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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: July 15, 2009

EQB to Act on Adopting Environmental Review Program Rule Amendments

At its meeting of June 18, 2009, the Environmental Quality Board will be requested by staff to approve and adopt the “phase 2” amendments to the Environmental Review program rules. The amendments proposed for adoption are those recommended by the Administrative Law Judge based on the record of the public hearings conducted earlier this year. Some modifications to the amendments are recommended based on comments received. If the Board adopts the amendments in June, the revised rules would likely go into effect in August or September 2009.

Details of the proposed amendments and the EQB’s meeting are available at the EQB website, www.eqb.state.mn.us, or by contacting the EQB staff at 651-757-2873.

Project Title: Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration – Red Lake Watershed District Project 60F

Description: The outlet of the Grand Marais Creek Sub-watershed is located in NW Polk County. The existing outlet is a legal drainage ditch which is displaying significant degradation. As such, the Project proposes to restore flows to the pre existing natural channel outlet, providing channel stability, improved water quality, and enhanced natural resource benefits as originally existed.

The project area is located approximately 7 miles north of East Grand Forks, MN, within Ester Township.

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: 651-757-2873
Fax: 651-296-3698
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

A copy of the EAW is available for review at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, 1000 Pennington Ave. S., Thief River Falls, MN. Copies of the EAW are also available on the Red Lake Watershed District Web site (<http://www.redlakewatershed.org>), under the DOCUMENTS Section. The watershed district's office hours are posted on the website also. They may also be contacted at (218)681-5800.

Written comments will be accepted through July 15, 2009. Comments should be directed to Mr. Myron Jesme, Red Lake Watershed District Administrator, Red Lake Watershed District Office, 1000 Pennington Ave. S., Thief River Falls, MN, 56701.

RGU: RLWD/MSTRWD Joint Board

Contact Person:

Mr. Myron Jesme
Red Lake Watershed District Administrator
Red Lake Watershed District Office
1000 Pennington Ave. S.
Thief River Falls, MN, 56701.
Phone: 218-681-5800
Fax: 218-681-5839
Email: jesme@wiktel.com

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*.

- Sherburne County Board of Commissioners, Vonco II Landfill, June 2, 2009 (December 31, 2007).

NOTICES

Public Meeting Notice – Northeast Regional Landscape Committee Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Northeast Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Duluth at the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) building.

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

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
09-NO-075	Pioneer	Corn	Altered Maturity and Plant Development	Blue Earth

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 Office of Energy Security

NOTICE OF PERMIT DECISION

In the Matter of Route Permit Application for a 115/69 kV Transmission Line Rebuild from a Proposed West New Ulm Substation to the Existing Fort Ridgely Substation

PUC Docket No. E002/TL-08-956

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission), at a meeting on May 14, 2009, and in an Order issued May 18, 2009, determined that the environmental assessment and the record created at the public hearing had adequately addressed the issues identified in the scoping decision. The Commission issued a high voltage transmission line route permit for the West New Ulm project, authorizing Xcel Energy to construct 2.9 miles of 115 kV transmission line double-circuited with the existing Fort Ridgely 69 kV line and a new 115-69 kV substation. The proposed project will extend from Milford Township, Brown County to Lafayette Township, Nicollet County.

If you have any questions about this project or would like more information, please contact the Office of Energy Security project manager: Scott Ek, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101; Tel: 651-296-8813; email: scott.ek@state.mn.us.

Documents relative to this project may be viewed on the Commission's website at:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?ID=19744>.

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY

In the Matter of the Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications for a 161 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Jackson County, Minnesota.

PUC Docket Numbers: IP-6686/CN-08-944 and IP-6686/TL-08-1120

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Northstar Transmission, LLC (Northstar) 161 kV transmission line project has been completed and is available to the public. The EA contains information on the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and addresses required methods to mitigate such impacts for all of the routes considered. Copies of the EA and other relevant documents are accessible at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19789>.

Project Description. Northstar is proposing to construct a 9- or 10-mile 161 kV transmission line, a substation in Petersburg Township, and a switching station east of the city of Jackson, Minnesota. The transmission line would originate at a newly constructed substation located approximately one half mile north of the Minnesota-Iowa border in Petersburg Township and proceed north out of the substation along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 25/560th Avenue for approximately five and one half miles to 558th Avenue and continue north two miles to CSAH 14 traveling one-quarter mile east. At this point the transmission line route would veer slightly north-northwest traveling across private agricultural land along property and section lines to a newly proposed switching station.

Review Process. A certificate of need application and a route permit application for the project were filed by Northstar on October 28, 2008. The applications were accepted as complete by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

The certificate of need and route permit applications are being reviewed jointly and the Office of Energy Security (OES) is preparing an EA on the transmission line project to cover the environmental review requirements for the certificate of need and route permit processes. The EA considers issues related to both the need for the project such as size, type, timing, voltage, and system configurations as well as issues related to routing, including construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, and impacts to homes and businesses.

A public hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings will be scheduled in June 2009 at a location near Jackson, Minnesota. Notice of the hearing will be published in a local newspaper and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the OES or register on the Commission's website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19789>

The Commission maintains a separate official service list for certificate of need proceedings. To be added to the list for this project contact: Robin Benson, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, fax: (651)-297-7073, email: robin.benson@state.mn.us.

Project Contacts. For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

Department of Commerce

Scott Ek, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
651-296-8813

Deborah Pile, Public Advisor
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Public Utilities Commission

Tricia DeBleeckere
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