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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: June 1, 2011

Project Title: Northwest Commercial Center

Description: The Northwest Commercial Center is a 102-acre, two phased, mixed use, urban development in northwestern Rochester. The project proposed to have approximately 1,100,000 square feet of retail and light industrial warehouses. Mass grading of both phases of the project will occur at the same time. Future building development of Phase II will occur as indicated by market demand.

RGU: City of Rochester

Contact Person:

Brent Svenby
Senior Planner
City of Rochester
2122 Campus Drive SE, Suite 100
Rochester, MN 55904

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: Valero Welcome Plant Production Increase

Description: Valero Renewable Fuels Company, LLC proposes to increase production at its existing dry mill corn ethanol production facility (Valero Welcome Plant) located near Welcome in Martin County, Minnesota. Maximum production of 200-proof ethanol will increase from 118 million gallons per year (MMGY) to 136 MMGY; maximum Distiller's Dried Grains with Solubles production will increase from approximately 320,000 tons per year (TPY) to approximately 450,000 TPY; and maximum corn throughput will increase from approximately 39 million bushels per year (MMBU/year) to approximately 50.4 MMBU/year. This increase will occur without adding new equipment, modifying the facility footprint, or appropriating additional water. The plant can accommodate this increase because it operates more efficiently than originally expected, and because its water use is significantly below the current appropriation. The Valero Welcome Plant will continue to utilize concentration/crystallization technology (also known as zero liquid discharge). The Valero Welcome Plant will continue to have only stormwater discharges.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft Air Emissions Permit 09100062-04 (Air Permit), as well as the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Permit MN0068161, will go on public notice shortly after the EAW public notice. The contact person for the Air Permit is Jim Robin at 651-757-2739, and the contact for the NPDES/SDS Permit is Kate Frantz at 651-757-2370.

A copy of the EAW will be posted on the MPCA 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

Project Title: Matthew Lourey State Trail – ATV and OHM Use in Nemadji/St. Croix State Forests project

Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources proposes to designate portions of the existing Matthew Lourey State Trail (MLT) for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-highway motorcycle (OHM) use. The designations and required treadway improvements would occur on about 23.3 miles of the Matthew Lourey State Trail in the Nemadji and St. Croix State Forests.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to Ronald Wieland, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155-4025. Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us with “Matthew Lourey State Trail” in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, include name and mailing address. Written comments may also be sent by fax to 651-297-1500.

A copy of the EAW is available for public review at:

- DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
- DNR Northeast Region --1201 E. Hwy 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401
- Sandstone Public Library, 119 North Fourth St., PO Box 599, Sandstone, MN 55072
- Hinckley Public Library, 106 First Street SE, PO Box 336, Hinckley, MN 55037
- Moose Lake Public Library, 313 Elm Avenue, Moose Lake, MN 55767
- Cloquet Public Library, 320 – 14th St., Cloquet, MN 55720
- East Central Reg. Library (7E), 244 So. Birch St., Cambridge, MN 55008
- Reg. Develop. Library (RG 3), Duluth Public Lib., 520 W Superior St. Duluth, MN 55802

The EAW is also posted on the DNR’s website at www.dnr.state.mn.us (Click on “Public Input”, then select “Matthew Lourey State Trail” 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
Planner
Environmental Review Program
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025
Phone: 651-259-5157

EAW NEED DECISIONS

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

- Minnesota Department of Health, Ballard-Sunder Crematory, Scott County, Jordan, Minnesota. Denied.

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*.

- Crow Wing County, CSAH 18 Realignment Project No. SP 018-618-009, April 13, 2011 (February 7, 2011)
- Anoka County Board of Commissioners, Anoka County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 17 (Lexington Avenue) Transportation Improvements, April 12, 2011 (November 20, 2010)

UPDATED AUAR ADOPTED

The City of Minnetrista on April 18, 2011 adopted the updated final Alternative Urban Areawide Review for Woodland Cove (formerly Park Cove). The updated AUAR will remain valid for five years from this date.

DRAFT SEIS NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Project Title: Essar Steel Minnesota Modifications Project

Description: The Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Essar Steel Minnesota Modifications Project. Essar Steel Minnesota (Essar) is the project proposer.

The proposed project consists of modifications to Essar's taconite mine and processing plant (previously approved and currently under construction) in Itasca County, near Nashwauk, Minnesota. The project would increase the production of taconite pellets from 3.8 million metric tons per year (mmtpy) of low flux taconite pellets to: 1) 6.5 mmtpy of high flux pellets, or 2) 7.0 mmtpy of low flux taconite pellets. This will require the addition of a crusher/concentrator line, and the installation of a larger pellet furnace, to the project evaluated in the original Minnesota Steel Project EIS (June 2007). Essar is also proposing to decrease the length of the mine plan time period from 20 to 15 years. Other modifications related to the increase in pellet production are discussed in the Draft SEIS.

The low flux pellets will be produced for use as a feed material to the DRI process and the high flux pellets will be produced for use as a feed material in blast furnaces located off-site. Either pellet type may also be sold on the open market depending upon internal demands and market conditions.

The Draft SEIS describes the project's effects on surface water quantity and quality, wild rice, solid wastes, project-specific and cumulative air quality, greenhouse gases and climate change, and socioeconomics. It discusses potential environmental impacts from the Proposed Action, a No Action Alternative, and two technology alternatives for air emissions control. The document also considers mitigation of adverse effects.

The Draft SEIS is posted on the DNR website at the following address:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/essar/index.html>

The Draft SEIS is available at the following locations:

- DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul
- Duluth Public Library, 144 West Second Street, Duluth
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis
- Hibbing Public Library, 2020 E 5th Avenue, Hibbing
- Keewatin Public Library, 125 3rd Avenue West, Keewatin

The Draft SEIS Executive Summary and a CD containing the complete Draft SEIS may be requested using the contact information below.

Public Comment: The DNR will accept comments on the Draft SEIS until June 8, 2011, at 4:30 PM. Written comments can be sent to the contact listed below or to this email address: environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us. The words “Essar SEIS” must be in the subject line of the email. All emails should include a name and legal mailing address.

A public meeting will be held Tuesday, May 24, 2011, beginning at 6:30 PM, at the Nashwauk-Keewatin High School, 400 Second Street, Nashwauk, MN, 55769.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact:

Lisa Fay, SEIS Project Manager
Environmental Policy & Review Unit
MN DNR Division of Ecological Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5110

NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA Division of Energy Resources

NOTICE OF PERMIT DECISION

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a 345 kV Transmission Line from
Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota**

PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting on February 3, 2011, and in an Order issued March 1, 2011, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) amended the route permit issued September 14, 2010, in this docket to include a description and official maps of the remanded portion of the route or Segment 4, the segment which connects the Cedar Mountain Substation in Renville County on the west to the Helena Substation in Scott County in the east by means of the Alternate Route utilizing the Gibbon Crossover Route, with an aerial crossing of the Minnesota River at Belle Plaine. The Commission also approved the Division of Energy Resources final Environmental Impact Statement, finding that it meets the requirements of Minnesota Rules, Part 7850.2500, subpart 10, for the remanded portion of the route (Section 4).

If you have any questions about this project or would like more information, please contact the Division of Energy Resources State Permit Manager: Scott Ek, 85 – 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101, phone: 651-296-8813, email: scott.ek@state.mn.us

Documents relative to this project may be viewed on the Commission's website:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19860>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
11-NO-062 WITHDRA WN	Pioneer	Corn	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-067	Dow AgroScienc es	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Fillmore
11-NO-068	Dow AgroScienc es	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Fillmore
11-NO-069	Rutgers University	Wheat	Disease Resistance	Dakota
11-NO-070	Dow AgroScienc es	Soybean	Insect Resistance	Fillmore

11-NO-071	Pioneer	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance Increase Transformation Frequency	Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Jackson, Martin, Mower, Murray (2), Rice, Steele, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona
11-NO-072	Monsanto	Canola	Yield Increase	Pennington, Polk, Red Lake
11-NO-073	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance	Dakota, Mower, Waseca

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 .