



The *EQB Monitor*

520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 - www.eqb.state.mn.us
EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us - (651)-757-2873

Publication Date: March 6, 2017
Vol. 41, No. 10

Publication Schedule: Mondays at 8:00 AM
Submission Deadline: [View 2017 Schedule](#)
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

The *EQB Monitor* is a weekly publication announcing environmental review documents, public comment periods and other actions of the Environmental Quality Board. For more information on environmental review, please visit the [EQB website](#).

You can manage your subscription to the *EQB Monitor* [here](#). Be sure to add MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list.



Check the [EQB Calendar](#) for more details on *Monitor* deadlines and Board Meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the [EQB Website](#). You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

In this publication:

- [EQB Announcements](#)
- [Environmental Assessment Worksheets](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions](#)
- [Alternative Urban Areawide Review Update Adoptions](#)
- [Notices](#)

EQB Announcements

EQB Board Meeting, March 15, 2017

The EQB will hold its monthly meeting on **March 15, 2017**. The proposed meeting agenda and additional information, including details for the live webcast, can be found on the [EQB website](#).

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: PLACE St. Louis Park

Comment Deadline: April 5, 2017

Project Description: PLACE is redeveloping nine brownfield parcels into a mixed-use, environmentally sustainable, transit-oriented community. The project will include: 299 mixed-income living spaces, including live/work space for artists; a 110-room hotel; retail space; and neighborhood amenities like an urban forest. The project also includes an e-generation facility that will digest all compostable materials generated on-site.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): St. Louis Park

RGU Contact Person:

Sean Walther
Planning and Zoning Supervisor
5005 Minnetonka Blvd
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-924-2574
swalther@stlouispark.org

Project Title: Removal of Utility Tunnels at the Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center

Comment Deadline: April 5, 2017

Project Description: The campus of the Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center (FFRTC) historically included a series of utility tunnels connecting the various buildings. These tunnels were designed for distribution of utilities including water, steam heat, and electrical power to the various buildings. To a very limited extent they were also used for delivery of materials to the various buildings during inclement weather. This proposed project will remove the utility tunnels at the FFRTC. These unused tunnels are structurally unsound and are partially filled with water. In areas the advanced deterioration limits vehicular movement above the tunnels.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Fergus Falls

RGU Contact Person:

Brian Yavarow, PE
City Engineer
112 W. Washington Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN, 56537
218-332-5413
brian.yavarow@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us

Project Title: 36 S. Chatsworth

Comment Deadline: April 5, 2017

Project Description: Proposed demolition of existing duplex home at 36 S. Chatsworth Street in Saint Paul, MN. The structure is located in the state register Historic Hill District.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Saint Paul

RGU Contact Person:

Joshua Williams
Senior Planner
25 W. Fourth Street - 1300 CHA
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-6659
josh.williams@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions

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*.

- City of Saint Anthony Village, The Village, LLC Redevelopment EAW, 2-14-17 (12-5-16)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, TH 169/101st Avenue Interchange Project, 2-27-17 (10-24-16)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Bushmills Ethanol Expansion, 2-23-17 (1-9-17)

Alternative Urban Areawide Review Update Adoptions

Project Title: Seed/Genstar AUAR and Mitigation Plan Update

Project Description: The Farmington Seed/Genstar AUAR study area is located on approximately 965 acres in the City of Farmington, in Dakota County, Minnesota. The City will act as the RGU for the AUAR Update. This document updates the AUAR adopted in January 2004, with subsequent updates in 2006 and 2011, and includes an updated Mitigation Plan.

The City Council of the City of Farmington adopted the Seed/Genstar AUAR and Mitigation Plan Update on February 21, 2017.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Farmington

RGU Contact Person:

Adam Kienberger
Community Development Director Phone
430 Third Street
Farmington, MN 55024
651-280-6820
akienberger@ci.farmington.mn.us

Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABILITY

Issued: February 27, 2017

In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit for the up to 200 Megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County

PUC Docket Number: IP-6961/CN-16-215 (Certificate of Need)
IP-6961/WS-16-686 (Site Permit)

OAH Docket Number: 71-2500-34030

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing on the certificate of need and site permit applications by Blazing Star Wind, LLC, for its proposed 200 megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Hendricks Public School, 200 Lincoln Street, Hendricks, Minnesota 56136

To find out if a meeting has been cancelled due to bad weather call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/puc.

The Honorable Jessica A. Palmer-Denig, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the Office of Administrative Hearings, will administer this hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments regarding the proposed project, the environmental report issued by the Department of Commerce, and the draft site permit issued by the Commission.

Project Description

Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC, has filed certificate of need and site permit applications with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for an up to 200 megawatt large wind energy conversion system. The proposed large wind energy conversion system would be comprised of 57 to 100 wind turbines ranging from 2 to 3.5 megawatts in size. Associated facilities include a project substation, an operation and maintenance building, access roads, meteorological towers, light range or sonic range detecting units, underground communication and electrical collection lines, transformers, and an approximately 1,000-foot long 345 kilovolt transmission line. The proposed project footprint would occupy approximately 37,200 acres of land located in Hansonville, Hendricks, and Marble townships in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Written Comment Period

Comment Period: A comment period is open from the date of this notice until **Thursday, March 30, 2017**. Please include the Commission's Docket Numbers (16-215 and 16-686) and OAH Docket Number (71-2500-34030) in all communications.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- Should the Public Utilities Commission issue a certificate of need and a site permit for the project?
- Is the proposed project needed and in the public interest and are there any of the factors under Minn. R. 7853.0130 (certificate of need criteria) that have particular importance in this case?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of the project under consideration and how can these impacts be addressed in the site permit?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Comments may be submitted via:

U.S. Mail: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

Online: Visit mn.gov/puc, select Speak Up!, select Open Discussions, and find this docket

eFiling: Visit mn.gov/puc, select eFiling and follow the prompts.

Note: All comments made at the public hearing indicated by this notice carry the same weight as written comments submitted during the written comment period.

Important: Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered. Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Process Information

The Commission must approve a certificate of need and a site permit before the project can be built. The certificate of need and site permit applications are being processed jointly. This hearing satisfies the public hearing requirement for the certificate of need application (Minn. R. 7829.2500, subp. 9) and the public information meeting requirement for the site permit application (Minn. R. 7854.0800, subp. 4).

On Monday, February 27, 2017 the Commission issued a draft site permit for the 200 megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in accordance with Minn.R. 7854.0800, subp. 3. The draft site permit does not authorize a person to construct the project. The Commission may change the draft site permit in any respect before a final permit is issued or may deny the site permit. The draft site permit is available for review on the Commission's eDocket system.

In March 2017, the Department of Commerce will issue an environmental report for the certificate of need component of the project. The public hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to provide comments on the draft site permit and the environmental report.

Following the written comment period ending March 30, 2017, the applicant will have the opportunity to respond to the comments made. The ALJ will submit findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation to the Commission. The Commission will schedule a meeting to consider the matters, anticipated in June 2017.

Learn More

Full Case Record: The documents filed in this matter are available at: mn.gov/puc, select eDockets, enter the year (16) and the docket number (215 or 686), select Search.

Department of Commerce Website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34561>.

Subscribe to the Docket: To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: mn.gov/puc, select Subscribe, and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate in meetings and comment periods. Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (16-215 or 16-686), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Community Locations: Copies of the certificate of need and site permit applications are available for public inspection at the following locations:

♣ Hendricks Public Library, 100 West Garfield Street, Hendricks, Minnesota 56136

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes chapters 216B and 216F and Minnesota Rules chapters 7829, 7849, and 7854, available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Contacts

Public Utilities Commission

Kevin George, Public Advisor: kevin.george@state.mn.us; 651-201-2251 or 1-800-657-3782
Scott Ek, Energy Facilities Planner: scott.ek@state.mn.us; 651-201-2255

Department of Commerce

Richard Davis, Environmental Review Manager: richard.davis@state.mn.us; 651-539-1846 or 1-800-657-3794

Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC

Patrick Smith, Project Manager: patrick@geronimo.com; 952-988-9000

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred

Telecommunications Relay Service. Individuals with a disability who need reasonable accommodations to participate in these meetings please also contact the Public Utilities Commission at 651-296-0406 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Proposed Project Location

