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Submit to [EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us](mailto:EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us)

# EQB MONITOR

## **PUBLIC NOTICE** **Special meeting notice**

The EQB will be holding a special meeting on September 21st in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Board Room. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m.

The board will address environmental review action items, including final EQB approval of the environmental review program rules (at Minn. Rules, part 4410.4300, subpart 15) establishing a mandatory EAW category threshold for greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the board will reassign RGU responsibility from the EQB to the MPCA on the Fairmont Power Plant.

Finally, the board seeks to obtain public input on the preliminary vision developed at the EQB retreat on June 16th.

Go to "[Agendas and Minutes](#)" on the EQB website to view the meeting agenda and materials (to see EQB meeting materials, click the "View List" link in the right-hand column of the table for September 21, 2011)

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  
520 Lafayette  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: 651-296-6300 or 1-800-657-3864  
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

## NOTICE

Effective September 15, 2011 EQB staff moved to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency building. Please update your contact information to reflect this change.

The main EQB and environmental review phone numbers have changed. You may call either 651-296-6300 or 1-800-657-3864 to be directed to appropriate staff.

Website (remains unchanged) at [www.eqb.state.mn.us](http://www.eqb.state.mn.us)

Staff contact information remains the same except for new phone numbers.

Bob Patton	651-757-2870	<a href="mailto:bob.patton@state.mn.us">bob.patton@state.mn.us</a>
John Wells	651-757-2871	<a href="mailto:john.wells@state.mn.us">john.wells@state.mn.us</a>
Princesa VanBuren Hansen	651-757-2872	<a href="mailto:princesa.vanburen@state.mn.us">princesa.vanburen@state.mn.us</a>
Environmental Review		<a href="mailto:Env.Review@state.mn.us">Env.Review@state.mn.us</a>
EQB Monitor submissions		<a href="mailto:EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us">EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us</a>

Mailing Address: Environmental Quality Board  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: October 19, 2011

**Project Title:** Griffin Quarry Expansion, Chatfield, MN

**Description:** The Griffins propose to expand their existing Conditional Use Permit for a 39.55 acre quarry located one mile north of Chatfield, Minnesota. The expansion would add 82.4 acres for a total of 121.95 acres located in parts of Section 25 of Orion and Section 30 in Elmira Townships, Olmsted County.

**RGU:** Township Cooperative Planning Association (TCPA)

**Contact Person:**

Roger Ihrke, Zoning Administrator  
Township Cooperative Planning Association  
4111 11 Ave. SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
Phone: 507-529-0774  
Fax: 507-281-6821  
E-mail [roger@tcpamn.org](mailto:roger@tcpamn.org)

## AUAR AVAILABLE

**Project Title:** 171<sup>st</sup> Avenue Area

**Description:** The 171<sup>st</sup> Avenue Area is approximately 253 acres located in the southeast portion of Elk River. The study area is bound by the Mississippi River to the west with State Trunk Highway (TH) 10/169 bisecting the study area running parallel to the river. A mixture of office and light industrial land uses is located along the northern edge of the study area with high and low density housing and parkland to the northeast. The majority of the land to the east and south of the project area is owned by Cargill Corporation and Great River Energy (GRE). Cargill uses their land and facility for agricultural research and production. The GRE site contains the Elk River Resource Derived Fuel (RDF) processing plant.

The Burlington Northern Santa-Fe rail line borders the study area running from the northwest to the southeast and carries a large number of heavy rail trains each day in addition to the Northstar commuter train. The Northstar station is located to the north of the study area.

**RGU:** City of Elk River

**Contact Person:**

Mr. Justin Femrite

City Engineer

City of Elk River

13065 Orono Parkway

Elk River, MN 55330

Phone: (Andrea Moffat, WSB & Associates, Inc.) 763-287-7196

## NOTICE OF EIS SCOPING MEETING

**Project Title:** Jordan Aggregates Proposed Mining Operation

**Description:** On April 5th, 2011, the Scott County Board of Commissioners in reviewing the findings of fact for the Jordan Aggregates EAW determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is required for the Jordan Aggregates Proposed Mining Operation. It was determined that a few issues identified in the EAW fell into the scope of an EIS because of the need to collect additional complex data and involve review by numerous regulatory bodies on the following issues:

- Further analysis of the impacts to local aquifers and preparation of a detailed mitigation plan for the provision of water supply for identified potentially impacted wells.
- Analysis of the impacts to Sand Creek and impacted wetlands resulting from the construction of an adjacent deep pond in the floodplain. Impacts noted in the EAW comments included erosion of the upgradient side wall of the pond into Sand Creek, impacts to area wetlands and potential risk of rechannelization of Sand Creek.

The Scott County Board of Commissioners will hold a Supplemental Scoping meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, in the Scott County Board Room, Scott County Government Center in Shakopee, Minnesota. The purpose of the scoping meeting is to: reduce the scope and bulk of the EIS; identify only those potentially significant issues relevant to the proposed project; define the form, level of detail, content, alternatives,

timetable for preparation; identify the preparers of the EIS; determine the permits for which information will be developed concurrently with the EIS; alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS; identify potential impact areas resulting from the project itself and from related actions; and identify necessary studies requiring compilation of existing information or the development of new data that can be generated within a reasonable amount of time and at a reasonable cost.

Written comments suggesting issues and processes relative to the scoping decision must be submitted to Scott County before the close of the public meeting on October 11, 2011. Interested persons may attend the scoping meeting to exercise their right to comment. Questions regarding this meeting or the process should be directed to Kate Sedlacek at 952-496-8351 or Allen Frechette, Environmental Health Manager, Scott County, at 952-496-8354.

## NOTICES

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**In the matters of Prairie Wind Energy, LLC Applications  
for a Certificate of Need and a Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit  
for the 100 MW Prairie Wind Energy Project in Otter Tail County**

**Certificate of Need Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6844/CN-10-429  
Site Permit Application, PUC Docket Number: IP-6844/WS-10-438**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the application of Prairie Wind Energy, LLC (Applicant), for a Certificate of Need, in conjunction with a public meeting on the draft for a Site Permit for the proposed 100 MW Prairie Wind Energy Project (Project). The hearing and public meeting will address respectively: (1) whether the proposed Project is needed and in the public interest and (2) issues related to the proposed siting of the Project. The hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. Ending times reflect the latest a public hearing will run. The hearing may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded

#### HEARING DATE & LOCATION

<b>October 4, 2011</b>	<b>The Prairie Event Center 201 West Main Street Parkers Prairie, MN</b>	<b>7:00 PM – 10:00 PM</b>
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**Administrative Law Judge.** Administrative Law Judge Manuel J. Cervantes from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will preside at the hearing. Any person who would like to comment on the need for the Project or the proposed siting can do so at the hearing or in writing to Judge Cervantes: Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620; (fax) 651-361-7936; e-mail: [Manuel.Cervantes@state.mn.us](mailto:Manuel.Cervantes@state.mn.us).

**Written Comments.** Written comments on the Certificate of Need or the Draft Permit should be submitted to Judge Cervantes at the address listed above. Comments will be accepted through October 19, 2011. Mailed comments must be postmarked by this date. Faxed and delivered comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on this date.

**Purpose and Conduct of the Hearing.** The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input about the Project. During the public hearing, members of the public may offer either oral or written testimony, offer exhibits for inclusion in the public hearing record and ask questions of the applicant and agency representatives. Any person who wishes to ask questions, but does not want to ask the questions personally, may submit them in writing to the ALJ who will then ask the question during the hearing.

Interested persons may comment on the Certificate of Need and Site Permit Applications, Environmental Report, Draft Site Permit or on the Project generally. The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. If needed, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ. At the close of the written comment period Judge Cervantes will prepare a written summary of the comments received at the hearing and file it with the Commission, which will consider them in its deliberations of the certificate of need and site permit applications.

**Request for Accommodation.** Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, and any person who requires an interpreter, including a foreign language interpreter, should promptly notify the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Phone: (651) 361-7900 (voice) or (651) 361-7878 (TDD).

**Environmental Report.** The Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting has completed and issued an Environmental Report on September 6, 2011, for the proposed Prairie Wind Energy Project. The Environmental Report addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives. For a copy of the Environmental Report, please see project contacts and information below.

**Draft Site Permit.** On August 25 2011, the Commission issued an Order approving a draft site permit for distribution and public comment. For a copy of the draft site permit, please see project contacts and information below. An updated preliminary turbine location map is attached to this notice.

**Project Description.** The Project is in southeastern Otter Tail County, approximately one mile from the community of Parkers Prairie. Most of the Project is located west of State Highway (SH) 29 and north of SH 235 in the townships of Parkers Prairie and Elmo. Other townships within the Project footprint include Effington and Folden. PWE currently has approximately 8,000 acres under lease for the Project, and the total Project area is 23,921 acres.

PWE currently anticipates that the Project would consist of 41 2.4 MW Nordex N117 turbines yielding a total nameplate capacity of 98.4 MW. The Applicant however is requesting authority for a total nameplate capacity of 100 MW, allowing the final number and size of the turbines to be dictated by the terms of a Power Purchase

Agreement (PPA) between PWE and an off-taker, current market conditions, turbine availability and the terms of the final Site Permit for the Project. The hub height of the turbines is expected to be 91 meters, and rotor diameters of 117 meters.

The Project would include: gravel access roads; underground conductors installed between turbines; 34.5 kV underground or, if necessary, overhead feeders to collect power from underground conductors installed between turbine strings; installation of a Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system; construction of a substation adjacent to an existing Great River Energy 115kV transmission line located in Section 10 of Parkers Prairie Township; construction of an Operation and Maintenance facility; and one or two additional meteorological towers (two are currently located in the project area).

As proposed, the Project is expected to achieve commercial operation by December 31, 2012.

**Eminent Domain.** 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.** In order to proceed with this Project, the Applicant must obtain a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, to issue a certificate of need for a large wind energy facility if the applicant can demonstrate that there is a need for the Project. A certificate of need is a state permit that is issued upon a determination that construction of an energy facility is in the public interest. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243, subdivision 4, to hold a hearing on the application for a certificate of need.

The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 216F.04 to issue LWECS site permits for certain wind energy facilities. When the Commission designates a site, it issues a site permit for the construction of a facility 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 section 216F.05 and Minnesota Rule 7854.0900 to hold a public meeting on an application for a site permit for an LWECS.

**Contested Case Hearing Request.** Any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the LWECS pursuant to Minnesota Rule 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Judge Cervantes in writing by 4:30 p.m. on October 19, 2011. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason that 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 holding of the contested case hearing will aid it in making a final decision on whether or not to authorize construction of the Project.

**Project Contacts and Information.** For more information on the **Certificate of Need**, please contact:

Michael Kaluzniak  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147  
(651) 201-2257  
[mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us)

For additional information regarding the **Site Permit** application, or to place your name on the project mailing list maintained for this project, please contact:

David Birkholz, State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: (651) 296-2878  
Fax: (651) 297-7891  
[david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)

Jamie MacAlister, Public Advisor  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: (651) 296-1335  
Fax: (651) 297-7891  
[jamie.macalister@state.mn.us](mailto:jamie.macalister@state.mn.us)

The certificate of need application and environmental report can be found on the eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year “10” and the number “429”). The LWECs site permit application and draft site permit can be found on the eDockets website (enter the year “10” and the number “438”).

The permit applications, draft site permit, environmental report, and other relevant documents, including Minnesota’s statutes and rules governing the site permitting process, are also available on the Commission’s energy facility permitting website at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=30591>.

You can also place your name on the Project mailing list at this website.

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the: County Courthouse of Otter Tail County; City offices in Parkers Prairie; and Township Clerks of Parkers Prairie, Elmo, Effington and Folden.

Questions regarding the Prairie Wind Energy Project and its permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting:

Terry Carlson  
Prairie Wind Energy  
PO Box 33  
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361  
Phone: (218) 338-4875  
Email: [tcarlson@pwemn.net](mailto:tcarlson@pwemn.net)

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.

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the St. Cloud Loop 115 kV Transmission Line Project  
in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota**

**PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-10-1026**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the route permit application by Xcel Energy for a new 4.7-mile long 115 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line in Benton County, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held at the time and location listed below. The hearing will run no later than 9:00 p.m. and may conclude earlier if all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been completed.

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School  
Community Room  
901 1st Street South  
Sauk Rapids, Minnesota

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**Project Description.** Xcel Energy proposes to construct a new 4.7-mile long 115 kV overhead transmission line. The proposed project is located in the northern part of the city of Sauk Rapids and the townships of Minden and Sauk Rapids in Benton County, Minnesota.

As described in the route permit application the new transmission line route would exit the existing Mayhew Lake Substation, head west along County Road 29 for one-half mile and south-southwest for three-tenths of a mile cross-country to Highway 10. The route would proceed south along the east side of Highway 10 for two and nine-tenths miles, turn east for three tenths of a mile following County Ditch 3 to the existing Granite City Substation.

A second segment of new transmission line would connect to existing Line 5509 at 14th Avenue NE and head south-southeast following County Ditch 3 and existing transmission lines in the area for approximately seven-tenths of a mile to existing transmission Structure 39 (see attached figure).

**Environmental Assessment.** EFP staff has completed an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed project. The EA addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project. Electronic versions of the EA, maps of the proposed project, and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and download on the Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website or the eDockets website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=31941>

or

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (Search "10" Year and "1026" Number).

**Conduct of Hearing.** The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act, Minnesota Statute 216E.04, subdivision 6, and Minnesota Rule 7850.3800. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of EFP staff and Xcel Energy representatives and to offer oral



and written comments and submit material into the record. The Honorable Barbara L. Neilson, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

**Comment period.** The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Monday, October 11, 2011**, for interested persons to submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Neilson at:

The Honorable Barbara L. Neilson  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
P.O. Box 64620  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620  
Fax: (651) 361-7900  
[Barbara.Neilson@state.mn.us](mailto:Barbara.Neilson@state.mn.us)

The Administrative Law Judge will provide EFP staff 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.

**Additional Information.** For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, please contact:

Scott Ek, State Permit Manager  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-8813 or 1-800-657-3794  
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Raymond Kirsch, Public Advisor  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-2878  
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

**Mailing List.** Any person may add his or her name to the mailing list maintained by EFP staff for future mailings pertaining to this project. If you would like to receive notice of the Commission's final decision in this matter please add your name to the mailing list. Names can be added to the list by contacting the project manager or by registering on [the](http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing) Commission's Energy Facility Permitting website at:  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing>

## Three Rivers Park District Wildlife Section

ROTENONE APPLICATION PROJECT PLANNED BY THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT SECTION OF WILDLIFE

The Three Rivers Park District is planning a rotenone treatment on the wetland listed below:

A rotenone application is planned for the Eastman Nature Center Pond for the fall of 2011. 2.5 % active ingredient liquid rotenone, a federal and state registered pesticide, will be applied to remove the current fathead

minnow population. The project goal is to eliminate the undesirable fish within the wetland, improve water quality and increase the diversity and numbers of invertebrates within the pond. This will allow for the pond to be used by the nature center as an invertebrate study pond.

The size of the wetland when full is approximately 4 acres in size. However, the wetland has been pumped down as part of the overall restoration effort. The area to be treated is less than a half acre. A 5 ppm rotenone application will be applied by a Three Rivers Park District employee who is a licensed pesticide applicator. The targeted fish species is the fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*).

For general information about this project, please contact Larry Gillette, Senior Manager of Wildlife, at 763-694-7842 or Steven Hogg, Wildlife Specialist, at 763-694-7848.