



Publication Date: May 17, 2010
Vol.34, No.10

Next Publication: May 31, 2010
Submittal Deadline: May 21, 2010

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: June 16, 2010

EQB Releases New Guidance Documents

Two updated guidance documents for the environmental review program are now available at the EQB website. The *2010 Guide to MN Environmental Review Rules* updates the EQB's basic guidance to Responsible Governmental Units (RGUs) and others involved in the environmental review program. Among the updated materials are new guidance regarding handling cumulative potential effects and an updated listing of mandatory EAW, EIS and Exemption categories.

EQB has also prepared an errata document that makes updates and corrections to the *EAW Guidelines* document. This document helps RGUs and project proposers properly complete the EAW form.

Both new guidance documents are posted on the EQB's environmental review program guidance documents page at: <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/EnvRevGuidanceDocuments.htm>.

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>

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: June 16, 2010

Project Title: Vogt's Dirt Service Mineral Mine

Description: Vogt's Dirt Service is proposing a mineral mine within portions of Sections 8 and 17 of Rockwood Township, Hubbard County, Minnesota

The project, as proposed, will entail the mining of minerals (gravel). Prior to this mining, portions of the site will need to be stripped of the topsoil, plant material and overburden. This soil will be stockpiled adjacent to the mined area. The soil stockpiles will be cared for in such a way as to meet the requirements of the NPDES and SWPPP permits. This will include preventing erosion of the stockpiles, diverting up-stream runoff around the mine, and treating any rainfall or snow melt within the mined area. Mining, crushing, separating, mixing, and hauling operations will take place within the boundaries of this proposed project. The site will be significantly manipulated over the life of the project since large quantities of material will likely be removed. The terrain of this area is currently undulating with many, well defined, drainages and swales. Upstream runoff will be diverted into adjacent swales to reach its final destination during the life of the project. Upon completion of the project, the site shall be reclaimed as set forth in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources manual, "A Handbook for Reclaiming Sand and Gravel Pits in Minnesota".

RGU: Rockwood Township

Contact Person:

Freeberg & Grund, Inc
208 Fourth Street NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Project Title: Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant

Description: The Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District, comprised of the cities of Chisholm, Buhl, and Kinney, the township of Great Scott, and the State of Minnesota Territory occupied by Discovery Center, is proposing to construct a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to replace the aging wastewater treatment systems in Chisholm and Buhl. The new WWTP will be constructed on the east side of the existing Chisholm wastewater stabilization ponds and discharge through the existing pond system's outfall to Barber Creek. The new WWTP will be designed to treat an average wet weather flow of 2.5 million gallons per day. The proposed project includes the construction of two new lift stations and 3.5 miles of new forcemain.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit will also be available for public comment concurrently, beginning May 17, 2010. The contact person for the NPDES Permit is Nicole Blasing at 218-302-6650.

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:

Debra Moynihan
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2587

Project Title: Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 South School Development

Description: The project includes construction of a new Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 public school complex for up to 650 students in southern rural Saint Louis County. The project includes a single story classroom, administration building, accessory buildings, parking lots, roads, sidewalks, outdoor athletic fields, lighting fixtures, water and septic system.

RGU: St. Louis County Planning & Development Department

Contact Person:

Scott Smith
Land Use Manager
100 Missabe Bldg/
227 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-725-5005
Fax: 218-725-5029
Email: smiths@co.st-louis.mn.us

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE

Project Title: Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency 161 kV Transmission Line Extension

Description: The Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) is proposing to extend a 161 kV transmission line approximately 3,000 feet from its present transmission line along US Highway 14 north to a new substation being constructed by Rochester Public Utilities

RGU: Cascade Township

Contact Person:

Roger Ihrke
Zoning Administrator

Township Cooperative Planning Association (TCPA)
4111 11th Ave SW, Room 10
Rochester, MN 55902
Phone: 507-529-0774
Fax: 507-281-6821

EAW NEED DECISIONS

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

- Crow Wing County Board of County Commissioners, Fools Lake Campground, Negative Declaration

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*.

- Itasca County Board of Commissioners, Cohasset Telecommunications Tower, April 27, 2010 (March 8, 2010)
- City of Canby, Canby Inn & Suites, May 8, 2010 (April 5, 2010)

PETITION FILED

The following petitions have been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Crow Wing County, Campground on Fools Lake

NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

Issued: May 12, 2010

NOTICE OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT ISSUANCE

AND
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**In the Matter of the Application of Oak Glen Wind Farm, LLC,
For a Site Permit for a 44 Megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System
Project in Steele County**

PUC Docket Number: IP-6839/WS-10-119

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) will hold a public information meeting on the application by Oak Glen Wind Farm, LLC (Oak Glen), a wholly owned subsidiary of Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a site permit to build and operate a 44 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Steele County.

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010
6:30 P.M.

at the

The Servicemen's Club
210 4th Street Northeast
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information about the Oak Glen Wind Farm and the Draft Site Permit issued by the Commission. EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the Draft Site Permit. Representatives of Oak Glen will be present to answer questions about the proposed project.

Public Comments. In addition to receiving comments at the public meeting, EFP will also accept written comments on the Draft Site Permit until **4:30 P.M., Friday, June 18, 2010**. Please include Docket Number IP-6839/WS-10-119 on your comments. Comments can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the EFP State Permit Manager identified below. Comments can also be entered on the Commission's website at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us> under the heading Public Participation.

Proposed Site Location. The proposed Oak Glen Wind Farm site is located in Steele County in the township of Blooming Prairie. The Project area is located 3 miles northwest of the city of Blooming Prairie near U.S. Highway 218 and encompasses 3,215 acres. Oak Glen has wind rights for approximately 3,070 acres.

Project Description. Oak Glen proposes to install between 24 and 29 wind turbine generators depending on what turbines are ultimately selected. The wind turbine layout would consist of either 29 General Electric 1.5 MW wind turbine generators mounted on 80 meter (262.5 foot) towers with a rotor diameter of 82.5 meters (270 feet) or 24 Vestas 1.8 MW wind turbine generators mounted on 80 meter (262.5 foot) towers with a rotor

diameter of 90 meters (295feet). Associated facilities include gravel access roads, electrical collection system, a substation, a transmission line, and a permanent meteorological tower. Oak Glen's goal is to complete construction and achieve commercial operation by December 31, 2010.

Commission 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 Chapter 7854).

Oak Glen filed an application with the Commission for a site permit to build and operate a LWECS near Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. The Commission accepted the site permit application as complete on March 22, 2010. EFP staff solicited comments on issues to be considered in developing a Draft Site Permit for this project until April 14, 2010. EFP staff prepared a Draft Site Permit for consideration by the Commission. On May 4, 2010, 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.

Contested Case Hearing Request. Any person may request a contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the Oak Glen Wind Farm pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7854.0900.

Contested case hearing requests must be received during the public comment period. 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.

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 at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25858> and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 10-119).

Copies of the Draft Site Permit are also available for review at the public library in Blooming Prairie, the auditor's office in Steele County, city office in Blooming Prairie, and the township clerk of Blooming Prairie.

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

Project Contacts and Information. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project please contact:

Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 297-7039
Fax: 651-297-7891
ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us

Larry Hartman, Public Advisor
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-5089
larry.hartman@state.mn.us

The toll-free number for EFP is: 1-800-657-3794

Persons interested in adding their names to the project mailing list for the Oak Glen Wind Farm should contact the state permit manager, public advisor, or register online at:

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

Questions about the project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Bruce Freeman, Senior Project Executive, Avant Energy, Inc., agent for the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, at 612-349-6868 or bruce.freeman@avantenergy.com.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

