



Publication Date: September 5, 2011
Vol. 35, No. 18

Next Publication: September 19, 2011
Submittal Deadline: September 12, 2011

Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

EQB MONITOR

EQB Special Meeting Notice

The Environmental Quality Board will be holding a special meeting on **Wednesday, September 21, 2011, from 9 a.m. to noon**, in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency board room on the lower level of the MPCA's St. Paul office, located at 520 Lafayette Road North (55155). The agenda will be posted on the EQB website at www.eqb.state.mn.us. For more information, please contact Augusta Paye at 651-201-2480.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: October 5, 2011

Project Title: **Kandiyohi County Landfill Proposed Expansion Phases 7 and 8**

Description: Kandiyohi County, Minnesota is proposing a horizontal/vertical expansion of the existing waste cells within the Kandiyohi County Landfill. The proposed project would provide capacity for approximately 20 additional years of operation.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft Solid Waste Permit will also be available for public comment beginning September 5, 2011. The contact person for the Solid Waste Permit is Anthony Bello at 651-757-2219.

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

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>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Debra Moynihan
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division – 4th Floor
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2587

Project Title: Prairieland Solid Waste Management Resource Recovery Facility

Description: The Prairieland Solid Waste Management Board proposes to convert the existing Prairieland Resource Recovery/Composting Facility in Truman, Minnesota from the production of compost to the production of refuse derived fuel. The project would include increasing the solid waste feedstock input from 100 tons per day to up to 200 tons per day. The proposal involves internal equipment changes to accommodate the change in product, but the facility footprint would not change.

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft Solid Waste Permit will be available for public comment later in September. The contact person for the Solid Waste Permit is Sherri Nachtigal at 507-206-2600.

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

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

William Lynott
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section
Regional Division – 4th Floor
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2542

Project Title: Great Plains Sands Non-Metallic Mineral Mining Operation

Description: Great Plains Sand, LLC proposes to acquire the Scott Land Company property and certain rights to the Q Prime property from Progressive Rail, Inc. and operate a sandstone mining facility to produce hydraulic fracturing sand ("frac sand") for use in the natural gas and oil industry. The project will involve mining approximately 100 acres of sandstone to an average depth of 90 feet.

RGU: Scott County

Contact Person:

Kate Sedlacek
Scott County
Community Development Division
Environmental Health Department
Government Center A102
200 Fourth Avenue West
Shakopee, MN 55379-1220
Phone: 952-496-8177
Fax: 952-496-8489
Email: ksedlacek@co.scott.mn.us

AUAR UPDATE ADOPTED

Project Title: Seed/Genstar Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan Update

Description: At its regular meeting on August 15, 2011, the Farmington City Council approved the Seed/Genstar Final AUAR and Mitigation Plan Update consistent with the intents and purposes of the Rules of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board under the provisions for Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR).

RGU: City of Farmington

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*.

- Stearns County, Wesley Perry Trust Residential Subdivision, August 16, 2011 (June 27, 2011)
- Metropolitan Airports Commission, Terminal-2 Humphrey 2011 North Security Checkpoint, August 19, 2011 (May 16, 2011)

NOTICES OF EIS PREPARATION

Project Title: Minnesota Trunk Highway 60, Cottonwood and Watanwan Counties, Minnesota

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation hereby issues notice of its intent to prepare a joint federal/state Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) for a project on Minnesota Trunk

Highway 60 from St. James to Windom, Minnesota. The original TH 60 Final EIS was published in 1983. That FEIS also served as the Final EIS for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. Mn/DOT and FHWA determined the FEIS was Adequate and in 1984 a Record of Decision was issued for the Highway 60 Project.

The FEIS completed in 1983 analyzed a project which encompasses a fifty-two mile segment of State Highway 60 between St. James and Worthington, Minnesota. The project included the reconstruction of the existing two-lane roadway and the future conversion from a two-lane highway to a divided four-lane facility.

The intention to supplement the 1983 Highway 60 FEIS resulted from an extended lapse in time from when the original EIS process was completed. Most of the corridor wide improvements have been successfully implemented between St. James and Worthington, Minnesota, but three segments (Gaps) currently remain between St. James and Windom. Therefore, the Highway 60 Gaps Project proposes to construct a divided four-lane facility within the three gaps that would create a continuous four-lane section along Highway 60. A brief description of the three gaps is provided below:

- East Gap – extends from just west of St. James to the eastern edge of Butterfield (5.3 miles);
- Middle Gap – from the western edge of Butterfield to just east of Mountain Lake (4.2 miles);
- West Gap – from just west of Mountain Lake to the northeast edge of Windom (7.5 miles).

The SFEIS is being prepared to insure that environmental impacts of the three gaps are appropriately analyzed, and that the public and agencies are provided full knowledge of the project impacts and proposed mitigation.

SCOPE: Because more than three years have elapsed since the FEIS/ROD, the SFEIS will include a re-evaluation of potential effects of the preferred alternative. The format of the SFEIS will be similar to that of the 1983 FEIS, but the scope of the SFEIS analyses will focus on only those areas along TH 60 affected by the three gap segments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: It is anticipated the SFEIS will be circulated to the public during the Fall of 2011.

Project Website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/hwy60stjames/>

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:

Peter Harff, P.E., Project Manager

Minnesota Department of Transportation

2151 Bassett Drive

Mankato, Minnesota, 56001

Telephone: (507) 304-6165

E-mail: peter.harff@state.mn.us

Project Title: Minnesota Trunk Highway 53 between Virginia and Eveleth, St. Louis County, Minnesota

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation hereby issues notice of its intent to prepare a joint state/federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a project on Minnesota Trunk Highway 53 between Virginia and Eveleth, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation was given notice by United Taconite in May 2010 that easement rights for a portion of existing Highway 53 between Virginia and Eveleth are being terminated. Mn/DOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will prepare an EIS on proposed alternatives to address termination of the TH 53 easement rights. The EIS will evaluate the social, economic, transportation and environmental impacts of alternatives.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: The Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document for the EIS process is anticipated to be published in late 2011. It will be circulated for public comment consistent with Minnesota EQB rule requirements. The Scoping Decision Document will be published after the public comment period has closed. Preparation of the draft and final EIS documents will follow, starting in 2012.

Project Website: www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy53relocation/

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:

Brian Larson, P.E., Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation
1123 Mesaba Avenue
Duluth, Minnesota, 55811
Telephone: 218-725-2745

NOTICES

Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

In the Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the 115 kV Hiawatha Transmission Line Project

PUC Docket Numbers: E002/CN-10-694

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing on the certificate of need application submitted by Northern States Power (Xcel Energy) for the proposed 115 kV Hiawatha transmission line project.

This notice provides the date, starting time and location for public hearings. In this 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.

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, October 10, 2011
Afternoon Session - 2:00 p.m.
Evening Session - 6:00 p.m.
Plaza Verde
1516 East Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-724-5332

Spanish and Somali/Swahili translators will be available

Project Description. The total length of the HVTLs would be approximately 1.4 to 3.8 miles long depending on the final route. The stated purpose of the Hiawatha Project is to meet the distribution needs of Applicant's customers in south Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. The Applicant has stated that demand for power has increased beyond the capability of the system due to population growth, higher load density, and recent successful urban revitalization efforts, particularly in the areas along Lake Street, Hiawatha Avenue, and the Chicago and Park Avenue corridors. Additional electrical infrastructure is required to address overload conditions on the distribution system and to improve the reliability of the power supply to residences and businesses. Without new infrastructure, electrical conditions will worsen with time.

Xcel Energy proposes to construct the following facilities:

- A new 115 kV distribution substation near Hiawatha Avenue and 28th Street (Hiawatha Substation),
- A new 115 kV distribution substation near Oakland Avenue South and 29th Street, including the site of the former Oakland Substation (Midtown Substation), and
- Two 115 kV transmission lines between the two new substations. The routes for the transmission lines total approximately 1.4 to 3.8 miles depending on the final route selected.

Potential routes that the transmission lines would follow, if approved, were put forth in the HVTL Route Permit proceeding which is currently on hold (See Below). The transmission line routes will be determined through the HVTL Route Permit process expected to recommence following the certificate of need process.

REGULATORY REVIEW PROCESS

Certificate of Need Application. This project falls under the recently enacted Certificate of Need (CN) statutory provision that requires a CN for transmission projects of this size and length if located in an area with high population density and the proposed transmission lines parallel a below-grade bike and walking path

(2010 Minn. Laws, ch. 361, art. 5, sec. 19; Effective Date: May 18, 2010). The Commission must determine whether the HVTLs are necessary and in the best interest of the state. The Certificate of Need process includes environmental review and public hearings, and typically takes 12 months. The Applicant applied for a Certificate of Need on November 29, 2010.

The Department of Commerce (Department) has two separate and distinct responsibilities in the certificate of need process: analyzing the Certificate of Need application and administering the environmental review process for the Commission. The Commission is responsible for determining if the transmission lines proposed are needed.

Environmental Report. The environmental review process includes public information/scoping meetings and the preparation of an environmental review document, the Environmental Report (ER). The Environmental Report is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, alternatives to the project and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The ER must be prepared before the Commission can make a decision on the Certificate of Need application.

Public Hearing. After completion of the ER, a public hearing is held. The hearing is presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments.

Final Decision. Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the record compiled for the CN proceeding will be presented to the Commission for a final decision. This review process is the only process during which alternatives to the project will be considered, including the “no build” alternative and alternatives related to the size, type, timing, and configuration of the project.

Route Selection and Permitting. Xcel Energy previously filed an application for a HVTL Route Permit with the Commission (Docket TL-09-38) on April 24, 2009. Due to the recently enacted legislation requiring a Certificate of Need, the HVTL Route Permit proceedings are on hold pending the outcome of this Certificate of Need filing.

Eminent Domain. If issued a Certificate of Need and route permit by the Commission, the Applicant may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for the project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12 and Minnesota Statute 117.

PUBLIC HEARING

Conduct of Hearing. The public hearings are conducted in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statute 216B.243, subd. 4. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of Commission and Department staff, the Applicants, and to offer oral and written comments and submit material into the record. The Honorable Beverly Jones Heydinger, Administrative Law Judge, will preside over the hearing.

The ALJ will conduct the public hearings in accordance with the Office of Administrative Hearings process (Minnesota Rules Chapter 1400) and in accordance with Commission’s energy facility permitting process (Minnesota Rules Chapter 1405). Copies of the rules are available for review online at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=1400>.

At the start of each hearing session, the ALJ will explain the procedural rules for the hearing, including the following: a) all persons may present evidence and argument with respect to issues and may question witnesses; b) all persons may be represented by legal counsel, but such representation is not required; and c) the rules of evidence.

Questioning of witnesses is allowed, and will be conducted in a sequence determined by the ALJ.

For more information about participation as a member of the public, contact the Commission or Department staff (see below).

Comment period. The record will remain open until **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 26, 2011**, for interested persons to submit written comments about the need for the proposed project to the Administrative Law Judge. Comments must be submitted directly to Judge Heydinger at:

The Honorable Beverly Jones Heydinger
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
(651) 361-7900
beverly.heydinger@state.mn.us

The Administrative Law Judge will provide the Commission 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 CN application after receipt of the complete record.

Request for Accommodation. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the hearing, 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).

PROJECT DOCUMENTS AND CONTACTS

A more detailed description of the proposed project is contained in Xcel Energy's certificate of need application. Electronic versions of the CN application and ER, as well as other documents, are available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=30489>

Additionally, these documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system:
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "10" and the number "694").

The CN application and ER are also available at the public libraries noted below:

- Central, 300 Nicollet Mall
- East Lake, 2727 E. Lake St.
- Franklin, 1314 E. Franklin Ave.
- Roosevelt, 4026 28th Ave. S.

- Hosmer, 347 E. 36th St.
- Nokomis, 5100 34th Ave S

Project Contacts. The Department has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, bill.storm@state.mn.us) as State Permit Manager. Mr. Storm may be contacted in writing 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 CN process or Commission practice and procedure, please contact Commission staff member Bret Eknes (651-201-2236, Fax: 651-297-7073, bret.eknes@state.mn.us). Mr. Eknes 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 Paul Lehman (612-330-7529, paul.lehman@xcelenergy.com). Mr. Lehman 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.

STATE OF MINNESOTA Department of Commerce

Issued: August 31, 2011

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**In the Matter of the Application by Xcel Energy for a Route Permit for the
Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV and 161 kV Transmission Line Project**

PUC Docket Number: E002/TL-09-1448

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) unit has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV and 161 kV transmission line project.

The intent of the environmental review process is to inform the public, the applicants and decision-makers about potential impacts and possible mitigations for a proposed project. The FEIS evaluates impacts for a number of route alternatives, and presents a comparative analysis of human and environmental impacts amongst route alternatives.

The FEIS can be viewed at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission web site:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25731>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (Enter year "09" and number "1448.")

A hard copy will be available for viewing at the following public libraries by Sept. 3, 2011:

Cannon Falls Library

306 West Mill Street
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
507-263-2804

Zumbrota Public Library

100 West Avenue
Zumbrota, MN 55992
507-732-5211

Van Horn Public Library

115 SE 3rd Street
Pine Island, MN 55963
507-356-8558

Wabasha City Library

168 Allegheny Avenue
Wabasha, MN 55981
651-565-3927

Northfield Public Library

210 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-6606

Plainview Public Library

345 1st Avenue NW
Plainview, MN 55964
507-534-3425

Dakota County Library

508 3rd Street
Farmington, MN 55024
651-438-0250

Kenyon Public Library

709 2nd Street
Kenyon, MN 55946
507-789-6821

Rochester Public Library

101 2nd Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904
507-328-2309

Alma Public Library

312 N Main St
Alma, WI 54610
608-685-3823

Project Description. Xcel Energy, on behalf of itself and regional utilities that are part of the CapX2020 initiative, is proposing to construct and operate a new 345 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL), approximately 90 miles in length in Minnesota, connecting an existing substation near Hampton, Minn., to a proposed North Rochester Substation between Zumbrota and Pine Island, Minn., and continuing eastward to cross the Mississippi River near Kellogg, Minn. The line would continue in Wisconsin an additional 50 miles to a new substation in the La Crosse, Wis., area. In addition, the project includes a new 161 kV line, approximately 15 miles in length, between the proposed North Rochester Substation and the existing North Hills Substation in northwest Rochester.

The proposed 345 kV transmission line would be constructed primarily with single-pole steel structures, ranging in height from 130 to 175 feet, with an average span of 1,000 feet between poles. The structures would be "double circuit capable," meaning that a second 345 kV circuit could be placed on the structures in the future if warranted. The typical right-of-way (ROW) for the 345 kV transmission line would be 150 feet.

The proposed 161 kV transmission line would be constructed primarily with single-pole steel structures, ranging in height from 70 to 105 feet, with an average span of 400 to 700 feet between poles. The typical ROW for the 161 kV transmission line would be 80 feet.

The proposed project includes construction of a new substation, in an area between Zumbrota and Pine Island, Minnesota, and modifications at two existing substations. Project construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2012 and be completed and in service by the fourth quarter of 2015.

Project Contacts. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project please contact:

State Permit Manager
Matthew Langan
651-296-2096
matthew.langan@state.mn.us

Public Advisor
Raymond Kirsch
651-296-7588
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Persons interested in adding their names to this project's mailing list should contact the EFP state permit manager or public advisor, or register online at: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#mailing>.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice.) Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.