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EQB MONITOR

Public comment on draft Environmental Quality Board Water Plan

According to Minnesota Statutes 103B.151, the Environmental Quality Board is to coordinate a comprehensive long-range water resources plan for the state every ten years. The draft 2010 Minnesota Water Plan is available for public comment until October 1, 2010.

To view the plan and provide comment, please visit:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/WaterPlanPublicComment2010.htm>. Additionally, the EQB will discuss the plan and entertain public comment at its upcoming meeting on September 16, 2010 at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Board Room, 520 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155. The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

The draft plan was prepared in cooperation with EQB member agencies and is the latest in a long history of bringing together agencies and others with an interest in achieving sustainable water management. The many local, regional and state stakeholder efforts convened in recent years also were an important part of this effort. The draft plan was prepared with a long-term vision oriented to protecting Minnesota's treasured water resources for generations to come.

Please direct any questions to Princesa VanBuren Hansen at 651-201-2478, or by email to princesa.vanburen@state.mn.us.

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>

Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document Available

Project Title: Proposed South Mine

Description: Unimin Minnesota Corporation proposes the continuation of open pit non-metallic mineral mining of the Jordan sandstone to produce industrial sand. Blasting, crushing, dewatering, size classification, and reclamation activities will occur on approximately 1,188.06 acres located in parts of sections, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18; & 12, Kasota Township (T109N,R26W;27W), Le Sueur County, Minnesota. Current land cover includes row-crop agriculture, pasture, wetlands, natural area, residential, and a Public Water Wetland.

Comments deadline is October 6, 2010.

Public Scoping Meeting:

A public meeting to receive comments on the EIS Scope will be held Tuesday, September 28, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Le Sueur County Environmental Services Building, 515 Maple Avenue, Le Center, MN 56057.

RGU: Le Sueur County

Contact Person:

Kathy Brockway, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Le Sueur County
88 South Park Ave
Le Center, MN 56057
Phone: 507-357-2251
Fax: 507-357-8541
Email: kbrockway@co.le-sueur.mn.us

EAW NEED DECISIONS

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an EAW in response to a citizen petition.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Huls Bros Trucking, Inc. Project. Proposer volunteered.

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparations 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 Department of Transportation, Highway 52 Interchange at CSAH 24 in Cannon Falls Project, August 19, 2010 (December 28, 2009)
- Medina City Council, Enclave of Medina, August 17, 2010 (June 28, 2010)

- City of Maple Grove, CSAH 10 (Bass Lake Road) Reconstruction Project, August 16, 2010 (July 12, 2010)
- Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners, Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail: Edina Segment, August 19, 2010 (June 14, 2010)

NOTICES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

NOTICE OF PLANS TO ISSUE STATE INDUSTRIAL MINERALS LEASE

Notice is hereby given that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Minerals, is planning to issue a state mineral lease to explore for, mine and remove industrial minerals in Saint Louis County in accordance with Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.8000 through 6125.8700, the industrial minerals rules, issued under authority of Minnesota Statutes, section 93.25. The industrial mineral covered by the lease is dimension stone.

The area located in Saint Louis County to be covered by the industrial minerals lease is as follows:

South Half of Northwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Northeast Quarter (S1/2-NW1/4-SE1/4-NE1/4), Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Northeast Quarter (SW1/4-SE1/4-NE1/4), those parts of Lot One (1), Lot Two (2), Lot Four (4), Lot Seven (7), and Lot Eight (8), more specifically described as Southwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter (SW1/4-NE1/4), East Half of Southwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter (E1/2-SW1/4-NW1/4), East Half of Southeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter (E1/2-SE1/4-SW1/4), Northwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter (NW1/4-SE1/4), West Half of Northeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter (W1/2-NE1/4-SE1/4), including those parts of the erroneously meandered lakebed of Gustafson Lake and lands accreted thereto, all in Section Thirty-six (36), Township Sixty-five (65) North, Range Sixteen (16) West.

The applicant for the lease is Cold Spring Granite Company, 17482 Granite West Road, Cold Spring, Minnesota 56320. The effective date of the lease is October 8, 2010.

For more information, contact Vicki Sellner, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Minerals, 1525 Third Avenue East, Hibbing, Minnesota 55746; telephone 218-231-8484, TTY: 1-800-657-3929.

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

Issued: September 6, 2010

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Application for a High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project

(PUC Docket Number: E002, ET2/TL-09-1056)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Project for public comment, as well as the date, location and times for the public information meetings.

The DEIS may be viewed at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) web site:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25053>

A hard copy is available for viewing at the following public libraries:

Albany Public Library

400 Railroad Avenue
Albany, MN 56307
320-845-4843

Browns Valley Public Library

15 3rd Street South
Browns Valley, MN 56219
320-695-2318

Fargo Public Library

102 Third Street North
Fargo, ND 58102
701-241-1472

Melrose Public Library

225 East First Street North
Melrose, MN 56352
320-256-3885

Saint Cloud Public Library

1300 St. Germain Street West
Saint Cloud, MN 56301
320-650-2500

Barnesville Library

104 North Front Street
Barnesville, MN 56514
218-354-2301

Clemens Library

37 College Avenue South
St. Joseph, MN 56374
320-363-5611

Fergus Falls Public Library

205 East Hampden Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-739-9387

Moorhead Library

118 South 5th Street
Moorhead, MN 56560
218-233-7594

Thorson Memorial Library

117 Central Avenue
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
218-685-6850

Breckenridge Library

205 7th Street North
Breckenridge, MN 56520
218-643-2113

Douglas Cty Public Library

720 Fillmore
Alexandria, MN 56308
320-762-3014

Glenwood Public Library

108 SE First Avenue
Glenwood, MN 56334
320-634-3375

Sauk Centre Public Library

430 Main Street
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
320-352-3016

Public Meetings

OES will conduct public information meetings to obtain comments on the DEIS. The meetings will be held at:

Barnesville	Fergus Falls
September 27, 2010 1:00 p.m. American Legion 101 2nd St SE	September 27, 2010 7:00 p.m. Bigwood Event Center 925 Western Avenue
Elbow Lake	Alexandria
September 28, 2010 1:00 p.m. Dream Weaver's Banquet Facility 410 2nd St NE	September 28, 2010 7:00 p.m. Broadway Ballroom 115 30th Ave E
Melrose	Albany
September 29, 2010 1:00 p.m. Rendezvous Grille 401 Main Street East	September 29, 2010 7:00 p.m. Paul's Par-A-Dice 451 Railroad Ave
St. Joseph	St. Joseph
September 30, 2010 1:00 p.m. El Paso Sports Bar and Grill 200 2nd Ave NW	September 30, 2010 7:00 p.m. El Paso Sports Bar and Grill 200 2nd Ave NW

Review copies of the DEIS and comment forms will be available at the public information meeting. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment, so interested persons need attend only one of the meetings.

The public will also have until **Monday, October 18, 2010**, to submit written comments on the DEIS to the OES. Comments can be faxed, mailed or emailed to the OES permitting manager (see contact information below). Comments can also be submitted electronically at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html>

OES will respond to the timely, substantive comments received on the Draft EIS consistent with the scoping decision and prepare the Final EIS.

Project Description

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy have submitted an Application to construct a new 345 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the Red River, either at a location south of Moorhead or south of Breckenridge, and the new Quarry Substation west of St. Cloud.

The Minnesota portion of the proposed Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Project will be approximately 169 to 180 miles long, extending from the Red River to the existing Alexandria Switching Station located south of Alexandria and to the new Quarry Substation to be located in St. Joseph. The North Dakota portion of the Project from a new Bison Substation west of Fargo to the Red River, depending on the route selected, will be approximately 31 to 81 miles.

The proposed structures will primarily include single-pole, double-circuit capable, self-weathering or galvanized steel structures that will range in height between 130 and 175 feet. The span length between structures will range between 600 and 1,000 feet depending on site-specific considerations. Although the proposed line will be built using double-circuit capable poles, only one circuit will be installed for this Project. The second position will be left available for a future additional circuit, as per the Commission's Certificate of Need (CN) Order. The right-of-way for the proposed 345 kV electrical transmission line will generally be 150 feet in width.

Construction of the Project is expected to begin in 2014 and be completed and in service by the third quarter of 2015.

Public Hearings

A Public Hearing on the Application will be held along the route between November 16-19, and November 30-December 3, 2010, (times and locations to be determined) presided over by Administrative Law Judge Beverly Jones Heydinger from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the Public Hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who have registered their names on the project mailing list with OES. An Evidentiary Hearing will be held in St. Paul December 6-17, 2010.

Project Contacts

State Permit Manager

David Birkholz

651-296-2878

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Minnesota Office of Energy Security

85 7th Place E., Suite 500

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

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85 7th Place E., Suite 500

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Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, ask for DOC.

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

Issued: September 2, 2010

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Project

PUC Docket Number: E017, E015, ET6/TL-07-1327

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV transmission line project. The FEIS has been prepared jointly with the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service.

Copies of the FEIS can be obtained through the OES State Permit Manager and may be viewed at the Public Utilities Commission website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19344;>

and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter year "07" and docket number "1327").

Copies will also be available for viewing at public libraries in the cities listed below after September 7, 2010:

- Bemidji
- Blackduck
- Bovey
- Cass Lake
- Coleraine
- Grand Rapids
- Longville
- Walker

Project Description. Otter Tail Power Company, Minnesota Power, and Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Applicants) propose to construct and operate a 230 kV transmission line between the Wilton substation just west of Bemidji, Minnesota, and the Boswell Substation in Cohasset, west of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The FEIS discusses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and evaluates four (4) route alternatives and 20 segment alternatives. The proposed routes for the transmission line primarily follow existing rights-of-way and cross portions of Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass and Itasca counties. The Project would include improvements to the Wilton and Boswell substations. Depending upon the route selected, the Project may also include modifications to the existing Cass Lake Substation, construction of a new substation in the Cass Lake area, and construction of a new 115 kV breaker station near Nary, Minnesota.

Project Documents.

Electronic versions of the permit application and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and downloading on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19344>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter year "07" and docket number "1327").

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

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State Permit Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
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This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).