



Publication Date: June 28, 2010
Vol., 34 No. 13

Next Publication: July 12, 2010
Submittal Deadline: July 2, 2010

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: July 28th, 2010

Project Title: The Enclave

Description: A proposed Residential Development (THE ENCLAVE) located on a 109 acre site in Medina, Minnesota. The proposed development consists of 140 single-family detached homes, 42 attached townhomes, and an association owned Community Park with a pool and pool house. Site construction is proposed to begin during the 2010 construction season, with construction completion to occur over the next 3-6 years.

RGU: City of Medina

Contact Person:

Dusty Finke
City Planner
2052 County Road 24
Medina, MN 55340
Phone: 763-473-4643
Fax: 763-473-9359
E-mail: dusty.finke@ci.medina.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>

Project Title: SMC Kasota Quarry

Description: Oldcastle Material Group (OMG) Midwest dba Southern Minnesota Construction Company, Inc. proposes a 50-acre expansion to the existing Kasota Quarry located in Lime Township, Blue Earth County, to continue mining dolomitic limestone producing aggregates & dimensional stone and eventually sub-lease mining of the underlying sandstone producing industrial sand. Approximately 2.48 acres of the 50.0-acre parcel was previously mined from 2005 to 2008 prior to obtaining a Le Sueur County Conditional Use Permit. Open-pit quarrying methods will continue to be utilized which include blasting, crushing, and size classification. Additional activities proposed with the expansion include future dewatering and reclamation activities. The site is located in the SE ¼ of SE ¼ Section 18, and the W ¼ of SW ¼ of SW ¼ Section 17, Kasota Township (T109N, R26W), Le Sueur County, Minnesota

RGU: Le Sueur County

Contact Person:

Kathy Brockway, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Le Sueur County
88 South Park Ave
Le Center, MN 56057
Phone: 507-357-2251
Fax: 507-357-8541
Email: kbrockway@co.le-sueur.mn.us

DRAFT EIS AVAILABLE**Project Title: UMore Park Sand and Gravel Resources Project**

Project Description: On June 11, 2010, the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota approved the distribution of the UMore Park Sand and Gravel Resources Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Copies of the Draft EIS are being distributed to those agencies on the current Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) document review list and others. The Draft EIS comment period will begin on **June 28, 2010** and will extend through **August 5, 2010**. The UMore Park Sand and Gravel Resources Project, which involves new aggregate mining and ancillary operations on approximately 1,722 acres of the UMore Park property owned by the University of Minnesota in the City of Rosemount and Empire Township, Dakota County, Minnesota.

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for public review at the following locations and on the project website at:
http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/Gravel_Resources_and_Assessment.html

- UMore Park Administration Building, 1605 160th Street, Rosemount, MN
- Dakota County Library – Farmington Branch, 508 Third Street, Farmington, MN
- Rosemount City Hall, 2875 145th Street West, Rosemount, MN
- Empire Town Hall, 3385 West 197th Street, Farmington, MN

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies, and groups to comment on the Draft EIS, a public informational meeting has been scheduled for **July 22, 2010** at the Rosemount Community Center, located at 13885 South Robert Trail, Rosemount Minnesota. An open house style meeting will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. A presentation will be held beginning at 6:30 p.m. Representatives from the University along with their consultants will be present to answer questions during the meeting.

The Draft EIS can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting the Project Manager (see contact information below) or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 or (651) 296-9930 TTY. Individuals with a disability, who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the informational meeting, are asked to please contact the Project Manager or the Minnesota Relay Service, as soon as possible.

Comments received will be considered by the University in preparation of the Final EIS.

Contact Information: All comments or requests for additional project information should be directed to: Steven Lott, UMore Park Project Manager, University of Minnesota, 1605 160th Street, Rosemount, MN 55068 or lottx020@umn.edu.

Summary of Study Area Boundary Amendment: Since publication of the Scoping Decision Document in June 2009, the University of Minnesota has modified the UMore Park Sand and Gravel Resources Project Study Boundary to include additional acreage of the UMore Park property. The additional land is located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the original study area and immediately north of Dakota County Road 46 (160th Street) extending to Akron Avenue. Other areas of the study boundary have been reduced resulting in a total gain of 114 acres. The added land area near County Road 46 and Akron Avenue is proposed to accommodate a more efficient layout for the ancillary use facility. No changes in the scope and scale of the overall operations are proposed. Based on this change, the preferred alternative has been revised to include a slightly larger study boundary. The No-Build Alternative remains unchanged.

RGU: University of Minnesota

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, Highlevel Egg Concentrated Animal Feedlot Operation Expansion Project, June 9, 2010 (April 5, 2010)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, East Central Solid Waste Commission Sanitary Landfill (SW-17) Expansion, June 4, 2010 (March 8, 2010)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Mar-Kit Sanitary Landfill Expansion, June 18, 2010 (April 5, 2010)

PETITION FILED

The following petitions have been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Huls Brothers Trucking project

NOTICES

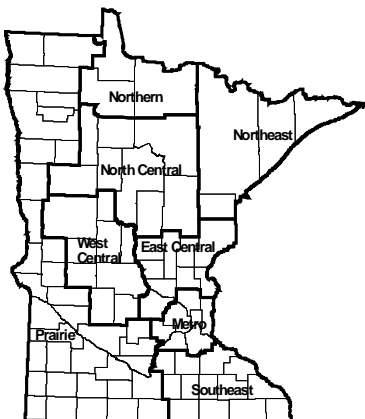
Public Review and Comment Meeting: Amendment to the Northern Regional Landscape Plan – Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) is requesting review and comment on the proposed amendments to the forest resource management plan for the Northern Landscape Region (see map below) as developed by the Northern Regional Landscape Committee.

The original plan was approved by the MFRC in 2004. As a part of their approval, the MFRC requested that the Northern Regional Landscape Committee “give high priority to Ecological Goal 4”, which called for the improving of information sources for forest management decision making through the development of a potential native plant community (NPC) study. This study has been completed and the proposed amendments to the original plan are based on this research.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the proposed amendment to the Northern Landscape Plan visit the Minnesota Forest Resources Council Internet site (www.frc.state.mn.us) and click on Landscape Program, Northern Landscape. Hardcopies are available by contacting Lindberg Ekola, MFRC, 434 E 7th St N, Melrose, MN 56352; 320-256-8300; ekola.mfrc@charter.net

Comments must be received no later than: July 28th, 2010



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Energy Security

Issued: June 16, 2010

**In the Matter of Paynesville Wind, LLC, for a
Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit
for the 95 MW Paynesville Wind Farm in Stearns County**

PUC Docket Number: IP-6830/WS-10-49

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in an Order dated June 4, 2010, issued a Draft Site Permit for public review and comment for the Paynesville Wind Farm (Project).

Project Description

Paynesville Wind, LLC (Applicant) proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 95 megawatts (MW). Depending on which turbines are selected, the wind turbine layout will consist of 42 to 63 turbines with a hub height of 80 meters (263 feet) and a rotor diameter of 82.5 meters (270 feet) if the General Electric 1.5 MW wind turbines are selected, 90 meters (295 feet) if the Vestas 1.8 MW wind turbines are selected, or 101 meters (331 feet) if the Siemens 2.3 MW wind turbines are selected. In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, a meteorological tower, a Sonic Detection and Ranging unit or Light Detection and Ranging unit, an electrical collection system, one substation, one transmission line, and an operations and maintenance building. Power will ultimately be delivered to the existing Paynesville substation.

Proposed Site Location

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 15,000 acres located in Stearns County in Zion, Paynesville, Spring Hill, and Lake Henry townships. The Project area is located north of Paynesville and southeast of Lake Henry. Approximately 11,500 acres are under the Applicant's control via wind easements.

Eminent Domain for Paynesville Wind Farm

The Applicant **does not** have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the Project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicant.

Authority and Statement of Issues to Be Decided

To proceed with this Project, the Applicant must obtain both a certificate of need (CN) and a site permit from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statute section 216B.243, subdivision 2, to issue a CN for a large energy facility if the Applicant can demonstrate there is a need for the Project. As part of the CN proceeding, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the CN application and environmental report, presided over by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes sections 216E.02, subdivision 2, and 216F.04(a), to designate sites and issue site permits for LWECS. When the Commission designates a site, it issues a site permit for the construction of a project specifying the design, location, preparation, and operation of the facility, along with any other appropriate conditions it deems necessary.

The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes sections 216B.243, subdivision 4, and 216F.05(3) to hold public meetings and hearings on the permit applications. It is anticipated that the public meeting for the Draft Site Permit will be combined with the public hearing on the CN proceeding in Docket No. IP-6830/CN-09-1110. A date has not been scheduled. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to people who register on the Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting (OES EFP) Project Mailing List.

The record that is developed through the public participation and hearing process will be presented to the Commission for a final decision.

Public Comment Period

Public comment on the Draft Site Permit will be accepted through the end of the public hearing comment period, which will be announced in the separate Notice of Public Hearing and will run at least through July 2010. This hearing also fulfills the public information meeting requirements of Minnesota Rule 7854.0900.

Comments on the Draft Site Permit may be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Ingrid Bjorklund (see contact information below). All comments received will be submitted to the ALJ for inclusion in the record of this proceeding. If you would like to offer comments directly to the ALJ, this can be done at the hearing or when the hearing notice becomes available.

Contested Case Hearing Request

Any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for this project pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed in writing with OES EFP or the ALJ by the close of the public hearing comment period. Persons requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the contested case hearing will aid it in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

Project Contacts and Information

The Draft Site Permit, site permit application, and other documents relevant to the proposed project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25836>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 10-49 for the Site Permit documents or 09-1110 for the CN documents).

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the: Auditor's Offices in Stearns County; City Offices in Paynesville and Lake Henry; Township Clerks of Paynesville, Zion, Spring Hill, and Lake Henry; and the Paynesville Public Library in Stearns County.

Questions about the Project and the Public Utilities Commission's permitting process may be directed to:

Ingrid Bjorklund, State Permit Manager

Larry Hartman, Public Advisor

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-297-7039
Fax: 651-297-7891
Ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-296-5089
Fax: 651-297-7891
larry.hartman@state.mn.us

People interested in adding their names to the EFP Project Mailing List for this Project should contact the state permit manager, public advisor, or register online at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25836>

Questions about the Paynesville Wind Farm and its permit applications can also be directed to the Applicant by contacting Justin Pickar by email at justin@geronimowind.com or Patrick Smith at patrick@geronimowind.com or by calling 952-988-9000. The address for Geronimo Wind Energy is 7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725, Edina, MN 55435.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651- 201- 2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

Attachment 1

