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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: August 26, 2009

Project Title: **Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Maintenance Dredging**

Description: Xcel Energy proposes to complete maintenance dredging on 16 acres in the bed of the Mississippi River at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant in Red Wing, Minnesota. The re-dredging is necessary in order to maintain the existing intake approach canal for cooling water supply for electric power generation. The Prairie Island maintenance dredging will involve the dredging of approximately 56,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediments from the bed of the Mississippi River. The dredged material will be dewatered and stockpiled immediately west of the plant's substation in an existing storage area and removed within one year and transported to Holst Excavating's Pit #3 in Welch Township. An Environmental Assessment Worksheet has been completed for the project and is available for public review and comment.

RGU: The project is located in Sections 4 and 5, Township 113N, Range 15W, in the City of Red Wing, GPS Coordinates N 4941269; W 529279

Contact Person:

Brian C. Peterson, AICP
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City of Red Wing
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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>

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*.

- Duluth City Planning Commission, Eastern High School for Independent School District 709, July 14, 2009 (April 20, 2009) Negative Declaration.
- City of Bloomington, United Properties 8100 Tower and Hotel development, July 20, 2009 (June 1, 2009) Negative Declaration.

EIS ADEQUACY DECISION

Project Title: Concrete Products of New London HWY 23 Aggregate Mining Expansion

The Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners of the State of Minnesota:

1. Finds the Concrete Products of New London Final EIS to be adequate because it:
 - a. adequately addressed the potentially significant issues and alternatives raised in scoping;
 - b. provides responses to the substantive comments received during the draft EIS review concerning issues raised in scoping; and
 - c. was prepared in compliance with the procedures defined in Minnesota Rules parts 4410.0200 to 4410.6500.
2. Authorizes publication of a Notice of this adequacy decision in the EQB Monitor.

Duly adopted this 21st day of July 2009.

FEDERAL CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Project Title: Trunk Highway 23 Pedestrian Underpass, City of Marshall, Lyon County

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation is proposing to construct a pedestrian underpass under Trunk Highway 23 in the vicinity of Wefald Drive in the City of Marshall. The proposed underpass would facilitate pedestrian traffic between Marshall High School and Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU).

This project includes minor acquisition/use of land from a public recreational facility on the SMSU campus. This use is subject to the U. S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C 303) and 23 U.S.C138. Section 4(f) of the Act defines procedures required for addressing impacts to recreational and other public lands that would result from federally-funded transportation projects. In addition, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for User (SAFETEA-LU) Act of 2005, Section 6009 allows for

determinations that certain uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect—*de minimis*—on the protected resource. Section 6009(a) requires that a public notice and opportunity for review and comment be provided for projects that are determined to have *de minimis* impact. After an evaluation of the impacts of an action upon Section 4(f) resources, a finding can be made.

The Draft Categorical Exclusion document describes the proposed project, impacts, and mitigation. This document also includes information on the Section 4(f) impacts and the preliminary *de minimis* finding, i.e., that adverse impacts to the recreational facility would not result from the proposed project. Any comments received regarding this issue during the public comment period will be taken by the Federal Highway Administration in making its final *de minimis* determination.

Copies of the draft Categorical Exclusion document are available for public review beginning July 27, 2009 at the following locations, and on the City of Marshall website (<http://www.marshall-mn.org>):

- Marshall-Lyon County Library, 301 West Lyon Street, Marshall, MN 56258
- City of Marshall – City Hall, Administration Office, 344 West Main Street, Marshall, MN 56258

The draft Categorical Exclusion document can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling Jennie Ross, Mn/DOT Environmental Services, at 651-366-3636.

Copies of the draft Exclusion document are being distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota EQB list and other interested parties. The comment period will begin on July 27, 2009. Written comments will be accepted through August 26, 2009 and can be submitted to the contact listed below.

Project Proposer: Minnesota Department of Transportation – District 8

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:

Susann Karnowski, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation, District 8
2505 Transportation Road
Willmar, MN 56201
Phone: 320-214-6370
Email: Susann.Karnowski@dot.state.mn.us

NOTICES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

PICKEREL LAKE RECLAMATION PROJECT PLANNED

Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Division

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife is planning rotenone treatments on the following water bodies:

Lake	DOW	County	Township-Range Section	Lake acres
Pickerel* (also spelled Pickeral (Magaksica WMA)	24002500	Freeborn	102-22-24	617
Mud* (Magaksica WMA)	24006800	Freeborn	102-22-13	115
Eberhart (connected to Pickerel)	24003200	Freeborn	102-22-23	30
Unnamed (connected to Pickerel)	24005600	Freeborn	102-21-20	57
Unnamed (connected to Pickerel)	24007600	Freeborn	102-21-19	18
*Basin in or a part of a Wildlife Management Area				

This project will include the application of 2.5% synergized liquid rotenone, a federally and state registered pesticide to control carp. The chemical application will occur in sometime between September 2009 and March 2010, most likely October, weather permitting. Rotenone distribution will be done aerially, by backpack sprayer and by drip. Target treatment concentration will be a 3-6 ppm of 2.5% liquid rotenone or a similar concentration of powdered rotenone, or a combination of liquid and powder. Smaller wetlands, ditches or drain tile outlets connected to the above lakes and wetland maybe treated if necessary.

Endangered or threatened species are not known to be present in any of these lakes or wetlands. Some species listed as "Special Concern" in M.S. 6134.0220 maybe periodically found on/near some of these water bodies including Franklin's Gulls, American White Pelicans and Bald Eagles. This project is not anticipated to have any long-term negative affects on any of these species.

Project goals include treating the undesirable fish species, carp, in order to improve wildlife habitat and water quality in these water bodies. This lake and wetland complex serves as a source of carp to downstream lakes. A fish barrier has already been installed at the outlet of this lake and wetland complex to prevent fish from re-invading the lake after the treatment. Additionally, down-stream lakes should benefit from better water quality flowing out of Pickerel and Mud Lakes after treatment and a reduction in numbers of carp to those basins.

For general information about any of these projects contact the Area Fisheries office in Waterville at 507-362-4223.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Transgenic Herbicide Tolerant and Insect Resistant Corn – Commercial Use Exemption

Monsanto and Agrigenetics (Dow AgroSciences) have requested an exemption from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permit for a combined trait corn product, MON 89034 x TC 1507 x MON 88017 x DAS-59122-7, which has been genetically engineered for tolerance to glyphosate and glufosinate herbicides as well as for resistance to European corn borer and corn rootworm. This corn product contains the stably integrated genes, *cry2Ab2*, *cry1A.105*, *cry1F*, *cry3Bb1*, *cry34Ab1*, and *cry35Ab1*, all derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a common soil bacterium, which confer insect resistance, and

the *cp4 epsps* and *pat* genes, derived from *Agrobacterium* sp. and *Streptomyces viridochromogenes*, respectively, which confer tolerance to glyphosate and glufosinate herbicides, respectively. Each of the individual events listed had been previously exempted individually from state permit. The corn product containing these genes is no longer regulated under USDA/APHIS guidelines. Under this exemption from state permit, Monsanto and Agrigenetics will be allowed to commercially use this corn product without further regulation. For additional information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651/201-6277, mary.hanks@state.mn.us