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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: May 18, 2011

Project Title: Long Prairie Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements

Description: The city of Long Prairie is proposing to expand and upgrade its existing municipal wastewater treatment facility to accommodate additional flow and loadings from the Long Prairie Packing Company. The upgraded treatment system (Project) will utilize the existing Long Prairie Company's stabilization system for storage and pretreatment. The existing municipal wastewater treatment facility has an average wet weather design flow capacity of 0.923 million gallons per day and discharges to the Long Prairie River. The average wet weather design flow of the expanded facility would be 1.836 million gallons per day. Upon completion of the Project, the direct discharge from the Long Prairie Packing Company to the Long Prairie River would be eliminated.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Permit (NPDES/SDS Permits) will also be available for public comment beginning later this month. The contact person for the NPDES/SDS Permit is Robin Novotny at 218-316-3851.

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

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Debra Moynihan
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section

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>

Regional Division – 4th Floor
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2587

Project Title: Lake Elmo Trunk Gravity Sanitary Sewer Project

Description: The city of Lake Elmo (City) is proposing to extend trunk gravity sanitary sewer with an average design flow of 1.92 million gallons per day of wastewater from the City's proposed forcemain. The trunk sanitary sewer will connect to the proposed forcemain at a point located 2,400 feet south of 10th Street on Lake Elmo Avenue. The gravity sewer will extend east approximately 2,600 feet, then south 2,500 feet, and west 1,500 feet, where it will connect to an existing Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) meter station located at Hudson Boulevard. The wastewater collected will ultimately reach the MCES Eagles Point Wastewater Treatment Facility located in Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

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:

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

EA / EAW AVAILABLE

**Project Title: Trunk Highway 36 and Washington County State Aid Highway 36 (Hilton Trail):
Grade-Separated Interchange Construction (SP 8204-55)**

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation is proposing a project in the Cities of Pine Springs, Grant, and Lake Elmo to replace the existing signalized, at-grade intersection on Trunk Highway 36 at Hilton Trail with a grade-separated interchange. The project would also reconstruct a 1.2-mile segment of T.H. 36 to eliminate any full-access, at-grade intersections in this section of the corridor, as proposed in the MN 36 Corridor Management Plan. Construction of frontage roads and other corridor improvements are proposed in the reconstruction of this segment of T.H. 36.

De minimis Explanation

This project includes minor acquisition/use of land from a public recreational facility owned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), the Gateway Trail. This use is subject to the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 303) and 23 U.S.C.138. Section 4(f) of the Act defines procedures required for addressing impacts to recreational and other public lands that would result from federally-funded transportation projects. In addition, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Act of 2005, Section 6009, allows for determinations that certain uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect (*de minimis*) on the protected resource. Section 6009(a) requires that a public notice and opportunity for review and comment be provided for projects that are determined to have *de minimis* impact. In consultation with MnDNR, the Minnesota Department of Transportation proposes a finding of *de minimis* impact to the Gateway Trail. After an evaluation of the impacts of an action upon Section 4(f) resources, a finding can be made.

It is anticipated that reconstruction efforts on T.H. 36 would not impede activities nor adversely affect features or attributes of the Gateway Trail. Reconstruction would extend 60th Street North over the Gateway Trail. A temporary easement of 0.5 acres of trail land would be required from MnDNR, along with an acquisition of a strip of land 50 feet wide by 150 feet long. The permanent acquisition of land from the Gateway Trail would total 0.1 acre. This taking is proposed as a Section 4(f) *de minimis* taking, such that adverse impacts to the Gateway Trail would not result from the proposed project. Any comments received regarding this issue during the public comment period will be considered by the Federal Highway Administration in making its final Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination.

EA/EAW Draft

The EA/EAW document describes the proposed project, impacts, and mitigation. This document also includes information on the Section 4(f) impacts and the preliminary *de minimis* finding, i.e., that no adverse impacts to the recreational facility would result from the proposed project. Any comments received regarding this issue during the public comment period will be reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration in making its final *de minimis* determination.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment, which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts, are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the following locations, and on the project web-site:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy36pinesprings/index.html>

- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro District, Water's Edge Building Lobby, 1500 West County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113;
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Library, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55155;
- Washington County Library, Wildwood Branch, 763 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi, MN 55115;
- Minneapolis Public Library, Technical & Science Division, Government Docs., 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992.

Copies of the EA are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on April 18, 2011. Comments will be accepted through May 18, 2011. A **public hearing (open-**

house format) will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., in the library/media center of O.H. Anderson Elementary School, 666 South Warner Avenue, Mahtomedi, MN 55115. Written and oral comments will be accepted during the hearing as part of the public record.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person for Comments on the EA/EAW Draft

Rick Dalton, Environmental Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro District
1500 W. County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113
Phone: (651) 234-7677
Email: richard.dalton@state.mn.us

Contact Person for Questions about the Proposed Project

Paul Kachelmyer, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro District
1500 W. County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113
Phone: (651) 234-7640
Email: paul.kachelmyer@state.mn.us

AUAR AVAILABLE

Project Title: Bemidji Regional Airport AUAR

Description: The subject property consists of approximately 1600 acres of land within sections 30 & 31, TWP 147, Range 33 and sections 25 & 36 TWP 147, Range 34 all in Beltrami County, within the City of Bemidji. The draft AUAR presents two options for development of five significant tracts of land totaling approximately 455 acres within the airport property. Implementing the proposed options is consistent with current comprehensive planning for the Greater Bemidji Area. The AUAR identifies potential impacts, including natural, cultural, physical, infrastructure, stormwater, and traffic among others. The final AUAR document, including the mitigation plan, will be used as a tool to track and guide future development of the airport.

RGU: Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board

Contact Person:

Mel Milender, Planning Administrator
Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board
P.O. Box 1100
Bemidji, MN 56619-1100
Phone: (218)759-3594
Fax: (218)759-3591

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*.

- Elk River City Council, Plaisted Companies Sand & Gravel Mining Operation, April 4, 2011 (February 7, 2011), Negative Declaration.
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Forsman Farms Layer Hen Feedlot Expansion, April 7, 2011 (February 21, 2011), Negative Declaration.

EIS ORDERED

On April 5, 2011, the Scott County Board of Commissioners issued a Positive Declaration on the Need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the Jordan Aggregates Proposed Mining Operation. The Jordan Aggregates Proposed Mining Operation EAW as published in the January 10, 2011, *EQB Monitor*. Staff responses to comments received on February 9, 2011, have been sent to those that commented on the EAW. Staff responses to comments and Findings of Fact and Conclusion are also available on the Scott County website at:

<http://www.co.scott.mn.us/ParksLibraryEnv/Environment/EnvReview/JordanAggregatesEAW/Pages/home.aspx>

At this time, the Developer has not informed Scott County that they will proceed with the EIS Scoping process. We will notify the EQB of a meeting date, time, and location should the Developer decide to proceed with the Scoping process.

NOTICES

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
11-NO-059	Syngenta	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Becker, Clay
11-NO-060	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Fillmore, Polk (2)
11-NO-061	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Fillmore, Polk (2)
11-NO-062	Pioneer	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance Increased Transformation Frequency	Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore,

				Freeborn, Houston, Jackson, Martin, Mower, Murray (2), Rice, Steele, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona
11-NO-063	Betaseed	Sugarbeet	Disease Resistance	Chippewa (2), Clay, Dakota (2), Polk, Renville (3)
11-NO-064	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Disease Resistance	Fillmore, Polk (2)
11-NO-065	Syngenta	Corn	Insect Resistance	Brown, Dakota, Mower (2), Rice (2), Waseca
11-NO-066	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Fillmore, Polk (2)

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
Public Utilities Commission & Department of Commerce
Notice of Public Meeting and Revised Draft Site Permit

Issued: April 18, 2011

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission accepted a change in size (from 101 MW to 200 MW) for the proposed Prairie Rose Wind project on April 8, 2011. In accepting the change in size, the Commission required an additional comment period to be established and an additional public meeting to be held in the vicinity of the project. The Commission also accepted and issued a revised draft site permit for the project which now includes additional turbines inside the same proposed site boundaries. The comment period and the public comment meeting are intended to allow members of the public to express their concerns and opinions on the need for and the siting of the proposed Prairie Rose project and its increase in size. The revised draft site permit is intended to establish the conditions necessary to mitigate the environmental and human impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the project.

The Public Comment Meeting will attempt to address the following: (1) whether the proposed Project is needed and in the public interest, and (2) issues related to the proposed siting of the Project. The meeting will be held at the time and location listed below. **The ending time reflects the latest the public comment meeting will run.** The meeting may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

MEETING DATE & LOCATION

May 19, 2011 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Memorial Hall	101 East Wall Street Jasper, MN 56144
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Facilities Planner Bret Eknes from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the need for the Project or the proposed siting can do so at the hearing or in writing to Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 3:50, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147; (fax) 651-297-7073; email: bret.eknes@state.mn.us.

Written Comments. Written comments on the merits of the Certificate of Need or on the contents of the Draft Site Permit should be submitted to Mr. Eknes at the address listed above. **Comments will be accepted through Friday, May 27, 2011.** Mailed comments must be postmarked by this date. Faxed and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on this date.

Purpose and Conduct of the Meeting. The purpose of the public comment meeting is to receive input about the Project. During the meeting, members of the public may offer either oral or written testimony, offer exhibits for inclusion in the public record and ask questions of the applicant and agency representatives. Any person who wishes to ask questions, but does not want to ask the questions personally, may submit them in writing to Mr. Eknes who will then ask the question during the meeting.

Interested persons may comment on the Certificate of Need and Site Permit Applications, Environmental Report, Draft Site Permit or on the Project generally. The meeting will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If needed, the meeting may be recessed and continued by Mr. Eknes. The comments received at the meeting or filed within the comment period will be considered by the Commission in its final deliberations of the certificate of need and site permit applications.

Request for Accommodation. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission using the Contact Information for Mr. Eknes below.

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

Draft Site Permit. On March 28, 2011 the Commission issued an order approving a revised draft site permit for distribution and public comment. For a copy of the draft site permit, please see project contacts and information below.

Project Description. The project for which the certificate of need and site permit is being requested includes the following:

1. A wind turbine layout consisting of up to 124 (updated from 67) turbines, depending on turbine specifications; the size change application describes the possible use of General Electric 1.6

- MW or Vestas 1.8 MW (updated from General Electric 1.5 MW, Vestas 1.8 MW or Siemens 2.3 MW) wind turbines;
2. Associated facilities, including gravel access roads, an electrical collection system, permanent meteorological towers, one step-up substation, a Sonic (SODAR) or Light (LIDAR) Detection and Ranging unit and an O&M building.

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

The project has an associated 24-mile 115 kV transmission system, with up to 7 miles in Minnesota, which would connect to the Split Rock Substation near Brandon, South Dakota (see IP-6838/TL-10-134). An application for an HVTL route permit was filed on March 10, 2011.

Eminent Domain. The Applicant does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the applicant.

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

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

Contested Case Hearing Request. Any person may request a contested case hearing on the certificate of need or the site permit applications. All requests must be filed by Friday, May 27, 2011. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason that a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the contested case hearing will aid it in making a final decision on whether or not to authorize construction of the Project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the county courthouses of Pipestone and Rock counties; city offices in Luverne and Pipestone; and with the township clerks of Denver, Eden, Elmer, Rose Dell and Springwater.

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

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

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

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