



Publication Date: August 1, 2011
Vol. 35, No. 15a

Next Publication: August 8, 2011
Submittal Deadline: August 1, 2011

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: August 31, 2011

Project Title: Dock Street Residential

Description: The phased project will develop a surface parking lot in Downtown Minneapolis. The project area encompasses 3.25 acres and is anticipated to accommodate 400 attached residential units and 21,500 ft² of new commercial uses. Dock Street, a new private road, will provide access to and through the site. No changes to the existing Union Plaza building are proposed.

The EAW and supporting information will be available for review on the City of Minneapolis web site: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/>

RGU: City of Minneapolis

Contact Person:

Hilary Dvorak
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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>

AUAR Updates

Project Title: Oxbow Commons/610 Crossings AUAR

Description: The City of Brooklyn Park assisted by MFRA has developed an Alternative Urban Area-wide Review (AUAR) for development of approximately 230 acres bounded by Zane Avenue on the west, 101st Avenue North on the North, Regent Avenue on the east and Highway 610 to the south. This AUAR is the 3rd AUAR completed in this area. The original AUAR was completed in 2001, and the first update was completed in 2008. This latest update re-examines development of 58 acres for retail and commercial use. All external roadways and infrastructure needed for the proposed development have already been constructed as part of development previously authorized by the prior two AUARs. The new development will be served by this existing infrastructure, and all new roads and infrastructure will be internal to the development. There are no wetlands present on the yet to be developed lands.

The EQB Guide to Minnesota Environmental Review rules indicates that state agencies have 10 working days from the receipt of the AUAR Update to raise any objections to the updated analysis. Other organizations or persons may submit comments or suggest changes in the document. Any objections should be sent to the contact person below.

RGU: City of Brooklyn Park

Contact Person:

Todd Larson, Senior Planner
5200 85th Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
Phone: 763-493-8069
Fax: 763-493-8391
Email: Todd.Larson@brooklynpark.org

Project Title: Lower Poplar River Alternative Urban Areawide Review

Description: Cook County is intending to re-adopt the Lower Poplar River AUAR document in accordance with Minnesota Rules 4410.36 Subp. 7, for another five year period with no changes to the document or mitigation plan. The current AUAR and mitigation plan may be viewed at: <http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/local-projects/423>. In recognition of more current studies, Cook County will adopt by reference the following two studies that have been completed since the original adoption of the AUAR, and as such will provide more current data with which to review any new development projects subject to the current mitigation plan:

1. 3/4/2008 Poplar River Turbidity Assessment Report for the EPA , and http://www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/northshore/poplar/TMD/docs/TurbidityReports/Poplar_River_Turbidity_Combined_Reports.pdf
2. 3/30/2010 Poplar River Sediment Source Assessment Report for the University of MN. <http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/conservation-projects/916>

Please submit any comments or questions you might have regarding the re-adoption of the Lower Poplar River AUAR for Cook County Minnesota to the contact person below.

RGU: Cook County

Contact Person:

Timothy Nelson, Planning Director
Cook County Planning and Zoning
Cook County Courthouse
411 West Second Street
Grand Marais, MN 55604
Phone: 218-387-3630
Fax: 218-387-3042

NOTICES

Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**In the Matter of the Applications for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit
for the 115 kV Glencoe – Waconia Transmission Line Project**

PUC Docket Numbers: E002/CN-09-1390 and E002/TL-10-249

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application submitted by Northern States Power (Xcel Energy) and the certificate of need application submitted by Xcel Energy and the city of Glencoe for the proposed 115 kV Glencoe – Waconia transmission line project.

This notice provides the date, starting time and location for public hearing for two matters over which the Commission has jurisdiction. In this consolidated proceeding, the hearing will address: (a) whether the proposed transmission line is needed and in the public interest, and (b) the costs, benefits and impacts of various alternative routes for the proposed transmission line.

This notice also provides additional detail about the public hearings and the procedural requirements of the Office of Administrative Hearings for public hearing on large energy facilities. If you have an interest in this project, please read this notice carefully. If you have questions about the project or upcoming hearings, please contact the appropriate person identified in this notice.

The hearing will run no later than 9:30 p.m. and may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been completed.

PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, August 24, 2011
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Clay Community Building
327 Elm Street West
Norwood Young America, MN
952-467-1800

Project Description. The project is located in McLeod and Carver counties near the cities of Glencoe, Plato, Norwood Young America and Waconia located southwest of the Twin Cities metro area.

The certificate of need (CON) application submitted by Xcel Energy and the city of Glencoe Power and Light Commission (Applicants) seeks approval to construct two miles of new 69 kV transmission line, six miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, and to upgrade approximately 20 miles of 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity, along with the construction of a new substation and certain substation modifications. The CON application includes approximately 28 miles of transmission line.

Xcel Energy's route permit application requests approval to construct approximately 0.9 miles of new 115 kV transmission line, 1.9 miles of new 69 kV transmission line that is capable of operating as 115/69 kV double circuit line and upgrade approximately 20 miles of 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV (double circuit 115/69 kV capacity). The route permit application covers approximately 23 miles of transmission line and certain substation modifications.

Project construction is expected to begin in 2011; the project is expected to be completed and in service late in 2012.

Regulatory Review Process. Two separate Commission approvals are required to build the Glencoe – Waconia 115 kV transmission line project – a certificate of need (Minnesota Statute § 216B.243, subd. 2) and a route permit (Minnesota Statute 216E.02, subd. 2). The Applicants submitted a CON application to the Commission on November 30, 2010. The CON application was accepted as complete by the Commission on January 27, 2011. Xcel Energy submitted a route permit application to the Commission on December 10, 2010. The route permit application was accepted as complete by the Commission on January 14, 2011.

The Commission is required to hold public hearings on such applications following the release of the environmental review document (Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243, subd. 4, and 216E.03, subd. 6).

The approximately 4.5 mile portion of new 115 kV transmission line from the existing Armstrong Substation to the site of the new 115 kV Diamond Substation, as well as the Diamond Substation, will be built and owned by the city of Glencoe Power and Light Commission; while this portion of the project is included in the certificate of need proceeding, the final route will be determined and permitted through the local review process of Minnesota Rules 7850.5300.

Environmental Assessment. Department staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for both CON applications (Minn. Rules 7849.1200) and route permit applications (Minn. Rules 7850.3700) submitted to the Commission.

As two concurrent environmental reviews are required – one for the CON application and one for the route permit application – Department staff elected to combine the environmental review for the two applications (Minn. Rules 7849.1900). The environmental assessment (EA), which was prepared to meet the requirements of both review processes, is available.

Electronic versions of the EA and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission website or the eDockets website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=30371>

or

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (Search “10” Year and “249” Number).

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statute 216B.243, subd. 4, Minnesota Statute 216E.04, subdivision 6, and Minnesota Rule 7850.3800. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of Department staff and the Applicants, and to offer oral and written comments and submit material into the record. The Honorable Richard Luis, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

Comment period. The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 7, 2011**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Luis at:

The Honorable Richard Luis
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
(651) 361-7900
Richard.luis@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will provide Department staff with a written summary of testimony given at the hearing along with comments received during the prescribed comment period. The Commission will make a final decision on the route permit application after receipt of the complete record.

Project Contacts. The Department has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, bill.storm@state.mn.us) as State Permit Manager and Suzanne Steinhauer (651-296-2888, suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) as Public Advisor. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

Public Utilities Commission. If you would like additional information about the CON process or Commission practice and procedure, please contact Commission staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us). Mr. Kaluzniak may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Xcel Energy. Information about this project is available from Xcel Energy. You can direct questions to Timothy G. Rogers (612-330-1955, timothy.g.rogers@xcelenergy.com). Mr. Rogers may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, (MP 8), Minneapolis, MN 55401.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.