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# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: June 29, 2011

### Project Title: Loch Haven

**Description:** Loch Haven is a proposed 61 unit residential common interest development bordering Spot Lake in Cass County, located on 20<sup>th</sup> Street SW, McKinley Township, one-quarter mile west of Minnesota Trunk Highway No. 64. The development is on 113 acres. It will have equestrian amenities, and be serviced by private wells and clustered sewage treatment systems.

Copies of the EAW which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at the following locations:

- Hennepin County Public Library – 300 Nicollet Mall
- Kitchigami Regional Library – 212 Park Ave., Pine River

Copies of the EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list. The comment period will begin on May 30, 2011. Comments will be accepted through June 29, 2011 and can be sent to the address below.

**RGU:** Cass County Environmental Services – Planning & Zoning

### Contact Person:

Paul Fairbanks  
Environmental Services Dept.  
PO Box 3000  
Walker, MN 56484-3000  
Phone: 218-547-7487; Fax: 218-547-7429  
Email: paul.fairbanks@co.cass.mn.us

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>

## Draft Environmental Assessment Worksheet Errata Sheet – May 24, 2011

### Project Title: Terminal 2-Humphrey 2011 North Security Checkpoint

The following paragraph replaces the **Note to reviewers:** paragraph as found on page one of the Draft Environmental Assessment Worksheet:

**Note to reviewers:** The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) provides information about a project that may have the potential for significant environmental effects. Comments must be submitted to the RGU during the 30-day comment period following notice of the EAW in the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Monitor. Comments should address the accuracy and completeness of information, potential impacts that are reasonably expected to occur that warrant further investigation and the need for as EIS.

The Draft EAW and a copy of this errata sheet are available on the MAC website at <http://www.metroairports.org/mac/>

A Public Hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at the Metropolitan Airports Commission Finance, Development and Environment Committee meeting to receive comments on the Draft EAW. The meeting will be held at 10:00 am at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, Room 3048A, Terminal 1-Lindbergh. Written comments can be submitted to the address below through Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

**RGU:** Metropolitan Airports Commission

#### Contact Person for Comments on the Draft EAW:

Roy Fuhrmann – Director of Environment  
Metropolitan Airports Commission  
Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport  
6040 – 28th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2799  
Phone: 612-726-8100  
Email: [roy.fuhrmann@mspmac.org](mailto:roy.fuhrmann@mspmac.org)

## 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*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Jona Baer, Inc., Egg Laying Retrofit, May 10, 2011 (March 21, 2011)
- City of Minneapolis, Lumber Site Redevelopment, May 20, 2011 (March 7, 2011)

- Pelican River Watershed District, Rice Lake Wetland Restoration Project, May 19, 2011 (April 4, 2011)

## AUAR Update Adopted

**Project Title: Liberty Industrial Park at Diamond Lake (formerly Hassan Business Park)**

The City of Rogers adopted this AUAR Update on May 10, 2011. The comment period ended on May 6, 2011. Responses and comments are available for your information. This environmental review will remain valid through May 10, 2016.

## NOTICES

### Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry

#### AERIAL APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES

The MN Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is planning to aerially apply herbicides on state lands. Herbicide applications will occur on approximately 729 acres and involve 22 individual sites. These applications will be used to prepare sites for the planting of trees as well as for the release of planted trees from overtopping and competing vegetation. Aerial application will begin on approximately July 15 and end on approximately September 12, 2011.

Administrative Area	# Sites	Acres	Herbicides
Aitkin	1	20	Accord
Blackduck	1	13	Accord
Deer River	1	44	Accord
Littlefork	4	139	Accord
Hibbing	5	163	Accord
Orr	4	76	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Park Rapids	1	11	Garlon
Tower	3	205	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Two Harbors	2	58	Accord
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>729</b>	

For further information regarding this project, contact:

Bill Schnell, Aerial Forest Management Coordinator  
MN DNR Forestry  
1201 E. Hwy 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Phone: 218-999-7842

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Department of Commerce****NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**In the Matter of the Application by Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the  
CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV and 161 kV Transmission Line Project**

**PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-09-1448; OAH Docket No. 3-2500-21181-2**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the Xcel Energy route permit application for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV and 161 kV transmission line project. The Minnesota Department of Commerce has prepared a draft environmental impact statement for the project. The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will hold public hearings at the times and locations noted below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. Hearings may conclude earlier where all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

**PUBLIC HEARING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

Hearings will be held from **1:30 – 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.** at each venue.  
Each hearing will offer the same information and opportunity to comment,  
so interested persons need attend only one of the hearings

<b>June 14, 2011</b> <b>Plainview</b> American Legion 215 3rd Street SW	<b>June 15, 2011</b> <b>Pine Island</b> American Legion 108 1st Avenue SE	<b>June 16, 2011</b> <b>Cannon Falls</b> High School Auditorium 820 E Minnesota Street
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The evidentiary hearing will convene on June 20, 2011, at the Public Utilities Commission in Saint Paul, and will continue through June 24, 2011, as necessary to complete the hearing.

**Public Hearing.** The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments from members of the public and to compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the transmission line route permit request. The Administrative Law Judge will write a report and make a recommendation to the Commission on which route to authorize and on any appropriate permit conditions. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit at a subsequent Commission meeting.

**Administrative Law Judge.** Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Kathleen D. Sheehy will preside at the hearings. Her address and contact information is: Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7848, Fax: (651) 361-7936.

**Written Comments.** Written comments regarding the route permit should be submitted directly to Judge Sheehy. Comments may be submitted by U.S. Mail, fax or email. **Comments will be accepted through June 30, 2011**, and should include the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number 3-2500-21181-2. Mailed comments must be postmarked by that date. Emails should be sent to [routecomments.oah@state.mn.us](mailto:routecomments.oah@state.mn.us). Faxed, emailed, and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on that date.

**Office of Administrative Hearing Rules.** The ALJ will conduct the contested case hearings in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 14, and the Office of Administrative Hearings procedural rules for the Commission's energy facility permitting process (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 1405). The applicable statutes and rules are available on the Office of the Revisor of Statutes webpage at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov>. Statutes and rules may also be purchased at Minnesota's Bookstore, 660 Olive St., St. Paul, Minn. 55155, or telephone at (651) 297-3000.

**Conduct of Hearing.** At the start of each hearing session, the ALJ will explain the procedural rules for the hearing, including the sequence for providing testimony and questioning witnesses. Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required. Participation includes: a) offering direct testimony; b) offering testimony or other material in written form at or following the hearing; and c) questioning witnesses.

Any person who wishes to question a witness, but does not want to ask the questions, may submit questions in writing to the ALJ, who will then question the witness. Questions may be submitted during the hearing or may be sent to the ALJ in advance of the hearing. Upon completion of the hearings, a transcript of the proceedings will be available at local libraries.

**Continuation of Hearing.** The ALJ may elect to recess the hearing and set additional days for hearing, if necessary.

**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 Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

**Route Permit.** Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Statute 216E.03, subd. 2), a route permit from the Commission is required to build a high-voltage transmission line. A high-voltage transmission line is a conductor of electric energy and associated facilities designed for and capable of operation at a nominal voltage of 100 kilovolts (kV) or more and is greater than 1,500 feet in length. A route permit application for the proposed 345 kV and 161 kV transmission line project was filed by the applicant on January 19, 2010, and was accepted as complete by the Commission on March 9, 2010. Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed project. The draft EIS discusses potential impacts of the project, evaluates alternatives, and suggests mitigation. Electronic versions of the route permit application, and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing or download at the Commission website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25731> or eDockets at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> ("09" year and "1448" number).

**Draft EIS Availability.** The draft EIS may be viewed at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's energy facility permitting website: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25731>, and on

eDockets at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year “09” and number “1448”). Interested persons may also request a CD copy of the draft EIS by contacting the State Permit Manager.

Print copies of the DEIS are available for viewing at these public libraries:

**Cannon Falls Library**  
306 West Mill Street  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009  
507-263-2804

**Northfield Public Library**  
210 Washington Street  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507-645-6606

**Kenyon Public Library**  
709 2nd Street  
Kenyon, MN 55946  
507-789-6821

**Zumbrota Public Library**  
100 West Avenue  
Zumbrota, MN 55992  
507-732-5211

**Plainview Public Library**  
345 1st Avenue NW  
Plainview, MN 55964  
507-534-3425

**Rochester Public Library**  
101 2nd Street SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
507-328-2309

**Van Horn Public Library**  
115 SE 3rd Street  
Pine Island, MN 55963  
507-356-8558

**Dakota County Library**  
508 3rd Street  
Farmington, MN 55024  
651-438-0250

**Alma Public Library**  
312 N Main St  
Alma, WI 54610  
608-685-3823

**Wabasha City Library**  
168 Allegheny Avenue  
Wabasha, MN 55981  
651-565-3927

**Project Description.** Xcel Energy, on behalf of itself and regional utilities that are part of the CapX2020 initiative, is proposing to construct and operate a new 345 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL), approximately 90 miles in length in Minnesota, connecting an existing substation near Hampton, Minn., to a proposed North Rochester Substation between Zumbrota and Pine Island, Minn., and continuing eastward to cross the Mississippi River near Kellogg, Minn. The line would continue in Wisconsin an additional 50 miles to a new substation in the La Crosse, Wis., area. In addition, the project includes a new 161 kV line, approximately 15 miles in length, between the proposed North Rochester Substation and the existing Northern Hills Substation in northwest Rochester.

The proposed 345 kV transmission line would be constructed primarily with single-pole steel structures, ranging in height from 130 to 175 feet, with an average span of 1,000 feet between poles. The structures would be “double circuit capable,” meaning that a second 345 kV circuit could be placed on the structures in the future if warranted. The typical right-of-way (ROW) for the 345 kV transmission line would be 150 feet.

The proposed 161 kV transmission line would be constructed primarily with single-pole steel structures, ranging in height from 70 to 105 feet, with an average span of 400 to 700 feet between poles. The typical ROW for the 161 kV transmission line would be 80 feet.

The proposed project includes construction of a new substation, in an area between Zumbrota and Pine Island, Minnesota, and modifications at two existing substations. The new “North Rochester Substation” would require the acquisition and development of 40 acres for substation infrastructure. Project construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2012 and be completed and in service by the fourth quarter of 2015.

**Identified Parties.** The parties to this proceeding identified on the date of this notice are as follows:

Applicants

**Xcel Energy**, Thomas Hillstrom, 414 Nicollet Mall, MP-8A, Minneapolis, MN 55401, 1-800-238-7968, [lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com](mailto:lacrosseinfo@capx2020.com).

Intervenors

By the intervention deadline of May 2, 2011, the following parties had intervened in the proceeding and now have party status:

**Oronoco Township**, Philip R. Krauss, Rachel R. Myers, and Timothy J. Keane, Malkerson Gunn Martin LLP, 1900 U. S. Bank Plaza South Tower, 220 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

**American Transmission Company, LLC, and ATC Management, Inc.**, Brian M. Meloy, Leonard Street and Dienard, 150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

**NoCapX 2020, United Citizens Action Network (U-CAN), and the North Route Group**, Carol A. Overland, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 176, Red Wing, MN 55066.

**Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like further information about this project please contact Department of Commerce staff. Matthew Langan ([matthew.langan@state.mn.us](mailto:matthew.langan@state.mn.us), (651) 296-2096) is the State Permit Manager and Ray Kirsch ([raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us), (651) 296-7588) is the Public Advisor. The public advisor is available to answer questions about the permitting procedures and how to effectively participate in the process, but does not provide legal advice. The address for staff is: Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facilities Permitting, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. [karen.hammel@state.mn.us](mailto:karen.hammel@state.mn.us).

**Minnesota Department of Commerce Legal Counsel.** Karen Finstad Hammel, Minnesota Attorney General's Office, 1400 Bremer Tower, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-2127, Phone (651) 757-1248, Fax (651) 297-1138,

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice.) Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.