



Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

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- [Environmental Assessment Worksheets](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Need Decision](#)
- [Petition](#)
- [Notice](#)

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

The following EAWs have a comment deadline of August 3, 2016

Project Title: 771 Fairmount (Partial Destruction of Historical Place)

Project Description: The proposed project is the removal of an existing 2-story porch from a single family home, and replacement with a new porch which extends further into the front yard. The property is located in the National Hill Historic District.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Saint Paul

RGU Contact Person:

Josh Williams
Senior Planner
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Project Title: Rochester Public Utilities - Westside Energy Station

Project Description: Rochester Public Utilities (“Proposer”) proposes to construct a new generating station (“Project”) next to their Westside substation in Cascade Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota. The Project includes installation of five (5) new natural gas fired reciprocating engines for a total generating capacity of 48 megawatts (“MW”). Power generated by the Project help serve the Proposer’s customers and backup intermittent resources such as wind and solar power generation during peak demand periods.

A copy of the Notice of Availability and the EAW can be found on the MPCA website at the following address: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/environmental-review/environmental-assessment-worksheets-and-environmental-impact-statements.html>

Mandatory Category Rule Citations: Minn. R. 4410.4300, Subp. 3, Electric generating facilities; Minn. R. 4410.4300, Subp.15 (B), Air pollution

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

RGU Contact Person:

Charles Peterson
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Project Title: Bemidji Upper Elementary School

Project Description: Bemidji Public Schools proposes to construct a new 120,000 square foot elementary school and associated facilities to support the growth in student enrollment and alleviate overcrowding issues in existing facilities. The new school will also reduce classroom sizes and improve learning environments in the district.

Copies of the EAW will be available for public viewing at the Bemidji Public Library and the Beltrami County Environmental Services Department. The EAW will be posted electronically on the Beltrami County Website at www.co.beltrami.mn.us.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Beltrami County

RGU Contact Person:

William Best
Environmental Resource Specialist
701 Minnesota Avenue NW, Suite 113
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Project Title: R & R Hogs LLC

Project Description: R & R Hogs LLC (“Proposer”) proposes to construct a new swine finishing feedlot in Section 4 of Dunbar Township, Faribault County (“Project”). The Proposer will construct two 102-foot x 160-foot total confinement, power ventilated buildings with eight-foot deep reinforced, poured-in-place concrete liquid manure storage pits below the buildings

and a separate mortality composting building. The Project will house up to a total of 4,000 finishing hogs or 1,200 animal units in the two buildings.

A copy of the Notice of Availability and the EAW can be found on the MPCA website at the following address: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/environmental-review/environmental-assessment-worksheets-and-environmental-impact-statements.html>

In addition to the EAW, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft NPDES Permit coverage will also be available for public comment beginning March 14, 2016. The contact person for the NPDES Permit is Desiree Hohenstein. She can be reached at 651-757-2334 or by email at desiree.hohenstein@state.mn.us.

Mandatory Category Rule Citation: Minn. R. 4410.4300, Subp. 29 (A), Animal feedlots

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

RGU Contact Person:

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Environmental Impact Statement Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the Environmental Assessment Worksheet notice was published in the EQB *Monitor*.

- Scott County, County Highway 2 & I-35 Interchange Project, 6-22-16 (5-2-16)

Petition

The following petition has been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Tire Aggregate, LLC Waste Tire Facility

Notice

Mora Airport Primary and Crosswind Runway Environmental Assessment (EA) Written Re-evaluation

A written re-evaluation was determined to be necessary for the 2004 Primary Runway and

Crosswind Runway Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Mora Municipal Airport per Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 1050.1F, Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures, Paragraph 9-2 and FAA Order 5050.4B National Environmental Policy Act, Chapter 1401 C (3). After further investigation, new information revealed that additional resource impacts beyond what was identified in the 2004 EA/FONSI would occur due to the project, thereby necessitating a re-evaluation of the EA.

The EA re-evaluation addresses undisclosed resource impacts that were not covered in the original 2004 EA/FONSI. Additional proposed environmental impacts are a result of further design changes and new endangered species listings since the 2004 EA/FONSI. Resource categories where a change may occur include the following:

1. Utilizing the construction limits; there is proposed to be a conversion of wetland types and additional wetland fill. The original 2004 EA unintentionally omitted this affected resource.
2. The butternut tree was not studied in the original 2004 EA. Since signing of the FONSI, the butternut tree was listed as endangered by the State of Minnesota.
3. The Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB) and Grey Wolf were not analyzed in the original 2004 EA. Since FONSI signature, the NLEB and Grey Wolf were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
4. Filling and excavating of upland farmland.

Through analysis of new project impacts to environmental resources and comparing these impacts to what was originally identified in the original EA/FONSI, it was concluded that a new EA or supplemental EA is not warranted. Overall project impacts are minor in scope. The additional wetlands filled are permissible with the appropriate level of mitigation. Impacts to butternut trees were also permitted. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services was consulted with under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act in which the USFWS concurred with the FAA's finding. The FAA provided updated project information to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the SHPO concurred that the original determination of No Historic Properties Affected is still valid. The purpose and need and alternatives were substantiated. All of these impacts and analyses still fall within the general overall context of the original EA/FONSI.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment Re-evaluation and supporting documentation will be available for review at the following locations during regular business hours. FAA Airports District Office, 6020 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN; Mora City Hall, 101 Lake Street South, Mora, MN; and the Mora Public Library, 200 Maple Avenue West, Mora, MN.

Written comments will be accepted until July 23, 2016. Please direct written comments to:

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