



EQB MONITOR

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Submittal Deadline: April 7, 2014
Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us



The EQB has transitioned to a new electronic notification system called GovDelivery. Add MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list. Manage your subscription.

EQB Meetings are regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month, which can be found on the [EQB Calendar](#). There may be additional special meetings as well. [Meeting minutes, packets, and agendas](#) are posted on the [EQB website](#).

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Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Comment Deadline: April 30, 2014

Project Title: Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) Track Extension Project, St. Paul, MN

Project Description: The Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) is proposing to lengthen the tracks in its St. Paul railroad receiving yard. CP is proposing to extend five existing tracks to the east, add a new track 6, and build a new access road. The proposed track extension area is entirely within CP property.

RGU: City of St. Paul

Contact Person: Josh Williams
City Planner
St Paul PED
25 West 4th St, Suite 1300
St. Paul, MN 55102

Project Title: Vicksburg Lane Reconstruction and Expansion Project, Plymouth, Hennepin County

Project Description: The City of Plymouth proposes to reconstruct and expand Vicksburg Lane from a two lane undivided roadway to a four lane undivided road with dedicated turn lanes from Old Rockford Road to the boundary with Maple Grove north of Hennepin County Road (CR) 47.

The EAW, which documents the purpose and need of the project along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, is available on the project website at <http://www.plymouthmn.gov/index.aspx?page=751>. Copies of the EAW will also be available for review during business hours at the following locations:

- Plymouth Library, 15700 36th Ave. N., Plymouth, MN
- Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, MN

To request the EAW document in an alternative format, please contact Jim Renneberg (contact information is below).

Copies of the EA are being distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota EQB list and other interested parties. The comment period will begin on **March 31, 2014**. Comments will be accepted through **April 30, 2014**.

RGU: City of Plymouth

Contact Person: Jim Renneberg, Engineering Manager
City of Plymouth
3400 Plymouth Blvd.
Plymouth, MN 55447
Email: jrenneberg@plymouthmn.gov

EAW Need Decisions

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

- Conversion of the Fred Richards Golf Course in Edina, City of Edina (denied)

EIS Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects does 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.

- Crow Wing County Land Services Dept, Clow Stamping 2014 Expansion, March 11, 2014 (January 20, 2014)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Interstate 94 Reconstruction St. Michael to Rogers, March 24, 2014 (February 3, 2014)

Draft EIS Available

Comment Deadline: May 9, 2014

**Project Title: Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV
Transmission Line Project**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV transmission line project in the counties of Jackson, Martin and Faribault. The Department will conduct public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

- **Fairmont**
Tuesday, April 22, 2014
1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Hall
920 East 10th Street
Fairmont, MN 56031
- **Jackson**
Wednesday, April 23, 2014
1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
National Guard Armory
108 County Road 51
Jackson, MN 56143
- **Blue Earth**
Thursday, April 24, 2014
1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Hamilton Hall
209 South Main Street
Blue Earth, MN 56013

Department staff will make a brief presentation at each meeting. Following the presentation, members of the public will have opportunity to provide comments on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified or included in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department will accept written comments on the DEIS through **Friday, May 9, 2014**. Please include the docket numbers CN-12-1053 and TL-12-1337 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101
Fax: 651-539-0109 | raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>

DEIS Availability. The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33080>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("12") and the docket number ("1053" or "1337"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Blue Earth Public Library, 124 West 7th Street, Blue Earth MN 56013
- Fairmont Public Library, 110 North Park, Fairmont MN 56031
- Jackson County Library, 311 3rd Street, Jackson MN 56143
- Lakefield Public Library, 410 Main Street, Lakefield MN 56150
- Muir Library, 36 Main Street North, Winnebago MN 56098
- Sherburne Public Library, 27 North Main Street, Sherburne MN 56171

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

Project Description: ITC Midwest LLC (ITCM) has proposed to construct approximately 73 miles of new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in southern Minnesota, in the counties of Jackson, Martin and Faribault. The proposed transmission line would proceed from the existing Lakefield substation near Lakefield, Minn., eastward to a new Huntley substation near Winnebago, Minn., and then southward to the Iowa border. The project includes expansion of the Lakefield substation, construction of the new Huntley substation, and the relocation of several segments of existing 161 kV and 69 kV transmission lines.

State of Minnesota Review Process. In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, ITCM must obtain two approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) – a certificate of need (CN) and a route permit.

Environmental Review. Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for CN and route permit applications submitted to the Commission. EERA staff has prepared the above-noted EIS to meet these responsibilities.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of ITCM's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives and route variations. Additionally, the EIS evaluates potential alternatives to the project itself. The EIS does not advocate or state a preference for a specific route or route alternative, or for an alternative to the project. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

Public Hearings. Public hearings on ITCM's CN and route permit applications will be held in the project area the week of May 12, 2014, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge James E. LaFave from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project. An evidentiary hearing will be held in St. Paul, Minn., the week of May 19, 2014.

Judge LaFave will submit a report to the Commission which includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on ITCM's applications. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a CN and route permit for the project.

Project Mailing List. To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the environmental review manager or public advisor (see below) or sign up on-line at:
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=33080>

Subscribe to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the CN and route permit dockets for this project by signing up at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note – subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Project Contacts. If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Ray Kirsch (651-539-1841, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, consumer.puc@state.mn.us).

AUAR Update Available

Project Title: Essby Site AUAR Update

Comment Deadline: April 4, 2014

Project Description: The City of North Branch has prepared an Update to the AUAR for the ESSBY Site (Formerly the North Branch Development Area). The 393-acre area is currently partially developed and this study updates the 2004 AUAR and 2009 AUAR Update, which evaluated potential environmental impacts for redevelopment. The area is located south of 410th Street, east of Interstate 35 (I-35), west of CSAH 30, and north of Aztec Trail near the north central portion of the City.

RGU: City of North Branch

Contact Person: Bridgitte Konrad, City Administrator
City of North Branch
6408 Elm Street
PO Box 910
North Branch, MN 55056
Phone: 657-277-5229
Email: bridgittek@ci.north-branch.mn.us

Notices

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
14-NO-042	Genvective	Corn	Herbicide Tolerant, Insect Resistant	Cottonwood, Stearns
14-NO-043	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant	Fillmore
14-NO-044	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Insect Resistant, Herbicide Tolerant	Fillmore
14-NO-045	Bayer CropScience	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant	Clay
14-NO-046	Bayer CropScience	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant, Nematode Resistant, Insect Resistant	Becker, Clay(3)
14-NO-047	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant, Insect Resistant	Blue Earth, Chippewa, Fillmore, Grant, Jackson, Kittson, Lac Qui Parle, Otter Tail, Polk(3), Renville(3), Swift, Traverse, Wilkin
14-NO-048	BASF	Canola	Product Quality, Herbicide Tolerant	Benton, Freeborn, Wilkin
14-NO-049	Dow AgroSciences	Canola	Product Quality, Herbicide Tolerant	Benton, Sherburne, Stearns
14-NO-050	M.S. Technologies	Soybean	Product Quality, Herbicide Tolerant	Blue Earth(2), Clay, Grant(2), Kandiyohi(2), Lac Qui Parle, Norman, Polk, Renville(5), Rice, Sibley, Stevens, Swift, Wilkin, Yellow Medicine
14-NO-051	Dow AgroSciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerant, Insect Resistant	Blue Earth, Chippewa, Fillmore, Grant, Jackson, Kittson, Lac Qui Parle, Otter Tail, Polk(3), Renville(3), Swift, Traverse, Wilkin
14-NO-052	J.R. Simplot	Potato	Product Quality	Lake of the Woods

For additional information contact Dr. Steve Malone, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-66531, stephen.malone@state.mn.us