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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: June 17, 2009

Project Title: Pierce Butler Route Extension

Description: Proposal to extend Pierce Butler Route 2.0 miles from Grotto Street to connection with Phalen Boulevard, intersecting Dale and Arundel Streets at grade, tunneling beneath Como/Western Avenues, and connecting with Empire Drive and Pennsylvania Avenue. Off-street bicycle/pedestrian trails and on-street bike lanes would be constructed through the corridor.

Comment period ends July 2, 2009.

RGU: City of St. Paul

Contact Person:

Eriks Ludins, Project Manager
City of St. Paul
Department of Public Works
25 West 4th Street, Suite 1500
St. Paul, MN 55102
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The *EQB Monitor* is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The *EQB Monitor* is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>.

Upon request, the *EQB Monitor* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Department of Administration. For information on the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar St., 300 Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1388
Phone: 651-201-2480
Fax: 651-296-3698
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

Project Title: UPM Blandin ATV/OHM Trail Project

Description: Itasca County proposes to create a managed, continuous right-of-way, Grant-in-Aid trail authorized for Class I and Class II All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Off Highway Motorcycle (OHM) use in Itasca and Aitkin Counties. The proposed 32-mile trail would use existing and new corridors on state, private and industrial forestlands.

The MDNR will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to Ronald Wieland, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4025. Electronic or email comments may be sent to environmental.review@dnr.state.mn.us with "UPM Blandin Trail EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, please include your name and mailing address.

Public review copies of the EAW are available at the following locations:

- MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155;
- MDNR Northeast Regional Headquarters (Region 2), 1201 E. Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744;
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55401;
- Arrowhead Regional Library, Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802;
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd St, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.
- Aitkin Public Library, 110 1st Ave NE, Aitkin, MN 56431

The EAW is also posted on the MDNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us. (Click on "Public Input", then select "UPM Blandin Trail EAW" from the scroll-down list under "Environmental Review"). Additional copies may be requested by calling (651) 259-5157.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person:

Ronald Wieland, EAW Project Manager
Environmental Policy and Review Unit
Division of Ecological Resources
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4025

EA AVAILABLE**Project Title: 161 kV Transmission Line and Substation**

Description: Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL) is requesting a conditional use permit from Freeborn County pursuant to Minnesota Rules part 7849.6200 to construct and maintain an electric substation

and a 161 kilovolt (kV) 400MW radial transmission line to interconnect the proposed Bent Tree Wind Farm (Project) to the transmission grid. WPL has proposed to build the Project in northwest Freeborn County, Minnesota. WPL has filed a Certificate of Need application (MPUC Docket No. ET6657/CN-07-1425) for the wind farm and associated transmission line, and a Site Permit application for the wind farm site (MPUC Docket No. ET6657/WS-08-573) with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).

RGU: Freeborn County

Contact Person:

Wayne Sorenson
Freeborn County Environmental Services
Planning and Zoning Division
411 South Broadway Ave
P.O. Box 1147
Albert Lea, MN 56007
Phone: 1-507-377-5186

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparation of an EIS. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the EAW notice was published in the *EQB Monitor*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Wetzel Pork, LLC, May 7, 2009 (March 23, 2009)
- Wyoming City Council, 257th Street Mixed Use Development, May 5, 2009 (March 23, 2009)
- City of Hibbing, St. Louis County Borrow Pit Expansion, March 18, 2009 (December 29, 2008)
- Roseau River Watershed District, Hay Creek Setback Levees and Norland Impoundment Project, May 6, 2009 (February 23, 2009)
- Wild Rice Watershed District, Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project, April 29, 2009 (March 9, 2009)
- Wild Rice Watershed District, County Ditch 18 – Goose Prairie Water Management Project, April 29, 2009 (March 9, 2009)
- Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration, April 27, 2009 (March 23, 2009)

NOTICES

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

The East Central Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Friday, May 29, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Mora at Freddie's Restaurant on Highway 65.

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security**

ISSUED: MAY 4, 2009

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
OF
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power, and Minnkota Power Cooperative for a Route Permit for a 230-kV Transmission Line from Bemidji to Grand Rapids, Minnesota

PUC Docket No. E017, E015, ET6/Cn-07-1222

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) announces the release of the Environmental Report for the proposed Bemidji – Grand Rapids 230 kV Transmission Project (Project). Copies of the Environmental Report, Certificate of Need Application and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19344>

Project Description

The Project is intended to meet the projected future electric customer demand and maintain the reliability of the transmission system in the Bemidji area in north central Minnesota. In addition to meeting the future needs of the Bemidji area the Project is intended to maintain regional transmission reliability for the larger northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota region. As proposed, the Project will also facilitate the addition of new generation sources in the region. Specifically, portions of the Red River Valley and eastern North Dakota have been identified as areas for the potential development of wind-energy generation sources and the added transmission capacity from the Bemidji–Grand Rapids Line will assist in the development of such resources.

PUC Review Process

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

The proposed Project qualifies as a large energy facility (Minn. Stat. 216B.2421). Ottertail Power Company, Minnesota Power, and Minnkota Power Cooperative (Applicants) applied for a certificate of need for the proposed transmission line on March 17, 2008. The Commission has one year to reach a decision from the time the application is accepted. On July 22, 2008, the Commission accepted the application as complete. The docket number for the Certificate of Need is E017, E015, ET6/CN-07-1222.

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.

Following release of the ER, the Commission will hold public hearings in the project area to receive input and questions from the public. Following the public hearings and a summary report by an administrative law judge, there will be a public hearing before the Commission to hear oral arguments and deliberations by the Commission. The Commission will issue its decision on the need for this project in a written order.

If the Commission determines the Project is needed, it will issue a permit determining the route for the Project in a separate decision under docket TL-07-1327. An Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared for route permitting process. The Environmental Impact Statement will contain information on the human and environmental impacts of the Project and select alternatives and addresses mitigating measures for anticipated impacts.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process or the Project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact Suzanne Steinhauer (651-296-2888 or suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Additional contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891, or TTY Minnesota Relay Service: 1-800-627-3529 (ask for the DOC).