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# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: December 3, 2008

### Project Title: The Harbor at Tower

**Description:** The Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for the Harbor at Tower Project, which involves a mixed-use development situated around a reconstructed harbor and navigationally improved riverfront on the East Two River located in the City of Tower, St. Louis County. Infrastructure improvements include reconstructing the Highway 169 Bridge, realignment of Highway 135, dredging and widening the existing harbor, dredging the East Two River, replacing river channel sheet piling, constructing a jetty in Lake Vermilion, and other local street, utility, and pedestrian features.

Copies of the Harbor at Tower EA are being distributed to those agencies on the current MEQB document review list and others. The comment period will begin on **November 3, 2008** and will extend through **December 19, 2008**. Copies of the EA are available for public review at the following locations:

- Tower City Hall – 602 Main Street, Tower, MN
- Mn/DOT District 1 – Duluth Office, 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, MN
- Duluth Public Library, 520 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN
- St. Louis County, Public Works Dept., 4787 Midway Road, Duluth, MN

All comments should be directed to: Tim Kotzian, Tower City Clerk, 602 Main Street, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790 or [cityoftower@accessmn.com](mailto:cityoftower@accessmn.com). Comments received will be used by Mn/DOT and the Federal Highway Administration in selecting a preferred alignment alternative.

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EA, a

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>

public hearing/open house meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at the Tower Civic Center, 402 Pine Street, Tower, MN 55790. An open house style hearing will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. A short informational presentation will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m. Project representatives will be present to answer questions during the open house.

The EA can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the contact person listed below at (218) 753-4070 or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service and (800) 627-3529 or (651) 296-9930 TTY. Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Tower City Clerk or through the Minnesota Relay Service at the telephone numbers listed above, as soon as possible.

**RGU:** City of Tower

**Contact Person:**

Tim Kotzian  
Tower City Clerk  
602 Main Street, PO Box 576  
Tower, MN 55790  
Phone: 218-753-4070  
Email: [cityoftower@accessmn.com](mailto:cityoftower@accessmn.com)

**Project Title: “Robbins Block” acquisition and demolition project**

**Description:** Mower County (“County”) is proposing to acquire and demolish all of the structures on the “Robbins block” as part of the Mower County Justice Center Project. The County is considering the “Robbins block” for parking, construction staging, future expansion and/or a geothermal system.

**RGU:** Mower County

**Contact Person:**

Craig Oscarson  
Mower County Coordinator  
210 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE  
Austin, MN 55912  
Phone: 507-437-9459  
Fax: 507-437-9458  
Email: [coscarson@CO.MOWER.MN.US](mailto:coscarson@CO.MOWER.MN.US)

**Project Title: CR 104/60<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Project**

**Description:** Olmsted County proposes to preserve right-of-way for a future four-lane divided expressway facility with off-road pedestrian/bicycle trails along CR 104/60<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW from CSAH 34 (Country Club Road) to CSAH 14 (75<sup>th</sup> Street NW). The majority of the alignment follows the existing two-lane undivided CR

104/60<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW roadway. A section of the new alignment is necessary to accommodate a future interchange at the intersection of TH 14 and CR 104/60<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.W.

The EA/EAW can be viewed at the following locations beginning November 3, 2008: Minneapolis Public Library, 250 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, MN; Rochester Public Library, 101 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE, Rochester, MN' and, Olmsted County, 2122 Campus Drive SE, Rochester, MN.

An opportunity for the public to comment on the EA/EAW will be provided during the Tuesday, November 18, 2008 public hearing at the Community Presbyterian Church (3705 55<sup>th</sup> Street NW Rochester, MN 55901). The public hearing will run from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a brief presentation at 5:30 p.m.

**RGU:** Olmsted County

**Contact Person:**

Charlie Reiter  
Senior Transportation Planner  
Rochester-Olmsted County Planning Department  
2122 Campus Drive SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Phone: 507-328-7136  
Fax: 507-328-7136  
Email: [Reiter.charlie@co.olmsted.mn.us](mailto:Reiter.charlie@co.olmsted.mn.us)

**Project Title: Marathon Petroleum, LLC Rail Yard Project**

**Description:** Marathon Petroleum Company, LLC (Marathon) is proposing to construct a new, fenced rail yard immediately adjacent to the existing Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) St. Paul Rail Yard in the city of St. Paul. The proposed rail yard will be used to store up to a maximum of 170 empty, semi-full, or full railcars, which will have product storage capability of approximately 8.4 million gallons of liquid petroleum gas, asphalt, and ethanol. Empty rail cars will have previously contained asphalt, roofing flux, caustic, and sulfur. The proposed rail yard will be located on CPR property, and Marathon will lease the property from CPR.

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

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**Contact Person:**

Karen Kromar  
Planner Principal  
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section  
Regional Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 651-297-1796

**Project Title: Timber Shores**

**Description:** Gary and Jane Gilason are proposing a Commercial Planned Unit Development for seasonal recreational vehicles consisting of 113 sites/units on 120 acres of shoreline of Black Lake, which is classified as a Sensitive Area Lake. The project is located approximately 8 miles north of Bemidji.

Copies of the EAW are available for review at Beltrami County's office of Environmental Services and the Kitchigami Regional Library beginning November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. Beltrami County will accept written comments on the EAW until December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. Public comments should be directed to William Patnaude, Zoning Administrator, at 701 Minnesota Ave NW Ste 110, Bemidji, MN 56601.

**RGU:** Beltrami County's Office of Environmental Services

**Contact Person:**

William Patnaude  
Zoning Administrator  
701 Minnesota Ave. NW, Ste 110  
Bemidji, MN 56601

**Project Title: Waters of Vermillion docking and mooring expansion**

**Description:** Waters of Vermillion is a residential Planned Unit Development (PUD) on Pike Bay of Lake Vermillion that was first approved in 2002. The Greenwood Township Planning Commission granted, subject to rehearing, a waiver of design standards for Residential PUDs to increase dockage from 8 to 45 boat slips.

**RGU:** Greenwood Township

**Contact Person:**

Ellen Trancheff – Town Clerk  
John Zeigler – Planning Director  
3000 County Road 77  
Tower, MN 55790  
Phone: 218-753-2231  
Email: [greenwoodtownship@frontiernet.net](mailto:greenwoodtownship@frontiernet.net)

**Project Title: Menards Store, Grand Rapids, MN**

**Description:** Menard, Inc. seeks to construct and operate a commercial retail store on 26.3 acres of land in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The commercial store and yard areas will be used for the sale of building materials, landscaping products, various hand power tools, and other home improvements items.

**RGU:** City of Grand Rapids

**Contact Person:**

Rob Mattei

Community Development Director  
420 N Pokegama Avenue  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Phone: 218-327-7622  
Fax: 218-326-7621  
Email: [rmattei@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us](mailto:rmattei@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us)

## 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*.

- Hennepin County, County State Aid Highway 81 Reconstruction Project, October 16, 2008 (July 28, 2008)
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation, Addition of a Third Lane on Trunk Highway 10 in Coon Rapids, October 17, 2008 (June 30, 2008)
- Rice County, McDonough Farms Development, October 14, 2008 (September 8, 2008)
- Aitkin County, 70-Mile OHV Trail project in Aitkin and Itasca Counties, October 28, 2008 (July 28, 2008)

## PETITION FILED

The following petitions have been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Cass County, Longville Gun Club

## DRAFT AUAR AVAILABLE

### **Project Title: North Moorhead/Oakport Township AUAR**

**Description:** The North Moorhead/Oakport Township AUAR is being prepared to address the cumulative impacts of future development. The AUAR explores the impacts of development based on the City's Comprehensive Plan and the North Moorhead/Oakport Township Growth Area Plan. Both plans propose a mix of residential, commercial, industrial, public/institutional, and parks/open spaces. The Draft AUAR examines impacts to natural and cultural resources, surface water drainage, roadway systems and traffic, utilities and other infrastructure systems.

**RGU:** City of Moorhead

**Contact Person:** Scott Hutchins, Director of Community Services, 500 Center Avenue, Box 779, Moorhead, MN, 56561; phone (218) 299-5376; fax (218) 299-5399; email [scott.hutchins@ci.moorhead.mn.us](mailto:scott.hutchins@ci.moorhead.mn.us).

## DRAFT AUAR AVAILABLE

**Project Title:** Superior Crossings – Cloquet, Minnesota

**Description:** RE-Cor Real Estate Corporation of America is proposing a commercial development on a 135± acre site in the northeast quadrant of Trunk Highway 33 (TH-33) and Interstate 35 (I-35) in Cloquet, Minnesota. Development of the AUAR study area has the potential of providing up to 737,400±square feet of retail / commercial / restaurant and office use, as well as associated surface parking, loading areas and drive aisles, utility improvements and improvements to existing public streets. The proposed development is consistent with the City of Cloquet's Comprehensive Plan 2007-2027. Parties interested in receiving additional information should contact Leon P. Opatz at RLK Incorporated at 651-251-7676 or [lopatz@rlkinc.com](mailto:lopatz@rlkinc.com).

## EIS TERMINATION

### THE CITY OF EMILY'S NOTICE OF INTENT TO TERMINATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ("EIS") FOR THE NORTHERN LIGHTS OVER ROOSEVELT LAKE PROJECT

On October 23, 2008, the City Council of the City of Emily initiated the EIS termination process for this project. The reasons for the intended termination of the EIS include the modifications to the project and the additional technical review conducted by Westwood Professionals, Inc. Based upon its investigation, Westwood concluded the project does not have the potential for significant environmental effects. As a result, Westwood concluded the preparation of an EIS was not appropriate. The technical data is available for review on the City's website: <http://www.emilymn.com> and formed the basis for the City's decision.

The City Council established a 60-day comment period from date of publication. The contact person for written comments is:

Patricia Kestner  
City Clerk/Treasurer  
City of Emily  
PO Box 68  
Emily, MN 56447-0068

## NOTICES

### **PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE – Landscape Committee Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Thursday, November 13, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in St. Paul at the offices of The Trust for Public Land 2610 University Avenue, Suite 300.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at 320-256-8300 or go to the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

### **PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE – North Central Regional Landscape Committee Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The North Central Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in Grand Rapids at the Forest History Center.

For more information, please contact Lindberg Ekola at 320-256-8300 or go to the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

## **STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security**

Issued: October 24, 2008

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION & SCOPING MEETING**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the South Bend to Stoney Creek 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line and Substations Project**

**PUC Docket Number: E-002, ET-2/TL-08-734**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct a public information and Environmental Assessment scoping meeting, at the time and location listed below, on the route permit application by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) for the proposed South Bend to Stoney Creek project in Rapidan and

Mankato Townships. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the project and to identify issues and route alternatives to study in an Environmental Assessment that will be prepared by the OES Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff.

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## **PUBLIC INFORMATION & SCOPING MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2008 - 6:00 pm\***

**Mankato National Guard Armory and Community Center  
100 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Mankato, Minnesota**

\* An open house will begin at 5:30 p.m.; an information meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

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The public information meeting will follow an open house format until 6:00 p.m., when EFP staff will give a presentation about the state's high voltage transmission line alternative permitting process, the proposed project, and how the public may be involved. The applicant will have representatives at the public meeting who can answer general questions about the proposed project.

Review copies of the route permit application, a flow chart depicting the alternative permitting process, and comment forms will be available at the public information meeting.

### **Project Description**

The Project includes the following components of a 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would be rebuilt within the existing easement to a 115 kV transmission line to loop around Mankato.

- Two new substations: 115-161/69 kV South Bend Substation and 115/69 kV substation and a 69 kV breaker station at Stoney Creek
- Approximately four miles of an existing NSP-Minnesota 69 kV transmission line will be rebuilt to 115 kV from South Bend Substation to Ballard Corner switches.
- Approximately two miles of an existing NSP-Minnesota 69 kV transmission line will be rebuilt to 115/69 kV double-circuits from Ballard Corner switches to Stoney Creek Substation.
- Approximate two miles of an existing NSP-Minnesota and Great River Energy 69 kV transmission line will be rebuilt to 115 kV from the Stoney Creek Substation to the Pohl Substation.

The proposed facilities would require substation and equipment upgrades at the Eastwood and Wilmarth substations to accommodate the upgraded transmission facilities.

### **Review Process**

A route permit application for the project was filed by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy on August 7, 2008. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on September 15, 2008.



Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits are subject to environmental review, which is conducted by EFP staff. The staff is herein providing notice and will conduct a public information and scoping meeting to solicit public comments on the scope of the environmental assessment. The Director of the OES will ultimately determine the final scope of the environmental assessment. The environmental assessment will address issues related to routing, such as construction impacts, environmental features, use of existing rights-of-way, impacts on homes and businesses, and consideration of public comments.

Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits require a public hearing upon completion of the environmental assessment. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list. At least a portion of the public hearing will be held in Blue Earth County where the proposed project would be located.

Should the Commission issue a route permit, in accordance with its authority under state law, Great River Energy and Xcel Energy may, if necessary, exercise the power of eminent domain in this matter.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules governing the process are available on the following website:

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

### **Project Documents**

A more detailed explanation of the proposed project is contained in the GRE and Xcel Energy route permit application. Electronic versions of the application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the PUC website at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19642>

or on eDockets by entering “08” and “734” at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

Persons interested in adding their names to the project mailing list should contact the OES project manager or public advisor, or register online at the above PUC site.

### **Public Comments**

Comments on this project will be accepted until **4:30 p.m. on November 26, 2008**. Please include docket number E-002, ET-2/TL-08-734 on your comments.

### **Project Contacts**

To submit comments, ask questions, or seek further information about this project please contact:

David Birkholz, Project Manager  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-2878  
david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Suzanne Steinhauer, Public Advisor  
Energy Facility Permitting  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-2888  
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

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).

## General View of the Proposed Project

