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# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: July 27, 2011

### Project Title: Minnesota Falls Dam Removal Project

**Description:** Northern States Power Company proposes to remove the Minnesota Falls Dam located on the Minnesota River within Yellow Medicine and Chippewa Counties, Minnesota. The dam is classified as a high hazard dam that no longer serves its original purpose. The dam has several potential structural deficiencies that would need to be repaired if the dam is not removed.

The MDNR will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to Randall Doneen, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4025. Electronic or email comments may be sent to [Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us) with "Minnesota Falls Dam Removal 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, MN 55155;
- MDNR Southern Regional Headquarters, 261 Highway 15 South, New Ulm, MN 56073;
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401;
- Montevideo/Chippewa County Library, 224 So. First St., Montevideo, MN and
- Granite Falls Public Library, 155 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Granite Falls, MN 56241-1505

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>

The EAW is also posted on the MDNR's website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) . (Click on "Public Input", then under the "Environmental Review" scroll-down list select "Minnesota Falls Dam Removal EAW") Additional copies may be requested by calling (651) 259-5156.

**RGU:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Contact Person:**

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

**Project Title: Wesley Perry Trust Residential Subdivision**

**Description:** The proposed project is a residential development located on 73 acres of wooded and agricultural land in Brockway Township, Stearns County. The development includes 6 riparian lots on the Mississippi River, 33 non-riparian lots, a community water system, community sewer system, and more than 15 acres of open space.

A public hearing will be conducted Tuesday August 16, 2011 at 10:05am in the County Board Room of the Stearns County Administration Center located at 705 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud, MN 56303.

A copy of the EAW will be available for review on the County's website at <http://www.co.stearns.mn.us/Environment>.

**RGU:** Stearns County

**Contact Person:**

Jennifer Buckentine  
Stearns County Environmental Services  
Administration Center Room 343  
705 Courthouse Square  
St. Cloud, MN 56303  
phone: 320-656-3613 or 800-450-0852  
fax: 320-656-6484  
email: [Jennifer.buckentine@co.stearns.mn.us](mailto:Jennifer.buckentine@co.stearns.mn.us)

**Project Title: Environmental Assessment Worksheet and Draft Environmental Assessment and Section 4(f) Evaluation for Trunk Highway 101 from CSAH 18 (Lyman Boulevard) to CSAH 14 (Pioneer Trail) in the City of Chanhassen, in Carver County**

**Description:** This TH 101 project extends between Lyman Boulevard and Pioneer Trail in the City of Chanhassen, Minnesota. The existing roadway is a 2-lane undivided roadway without turn lanes and has over ten percent grades with sharp horizontal curves. To improve traffic safety, capacity, and connectivity issues on this segment of roadway, it is being reconstructed to a four-lane divided section with turn lanes added at Pioneer Trail, Kiowa Trail and 96<sup>th</sup> Street. The project includes minor impacts and improvements to Bandimere Park.

The comment period for this project will be July 11<sup>th</sup> through August 22, 2011. A public hearing is planned to be held during the August 8, 2011 City Council meeting at the Chanhassen City Hall Council Chambers.

A copy of the Draft EA/EAW will be posted on the City's website at the following:  
<http://www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us/serv/cip/highway101.html>

Written comments should be directed to Paul Oehme at the address below.

**RGU:** City of Chanhassen

**Contact Person:**

Paul Oehme, P.E.  
Project Manager  
City of Chanhassen  
7700 Market Boulevard  
PO Box 147  
Chanhassen, MN 55317  
Phone: 952-227-1169

## EA AVAILABLE

**Project Title: Worthington Public Utilities 115 kV Transmission Line**

**Description:** Worthington Public Utilities (WPU) is planning to add new 115kV (115,000 volts) electric transmission line to tie their two existing electric substations together. In addition, the project will include rebuilding their existing West transmission line. This project is needed to increase system reliability for WPU and the area transmission system, as well as to provide additional capacity on the system.

WPU's transmission line project will consist of the construction of approximately 2.7 miles of new overhead 115 kV transmission line, and rebuilding approximately 1.0 miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV standards. To lessen impact to agricultural and residential property use along the line route, WPU is proposing a route that will follow along road right-of-ways or utility-easement corridors.

The proposed route of the new tie line would begin at WPU's Substation No. 1 near the intersection of Fredrick Ave and Stower Drive, follow the old railroad ROW to the south side of I-90, continue east along the south side of I-90 to a point behind Wal-Mart, then north across the interstate, turn east along the north side of I-90 to a

point just before the on-ramp for the west-bound lane of I-90 at Hwy 60, continue south the edge of Hwy 60 ROW, cross Hwy 60 and then the Union Pacific Railroad, and then into WPU's Substation No. 2. The proposed route for the existing line that will be re-built would also begin at WPU's Substation No. 1, then continue along the old railroad ROW and cross I-90, turn west along Paul Ave, follow the curve of Paul Ave, and continue to connect with the existing ITC transmission line.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project is available at the Nobles County Auditor's Office, and the Nobles County Environmental Services' Office. The EA is also available on the Nobles County website [www.co.nobles.mn.us](http://www.co.nobles.mn.us)

**RGU:** Nobles County

**Contact Person:**

Wayne Smith  
Environmental Services Director  
960 Diagonal Road  
PO Box 187  
Worthington, MN 56187  
Phone: 507-295-5322  
Fax: 507-372-8348  
Email: [wsmith@co.nobles.mn.us](mailto:wsmith@co.nobles.mn.us)

## Federal EA FONSI

**Project Title:** CSAH 18 Realignment Project No. SP 018-618-009

**Description:** The Crow Wing County Highway Department prepared an Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) for State Project 018-618-009 to document the improvements of the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 18 Realignment located in Crow Wing County, within the corporate limits of Nisswa, MN. This document was distributed for comments on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Responsible Government Unit's decision of a negative declaration on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the EAW process was distributed on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued by the Federal Highway Administration completes the EA process. This document concludes that this project will not significantly impact the human environment and that an EIS is not required. As an interested person, agency, or organization you are being informed of this finding. If there are any questions or concerns feel free to contact Luke Wehseler at Crow Wing County, phone 218-824-1110 or [luke.wehseler@co.crow-wing.mn.us](mailto:luke.wehseler@co.crow-wing.mn.us).

## 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*.

- University of Minnesota Board of Regents, Demolition of Norris Gymnasium and Field House, June 7, 2011 (March 21, 2011)
- University of Minnesota Board of Regents, Demolition of Veterinary Anatomy, June 7, 2011 (March 7, 2011)
- University of Minnesota Board of Regents, Demolition of Westbrook Hall, June 7, 2011 (March 7, 2011)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Valero Welcome Plant Production Increase, June 13, 2011 (May 2, 2011)

## EIS PREPARATION NOTICE

**Project Title: Proposed South Mine**

**Location: Kasota Township, Le Sueur County**

**Description:** Unimin Corporation proposes the continuation of open pit non-metallic mineral mining of the Jordan sandstone to produce industrial sand. Blasting, crushing, dewatering, size classification, and reclamation activities will occur on approximately 1,188.06 acres located in parts of sections, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18; & 12, Kasota Township (T109N, R26W; 27W), Le Sueur County, Minnesota. Current land cover includes row-crop agriculture, pasture, wetlands, natural area, residential and a Public Water Wetland.

A notice was published in the September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 issue of the EQB Monitor informing the public of the availability of the Scoping EAW and the Draft SDD. The thirty (30) day public comment period began on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and ended on October 6, 2010. A public meeting was held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Le Sueur County Environmental Services Building, Le Center, Minnesota. Eight (8) comments were received from the following: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Denise Friesen, Steven Gahm, Debra & Delbert Bauernfield, and Brad Jones.

The Final Scoping Decision Document (SDD) for the Proposed South Mine EIS defines the items that will be evaluated in greater detail in the EIS. These items include the following:

- Proposed Project Description – mining & reclamation plans and alternatives
- Cover Type & Land Use – consider current and future land use in the area of examining land use compatibility, potential conflicts, and public lands.
- Fish, Wildlife & Ecologically Sensitive Resources – an Ecological Survey will be conducted to identify the presence of native plant communities, habitat, and State-listed threatened and endangered species. Additional research will be conducted on the Calcareous Fen wetland located adjacent to the Excavation Area and effects further studied in the hydrogeologic assessment.
- Physical Impacts on Water Resources – studies will be conducted on the Protected Water Wetland PWI (40-122W); an analysis of impacts to the Minnesota River from dewatering and surface water; a hydrogeological assessment will be conducted including an aquifer pump test, groundwater model and installation of monitoring wells to determine impacts from dewatering; a Calcareous Fen

Management Plan will be developed; a wetland delineation will be completed; and wetland mitigation opportunities identified.

- Water Use – The hydrogeological assessment will evaluate the impacts from dewatering on surrounding wells including a well inventory conducted.
- Erosion & Sedimentation – erosion and sediment impacts and control measures will be evaluated.
- Water Quality: Surface Water Runoff – A Stormwater Management Plan will be developed to evaluate current and future runoff and will evaluate the potential effects to downstream sources including the Minnesota River.
- Water Quality – Wastewater – the quantities of industrial wastewater produced will be discussed as well as how it will affect the current water supply system.
- Geologic Hazards and Soil Conditions – the potential for groundwater contamination will be evaluated.
- Traffic – A road relocation/temporary closure plan will be developed and traffic impacts will be discussed as well as an evaluation of alternative modes of transportation.
- Solid Waste, Hazardous Wastes, Storage Tanks – generation of solid and hazardous wastes and materials, blasting agents and existing and proposed storage tanks will be evaluated.
- Stationary Source Air Emissions – the current emissions will be analyzed and any amendments to the current permit will be described.
- Odors Noise & Dust – An air quality impact assessment will be conducted for fugitive dust and emissions; a noise impact study will examine the noise on nearby sensitive receptors including residents; a blasting study will be conducted to anticipate the effects of air blast pressure and vibrations from mining on surrounding receptors.
- Nearby Resources – A Cultural Resources Survey including a Phase I archaeological survey and aboveground reconnaissance assessment will be conducted to identify archaeological and historic architectural sites; the impacts on Unimin's Kasota Prairie, Kasota Prairie SNA, the National Scenic Byway (CSAH 21), and the East Minnesota River State Game Refuge will be evaluated.
- Visual Impacts – the impacts of lighting and other potential visual impacts to surrounding sensitive receptors will be evaluated.
- Cumulative Potential Effects – other mining projects proposed in the area will be evaluated.
- Socio-Economic Impacts – economic, employment, and social impacts of the project to the local community and economy will be discussed.

**RGU:** Le Sueur County

**Contact Person:**

Kathy Brockway, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
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