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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: July 29, 2009

EQB Adopts Rule Amendments

At their regular meeting on June 18, 2009 the Environmental Quality Board adopted the finalized version of rule amendments that have been in the rulemaking process since mid-2008. See items on the EQB web site for the Administrative Law Judge's report, the corrected version of the rule from the State Revisor, and the Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR). All comments made during the public review process are also available on the web site, but are also summarized in the ALJ's report.

The adopted rule amendments are expected to go into affect some time in July or August. The adopted rules must be reviewed by the Governor's Office and the Office of Administrative Hearings before being submitted to the Secretary of State and posted in the Office of the Revisor's web site.

Project Title: Strobel Farms – Jungbloet Site & Buecksler Site

Description: Greg Strobel is proposing to construct two swine finishing facilities, one in Section 34 and the other in Section 36 of McPherson Township in Blue Earth County. The proposed facilities will consist of the construction of two identical barns at each site with a maximum physical capacity of 2,400 finishing hogs, or 720 animal units, housed in each barn. After construction, the maximum physical capacity of the entire operation will be 9,600 finishing swine (2,880 animal units). The proposed barns will be total confinement, power-ventilated buildings. Manure will be stored in the reinforced concrete pits located beneath each of the barns.

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>

A copy of the Environment Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Charles Peterson
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2856

Project Title: Princeton Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion

Description: The city of Princeton (City or Proposer) is proposing to expand their existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and add a discharge pipe to discharge treated effluent to the Rum River. The City's existing WWTF is a mechanical treatment plant, designed for an influent average wet weather design flow (AWWF) of 0.635 million gallons per day (mgd), that discharges to seepage pond cells. The City proposes to construct additional treatment units, including filtration that would treat a 30-day AWWF of 1.905 mgd. The treated wastewater will be required to meet restrictive effluent limits, including a 0.3 milligram per liter total phosphorus level from May through September.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, 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
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4196
Phone: 651-757-2317

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*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Phil Gervais Hog Conf II, June 18, 2000 (March 23, 2009)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Paul Bunyan Trail, Paving Treadway from Guthrie to Walker, June 19, 2009 (May 4, 2009)

SCOPING DECISION DOCUMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT UMore Park

Description: The University of Minnesota intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the UMore Park Sand and Gravel Resources Project. The plan is to allow new aggregate mine(s) and ancillary operations on approximately 1,608 acres of the UMore Park property owned by the University and located in the City of Rosemount and Empire Township, Dakota County, Minnesota.

On June 12, 2009, the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota has approved the Final Scoping Decision Document (SDD) for the UMore Park Sand and Gravel Resources Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This decision followed the EIS scoping process, which included preparation and public review of the Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and Draft Scoping Decision Document (Draft SDD) under the environmental review rules established by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB). A notice was published in the January 12, 2009 issue of the *EQB Monitor* informing the public of the availability of and public comment period for the Scoping EAW and Draft SDD. The 30-day public comment period began on January 12, 2009 and concluded on February 16, 2009 during which a Public Scoping Meeting was held on February 5, 2009. Public comments were received during the comment period and at the Public Scoping Meeting.

In addition to describing the project purpose, the Final SDD identifies two project alternatives that will be evaluated in the EIS; the No-Build Alternative and the Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative will evaluate the scenario that the University maintain the 1,608 acres on the UMore Park property under its current land uses (agricultural and open space). The Build Alternative will evaluate the operation of aggregate mining and ancillary operations on the proposed site.

The Final SDD also describes the subjects that will be evaluated in the EIS, and identifies those subjects that were adequately addressed in the Scoping EAW and will not require additional evaluation in the EIS. The EIS study subjects and the degree to which they will be assessed are described in the Final SDD.

As a result of public comments and additional information, some amendments were made to the Draft SDD prior to publication of the Final SDD). The amendments included adding the following subject to be evaluated in further detail in the EIS:

- Designated Parks, Recreational Areas, and/or Trails

The Final SDD also includes information supporting the Regents' approval of the Final SDD, including copies of and responses to comments provided during the Public Scoping Period and information from the Public

Scoping Meeting. The Final SDD and Response to Comments are available on the University of Minnesota website at: <http://www.umorepark.umn.edu/>

RGU: Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota

Contact Person:

Steven Lott
University Project Manager
UMore Park Administration Building
1605 West 160th Street
Rosemount, MN 55068
Phone: 651-423-1491
Email: lottx020@umn.edu

FINAL AUAR ADOPTED

On behalf of the City of North Branch, please be advised that the City Council adopted the ESSBY AUAR update dated May 1, 2009; no comments were received within the comment period. This AUAR will remain valid as the environmental review for the study area through June 2014.

If you have questions, please contact Alan Cottingham 651-674-8113 or Andrea Moffatt, PWS, Environmental Scientist, WSB & Associates, Inc. at 763-287-7196.

FINAL EIS AVAILABLE

Project Title: Concrete Products of New London, Minnesota Hwy 23 Aggregate Mining Expansion

Abstract of EIS: This final EIS was prepared to analyze the impact of mining for sand and gravel on approximately 248 acres in section 28 of Roseville Township, Kandiyohi County. The proposed expansion would take approximately 30 years. The issues identified in the Final Scoping Decision Document for detailed analysis in the EIS included: ecologically sensitive resources, groundwater resources, physical impacts on water resources, and reclamation.

The proposed mine expansion is located in Roseville Township, Kandiyohi County.

Proposer: Concrete Products of New London, Inc.

Contact Person:

Kelly Morrell
Vice President
17550 Highway 23 NE
New London, MN 56273
Phone: 320-354-2311

RGU: Kandiyohi County

Contact Person:

Gary Geer
Kandiyohi County Zoning Administrator
400 SW Benson Ave.
Willmar, MN 56201
320-231-6229

FINAL EIS AVAILABLE

Project Title: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit System

Description: The Metropolitan Council and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement / Final Section 4(f) Evaluation (FEIS) for the Central Corridor LRT project. The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) project proposes construction of a light rail system between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. Based on findings from the Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS) and public and agency input received, the Metropolitan Council adopted a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Central Corridor on June 28, 2006. Following publication of a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) in June 2008, the Metropolitan Council selected a Preferred Alternative in September 2008. The FEIS documents the purpose and need for the project, alternatives considered, addresses the anticipated social, economic, and environmental effects that might result from implementing the Preferred Alternative, and responds to comments received during the AA/DEIS and SDEIS public comment periods.

Comments on the FEIS are being accepted through **July 27, 2009**. Written comments can be addressed to the contact person listed below. Following the review period and consideration of the comments received on the Final EIS, a Federal Record of Decision and Minnesota State Adequacy Determination are anticipated. The Record of Decision and Adequacy Determination will document Metropolitan Council and FTA's final decision regarding the environmental phase of the project.

Document Availability: The Final EIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation, including all appendices, is available online at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.htm>

The Final EIS is also available at the following area libraries and resource centers.

Metropolitan Council Library
390 N. Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Central Corridor Project Office
540 Fairview Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Mn/DOT Library
Transportation Building
395 John Ireland Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Central Corridor Resource Center
1080 University Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55014

Rondo Community Library

St. Paul Central Library

461 N. Dale
St. Paul, MN 55102

90 West 4th Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

St. Anthony Park Branch Library
2245 West Como Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Merriam Park Library
1831 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Rice Street Library
1011 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55104

Hamline-Midway Library
1558 West Minnehaha Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Franklin Library
1314 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Minneapolis Central Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Southeast Library
1222 4th Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

For people with special needs, please contact community outreach coordinator Jessica Hill for reasonable accommodations. Her contact information is jessica.hill@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1840.

RGU: Metropolitan Council

Contact Person:

Ms. Kathryn L. O'Brien, Environmental Services Project Manager
Central Corridor Project Office
540 Fairview Ave. North, Suite 200S
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: 651-602-1927
Email: kathryn.obrien@metc.state.mn.us

FEDERAL CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TH 23 Pedestrian Underpass Categorical Exclusion and De Minimus Impact Evaluation Public Review and Comment Period

Project Title: TH 23 Pedestrian Underpass

Description: The purpose of the proposed project is to enhance the pedestrian activities of Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) students, Marshall High School students, and pedestrians attending activities at the proposed athletic fields by providing a safe crossing alternative and improve connectivity of the campus with other community destinations. The selected location of the underpass is the most prudent and reasonable relative to desired destinations on both sides of TH 23. The planned improvement will connect to the

SMSU campus in an area that is well suited for pedestrian activities and will be integrated with the campus sidewalk and trail system. This project allows for a pedestrian underpass to be constructed in conjunction with MnDOT's scheduled overlay on TH 23 in 2010.

In accordance with SAFETEA-LU Section 6009(a) amending existing section 4(f) legislation to allow the US Department of Transportation (DOT) to determine that certain uses of 4(f) land, which includes publicly owned recreational land, will have no adverse effect on the protected resource. As the NEPA delegated federal agency, FHWA must conduct the evaluation of potential 4(f) impacts under the proposed project. The FHWA has stated the 4(f) impacts fall under the De Minimus impact evaluation category.

This project will impact a section of land on Southwest Minnesota State University site that may be used as a recreational area and therefore is being reviewed as a 4(f) property. The section of land serves as a buffer between the A Parking Lot and the B Parking Lot. FHWA has agreed and SMSU has concurred with the De Minimis finding as they feel that the project will not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f). The public has an opportunity to comment on the following project.

Comments: City of Marshall will accept written comments on the Categorical Exclusion and / or the De Minimus impact evaluation during the public review and comment period, which will begin on June 26th, 2009 and conclude on July 27th, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to Glenn Olson at:
Glenn Olson – City Engineer / Public Works Director
City Hall -Administration Office
344 West Main Street
Marshall, MN 56258

Comments can also be emailed to Mr. Olson at:
glenno@marshallmn.com

Document Review: Public review copies of the Categorical Exclusion are available at the following locations:

City of Marshall - City Hall
Administration Office
344 West Main Street
Marshall, MN 56258

Marshall-Lyon County Library
301 West Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258

City of Marshall Website
<http://www.marshall-mn.org/>

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, Bituminous Roadways asphalt plant project
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, La Crescent Township Wastewater Treatment Facility

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE: AERIAL APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES MN Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry

The MN Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is planning to aerially apply herbicides on state lands. Herbicide applications will occur on approximately 1145 acres and involve 30 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 August 15 and end on approximately September 12, 2009.

Administrative Area	# Sites	Acres	Herbicides
Blackduck	1	23	Accord
Littlefork	4	75	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Orr	7	209	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Sandstone	1	40	Accord
Tower	13	558	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Two Harbors	4	240	Accord, Oust
TOTALS	30	1145	

For further information regarding this project, please contact:

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