the potential for, or significance of, one or more possible environmental impacts, and that this determination could be made within the scope of an EIS.

Materials related to this project, including the EAW and the record of decision on the need for the EIS, are available for review at the City of Scandia Office, 14727 209<sup>th</sup> St. N., during the office hours (9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) and on the City's website <http://ci.scandia.mn.us>.

The public is invited to attend the meeting to offer comment on the scope of the EIS. Written comments will be accepted through Tuesday, April 7, 2009. Comments should be directed to Anne Hurlburt, City Administrator, City of Scandia, 14727 209<sup>th</sup> St. N., Scandia, MN 55073

For more information, please contact: Anne Hurlburt, City Administrator, 651-433-2274 or [a.hurlburt@ci.scandia.mn.us](mailto:a.hurlburt@ci.scandia.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*.

- Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, Fisher's Resort expansion project, March 10, 2009 (January 26, 2009)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Interstate-494 Pavement Overlay and Third Lane Addition Cities of Maplewood, Oakdale and Woodbury, March 6, 2009 (December 29, 2008)
- Hennepin County, Lowry Avenue Bridge Replacement Project, March 9, 2009 (December 29, 2008)

## **RE: Correction of March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 EQB Monitor headline for Southwest Transitway Project**

The headline in the March 9, 2009 Monitor incorrectly indicated that the DEIS for the Southwest Transitway Project is available. The headline should have been "DEIS Preparation Notice" as Hennepin County has started preparing the federal DEIS. All other information in the notice was correct.

A December 2009 publication of the DEIS is anticipated.

Additional information on the Southwest Transitway Project, including the Scoping Summary Report, is available on the project website found at <http://www.southwesttransitway.org/>.

**RGU:** Hennepin County

**Contact Person:**

Katie Walker, AICP, Project Manager  
Hennepin County  
Department of Housing, Community Works, and Transit  
417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
Phone: 612-348-2190  
Email: [Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us)

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**  
**Issued Date: March 17, 2009**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**  
**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy)**  
**Certificate of Need Applications and Site Permit Application**

**Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant**  
**Extended Power Uprate and Additional Dry Cask Storage Proposals**

**PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-08-509 (Certificate of Need Extended Power Uprate)**  
**PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-08-510 (Certificate of Need Additional Dry Cask storage)**  
**PUC Docket Number: E002/GS-08-690 (Site Permit Extended Power Uprate)**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP) extended power uprate and additional dry cask storage projects for public comment, as well as the date, location and time for the public meeting.

Copies of the DEIS can be obtained through the OES Project Manager and maybe viewed at the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) web site:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19602>

Copies are also available for viewing at the following public libraries:

Red Wing Public Library  
315 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Hastings Public Library  
830 Vermillion Street  
Hastings, MN 55033

Ellsworth Public Library  
312 West Main Street  
Ellsworth, WI 54011

St. Paul Public Library  
90 Fourth St. West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft EIS.

**Tuesday, April 21, 2009 – 6:00 PM**

***Red Wing Public Library***

***Foot Room***

**225 East Avenue**

**Red Wing, MN 55066**

**<http://redwing.lib.mn.us/>**

Representatives from the OES and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the proposed project. The OES will accept written comments on the draft EIS until **May 8, 2009**. Written comments should be mailed to Bill Storm ([bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)), Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198.

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's energy facility permitting website:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

**Power Uprate** - The extended power uprate (EPU) would involve increasing the amount of heat produced in the reactor, which would result in more steam being produced. Balance-of-plant changes would be made to convert the additional steam to electricity. The power uprate is proposed to be implemented during the 2013 and 2015 refueling outages for Unit 1 and Unit 2 respectively.

The major balance-of-plant modifications will include Upgrade high-pressure turbines, replace main generator rewinds, Replace generator step-up transformers, Replace moisture separator reheaters, and Upgrade isophase bus duct cooling.

Xcel Energy intends to apply to the NRC for an amendment to the Prairie Island Operating License for the proposed EPU in 2010.

**Additional Dry Cask Storage** - This project requests to increase the number of canisters stored at the existing Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI). The PINGP currently has State authorization for 29 canisters to store the spent fuel generated until the end of the current operating licenses in 2013 and 2014. Extending the life of the plant an additional 20 years and implementing the power uprate will require an additional 35 canisters. The concrete pads within the existing ISFSI would be expanded to hold the additional



canisters. The ISFSI is currently licensed by the NRC to store 48 TN-40 casks and the proposed extension of the storage pads would be sufficient to accommodate the 16 additional casks.

## **REGULATORY REVIEW PROCESS**

### ***Certificate of Need***

No large energy facility can be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a certificate of need by the Commission. The certificate of need process is the only proceeding in which a no-build alternative and the size, type, timing, system configuration, and voltage of a proposed project will be considered.

The OES prepares an Environmental Report (ER) on proposed large energy facilities that come before the Commission for a determination of need. The ER analyzes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and project alternatives, and addresses mitigating measures for anticipated adverse impacts.

The proposed PINGP power uprate qualifies as a large energy facility (Minn. Stat. 216B.2421). Xcel Energy applied for a certificate of need for the PINGP EPU on May 16, 2008. On July 22, 2008, the Commission accepted the application as complete. The docket number for the certificate of need for the EPU is E002/CN-08-509.

### ***Site Permit***

The proposed uprate of the electrical generating capacity of the PINGP by 164 MW also falls within the definition of a Large Electric Power Generating Plant (LEPGP) in the Power Plant Siting Act and, thus, requires a Site Permit from the Commission prior to construction. Xcel Energy applied for a site permit following the full review process on August 1, 2008.

The OES EFP staff must prepare an EIS on proposed large electric power generating plants that come before the Commission for a Site Permit (Minn. Rules 7849.5300). An EIS is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of a proposed large electric power generating plant (and selected alternative sites) and methods to mitigate such impacts.

The review process begins with the determination by the Commission that the application is complete. The Commission has one year to reach a decision from the time the application is accepted. On August 14, 2008, the Commission accepted the application as complete. The docket number for the site permit for the EPU is E002/CN-08-690.

### ***Additional Dry Cask Storage Docket***

Along with its May 16, 2008, filing, Xcel Energy also filed a CON for additional dry cask storage at the existing Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) at the PINGP. This filing was pursuant to Minn. Stat. 116C.83, Minn. Stat. 216B.243, and Minn. Rule 7855.

Authorization of any additional dry cask storage or expansion or establishment of an independent spent-fuel storage facility at a nuclear generation facility in Minnesota is subject to approval of a certificate of need by the Commission pursuant to Minn. Stat. 216B.243.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required for the construction and operation of a new or expanded independent spent-fuel storage installation (Minn. Stat. 116C.83). The Department of Commerce is the responsible governmental unit for the environmental impact statement.

On July 15, 2008, the Commission accepted the CON application as complete (July 22, 2008 order); the docket number for the certificate of need for the Additional Dry Cask Storage is E002/CN-08-510.

### ***Coordinated Environmental Review Process***

The OES is conducting a coordinated environmental review process for Xcel Energy's certificate of need and site permit applications (Minnesota Rule 7849.7100).

Additionally, the OES in consultation with Commission staff has determined that further process efficiencies can be obtained by incorporating the EIS requirements for the Additional Dry Cask Storage CON process with those addressed above for the extended power uprate CON and Site Permit approval processes.

### ***Public Hearing***

Upon close of the draft EIS comment period, a contested case hearing will be held. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for mid May, 2009; notice will be provided.

### **PROJECT CONTACTS and MAILING LISTS**

Public advisors from the OES and the Commission have been appointed to assist persons interested in taking part in the permitting process. For more information, contact one of the persons listed below:

#### ***Department of Commerce – Office of Energy Security***

The OES has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) as project manager and Ray Kirsch (651-296-7588, [raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)) as public advisor for the site permit proceedings. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 1-800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

#### ***Public Utilities Commission***

The Commission has designated staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, [mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us)) as its public advisor for the certificate of need proceedings. Mr. Kaluzniak may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

#### ***Xcel Energy***

Information about this project is available from Xcel Energy. You can direct questions to Brian Zelenak (612-330-5641, [brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com](mailto:brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com)). Mr. Zelenak may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

#### ***Project Mailing Lists***

If you would like to have your name added to the OES project mailing list for this project, you may register on line at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19602> or contact OES staff at the address above.

The Commission maintains a separate service list for certificate of need proceedings. To be placed on the list for this project, mail, fax or email Robin Benson at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, Fax: 651-297-7073, [robin.benson@state.mn.us](mailto:robin.benson@state.mn.us).

#### **Information Availability**

Copies of the certificate of need application and site permit application are available at:

- [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com) (Home > About Energy & Rates > Power Generation > Monticello Uprate)
- <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/powerplants.html>

Both applications can also be viewed at the libraries listed above.

## NOTICES

### Minnesota Department of Agriculture

#### Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
09-NO-044	Monsanto	Canola	Increased Yield; Herbicide Tolerance; Water and Nitrogen Use Efficiency	Pennington (2), Polk, Red Lake
09-NO-045	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Dakota, Fillmore
09-NO-046	Dow AgroSciences	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance	Dakota, Fillmore
09-NO-047	Syngenta	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Dodge
09-NO-048	Syngenta	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Dodge
09-NO-049	Monsanto	Canola	Increased Yield; Herbicide Tolerance	Wilkin
09-NO-050	M.S. Technologies	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Becker, Clay, Freeborn, Kandiyohi, LeSueur, Wilkin
09-NO-051	Syngenta	Corn	Altered Seed Composition	Brown, Dakota, Goodhue, Mower(2), Rice (2), Waseca
09-NO-052	Syngenta	Corn	Insect Resistance	Goodhue
09-NO-053	USDA – Ag Research Service	Barley	Disease Resistance	Dakota
09-NO-054	Syngenta	Corn	Insect Resistance	Renville
09-NO-055	Syngenta	Corn	Insect Resistance	Brown
09-NO-056	Betaseed	Sugarbeet	Virus Resistance	Scott (5 sites)
09-NO-057	Syngenta	Corn	Insect Resistance	Brown, Dakota (2), Goodhue, Mower (2), Rice (2), Waseca
09-NO-058	Dow AgroScience	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance	McLeod, Otter Tail, Renville, Stearns, Wilkin
09-NO-059	Monsanto	Soybean	Increased Yield; Herbicide Tolerance;	Clay, Otter Tail, Redwood, Wilkin

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).

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY****ISSUED: MARCH 10, 2009****NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE  
AND  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING****In the Matter of a Site Permit Application for the 60 MW  
Lakeswind Wind Power Plant in  
Becker, Clay and Ottertail Counties****PUC Docket: IP6603/WS-08-1449****DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABLE  
For the Proposed Lakeswind Wind Power Plant**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Project Resources Corporation (PRC) on behalf of Lakeswind Wind Power Partners, LLC, has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit to build and operate up to a 60 Megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Becker, Clay and Ottertail Counties in northwestern Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security (OES), on behalf of the Commission, will hold a public information meeting at the location and time listed below:

**March 31, 2009**  
**5:30 p.m. Open House**  
**6:30 p.m. Public Information Meeting**  
**Galaxie Supper Club**  
**20063 Highway 34**  
**Barnesville, MN 56514**

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project and to take public comment and input on the site permit application and the draft site permit issued by the PUC. OES staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the proposed draft site permit for the Lakeswind Wind Power Plant.

The public information meeting and a comment period will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about and make comments on the Project, the process and the draft site permit. Representatives of the OES and the Applicant will be at the meeting to describe the proposed Project and answer questions.

Prior to the public information meeting, the Applicant will host an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**Project Description**

The Applicant is considering different models of wind turbine generators for the Project. Depending upon the turbine model selected, the Applicant proposes to install 17 to 35 wind turbine generators and anticipates an in-

service date of no later than December 2010. The proposed turbines would use 80 meter (263 feet) tubular towers measured at the hub height. Depending upon the model selected, the rotor diameter of the turbines would be 252 to 331 feet with a maximum overall height of approximately 393 to 429 feet above grade when one blade is in the vertical position.

Energy from the Project will be delivered directly to the Great River Energy Tamarac Substation on the corner of State Highway 34 and 183<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Ottertail County. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and turbine access roads.

The site comprises approximately 19,000 acres in Clay, Otter Tail and Becker counties. See accompanying map for site boundaries. The Applicants anticipate that approximately 19 acres of land would be permanently removed from agricultural production for turbine sites and access roads.

### **PUC Site Permit Review Process**

Lakeswind Wind Power Partners, LLC, a Minnesota based company, submitted a site permit application for the Project on January 20, 2009. On February 12, 2009, the PUC accepted the application as complete, made a preliminary determination that a permit may be issued and issued a draft site permit. The application and draft site permit are available from the website and contacts listed below. Landowners and governments within the Project boundary will receive a copy of the application, public notice and draft site permit directly from Lakeswind Wind Power Partners, LLC.

The OES is now initiating the public participation process under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 7836). Upon completion of the public participation process, the OES will present the record of this matter to the PUC for a final permit decision.

### **Eminent Domain**

The Applicant does not have the power eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the large wind energy conversion system. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between landowners and the Applicant.

### **Public Comments**

Interested persons may comment on the application and draft site permit at the public meeting or may submit written comments until **4:30 p.m. on May 6, 2009**. Written comments can be sent by mail, fax or by email. Please include the project docket number (**IP6603/WS-08-1449**) on written comments. All comments should be directed to Larry Hartman (see below). Comments may also be submitted on the PUC's energy facility permitting website: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>.

### **Contested Case Hearing Request**

Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter (Minnesota Rule 7836.0900). All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Mr. Hartman in writing by **4:30 p.m. on May 6, 2009**. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The PUC shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the hearing will aid the PUC in making a final decision on the site permit application and draft site permit.

### **Project Contacts and Information**

Questions, comments and requests to add your name on the mailing list for the Project may be directed to:

OES Project Manager  
Larry Hartman, Tel: (651) 296-5089  
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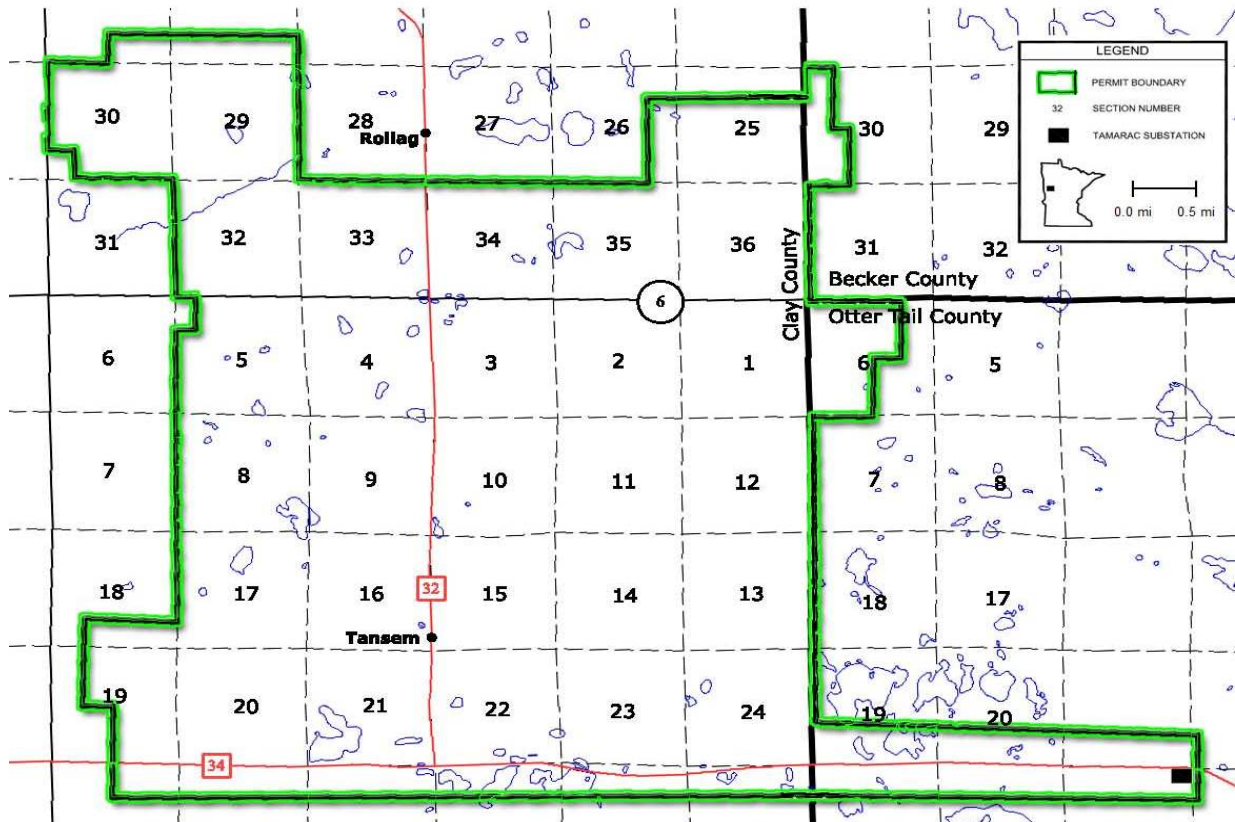
Toll Free (800) 657-3794  
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Energy Facility Permitting  
Office of Energy Security  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Questions about the Project and site permit application can also be directed to the Applicant by contacting Mr. Matthias Weigel, Tel (612) 331-1486, x302; [matthias@projectresources.net](mailto:matthias@projectresources.net)

The site permit application, draft site permit and the agency rules guiding the review process are available on the PUC website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19892>

You may register on this same website to be added to the mailing list associated with this Project and to receive future notices by U.S. Mail.



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security

Issued: March 17, 2009

**NOTICE OF PERMIT DECISION**

**In the Matter of the Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit for the Big Stone Transmission Project in Western Minnesota.**

**PUC Docket Number: E017, et al/TL-05-1275**

At a meeting on January 15, 2009, and in an Order issued March 17, 2009, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission determined that the Environmental Impact Statement and the record created at the public hearing had adequately addressed the issues identified in the Scoping Decision. The Commission also designated and issued a High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit for the Big Stone Transmission Project authorizing the Permittee to:

**A. Construct a 230 kV High Voltage Transmission Line.**

- a new 230 kV transmission line from the Big Stone Plant to Ortonville, Minnesota, two miles of which are located in Minnesota;
- the rebuild of an existing 115 kV transmission line to 230 kV from Ortonville, Minnesota, to the Johnson Junction Substation located in Johnson, Minnesota (approximately 25 miles), and then from the Johnson Junction Substation to the Morris substation near Morris, Minnesota (approximately 16 miles) and the removal of about 1.2 miles of 115 kilovolt transmission line from the Ortonville substation.

**B. Construct a 345 kV High Voltage Transmission Line.**

- a new line capable of operating at 345 kV approximately 14 miles long crossing the Minnesota-South Dakota border due west of Canby and running to the Canby Substation;
- the rebuild of an existing 115 kV transmission line from Canby, Minnesota, to Granite Falls, Minnesota (approximately 30 miles) designed and capable of operating at 345 kV, but which would operate at 230 kV initially. For approximately nine miles from Hazel Run Township to Granite Falls, the line will be constructed to 230 kV standards. The line will terminate at the Granite Falls Substation.

**C. Modify the Johnson Junction Switch Station and Modify and Relocate the Canby Substation**

If you have any questions about this project or would like more information, please contact the OES project manager: David E. Birkholz, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55155. Tel: 651.296.2878; e-mail: [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us).

See <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18215> to view the Order and the Permit.