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# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: September 24, 2008

### Project Title: Bissonette Feedlot Expansion

**Description:** Bissonette Partnership proposes to build a new hog finishing barn at an existing feedlot site in Section 16 of Sterling Township, Blue Earth County, which currently has two barns. In addition, six existing barns in Section 22 of Sterling Township will be converted from a nursery to finishing hog operation. Upon completion of the project, there will be a total of 6,000 swine (1,800 animal units) at the 2 locations. Manure will be stored underneath the barns in eight-foot deep engineered concrete pits and pumped out annually during the fall. Manure ownership will be transferred and manure will be land applied at agronomic rates to designated cropland.

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

### Contact Person:

Laura Hysjulien  
Planner Principal  
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section  
Regional Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 651-296-9453

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>

**Project Title: St. Louis River Lake Sturgeon Spawning Habitat Enhancement Project**

**Description:** The MDNR proposes to improve spawning habitat for lake sturgeon below the Fond du Lac dam on the St. Louis River in Silver Brook Township, Minnesota. The project will enhance a previously modified channel through placement of three rock riffles resulting in an increase in fish spawning substrates and suitable hydrology.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Public review copies of the EAW are available at the following locations:

- MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155
- MDNR Regional Headquarters 1201 E. Highway 2, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, 55744
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W superior St., Duluth, MN 55802;

The EAW is also posted on the MDNR's website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us). (Click on "Public Input", then select "St. Louis River EAW" from the scroll-down list under "Environmental Review"). Additional copies may be requested by calling (651) 259-5156. If submitting comments electronically, please include your name and mailing address.

**Contact Person:**

Randall Doneen  
EAW Project Manager  
Environmental Policy and Review Unit  
Division of Ecological Services,  
Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025  
Email: [environmental.review@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:environmental.review@dnr.state.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, Renville County Landfill Re-Permitting. Exempt.
- Cass County Planning Commission, Kirkeby Point. Denied.

## 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*.

- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Lane Addition to Southbound Interstate 35W across the Minnesota River, August 11, 2008 (May 5, 2008).
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Teck Cominco American Incorporation Metallurgical Sampling Project, August 14, 2008 (June 30, 2008)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Brown County Solid Waste Landfill Expansion, August 5, 2008 (June 2, 2008).
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Clear Lake/Clearwater Wastewater Treatment Expansion, August 4, 2008 (May 5, 2008).
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, John Perschbacher Hog Farm, August 4, 2008 (June 16, 2008)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Rochester Phase 3 NE Trunk Sanitary Sewer Relief Line, August 8, 2008 (June 30, 2008).
- City of Cold Spring, Cold Spring Granite Company Mixed Use Development, July 30, 2008 (June 16, 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.

- City of Roseville, Applewood Pointe

## EIS ADEQUACY DECISION

RESOLUTION #2008-126

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ASTRA  
VILLAGE

Planning Commission File #07-137

WHEREAS, the City of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, has been designated by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) as the Responsible Governmental Unit for the purpose of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed mixed use development titled "Astra Village"; and

WHEREAS, City staff, with assistance from expert consultants at McCombs Frank Ross and Associates, Spack Consulting, and Bridgeland Consulting, prepared a Draft EIS analyzing the environmental effects of the issues and alternative; and

WHEREAS, notice of EIS availability was published in the EQB Monitor on March 10, 2008, notifying a public comment period from March 10 through April 14, 2008; and

WHEREAS, copies of the Draft EIS were mailed to the required reviewing agencies and public copies were available at the Brooklyn Park City Hall and available on the City's web site; and

WHEREAS, a public meeting was held on April 2, 2008, to solicit comments regarding environmental concerns; and

WHEREAS, comments were received from the public meeting and reviewing agencies; and

WHEREAS, notice of Final EIS availability was published in the EQB Monitor on May 5, 2008; and

WHEREAS, City staff and consultants analyzed each of the public comments on the Draft EIS, prepared a written response to each and, where appropriate, revised the Draft EIS consistent with the response to the public comments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK, that the Council does hereby affirm and determine that the Final EIS on the Proposed Astra Village Project is adequate in accordance with Minnesota law governing its preparation and dissemination with the following conditions and corrections:

Figure 11- shows a signalized intersection of Astra Parkway and Zane Avenue. This intersection cannot be signalized per Hennepin County Transportation Department.

The fourth paragraph on page 7-1 shall be corrected to read "...Water from that pond is routed through an existing outlet, west of Hampshire Avenue, to the south of 93rd Avenue."

The foregoing resolution was introduced by Council Member Meyer and duly seconded by Council Member Gates.

The following voted in favor of the resolution: Gates, Gearin, Lunde, Mata, Meyer, and Trepanier.

The following voted against: None.

The following was absent: Lampi.

Where upon the resolution was adopted.

ADOPTED: July 28, 2008

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MICHAEL F. TREPANIER, MAYOR PRO TEM

## NOTICES

### **Public Meeting Notice – Minnesota Forest Resources Council Landscape Program**

The MFRC Northern Landscape Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 3rd from 9:00a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in International Falls, MN

For more information please contact Lindberg Ekola at (320) 256-8300.

### **Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, September 17th from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Cloquet Forestry Center in Cloquet, MN.

For more information please contact Leslie McInenly at (651) 603-6761 or visit the calendar on the MFRC at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

### **MN Pollution Control Agency MPCA Announces New Environmental Review Supervisor**

Effective August 20, 2008, Craig Affeldt will replace Richard Newquist as the supervisor of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Environmental Review Unit.

Please address all environmental review documents to:

Craig Affeldt  
Supervisor, Environmental Review Unit  
Regional Division - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
520 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 651-296-6062  
[craig.affeldt@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:craig.affeldt@pca.state.mn.us)

### **Environmental Quality Board EQB Releases Updated EAW Form**

An updated EAW form has been prepared by the EQB and is available at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/EnvRevGuidanceDocuments.htm>, under the heading "Environmental Assessment Worksheets." This update should be used for all EAWs started after August 25, 2008. The update makes several minor changes to the form. The EQB anticipates making a more extensive revision to the EAW form after pending rule amendments have been adopted, some time in 2009. **This version supersedes all previous**

versions of the EAW form and is the only version of the form to be used for any project other than feedlots.

**State of Minnesota  
Office of Energy Security**

**NOTICE OF DRAFT EIS SCOPING DECISION**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) has prepared a Draft Scoping Decision for an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposed power uprate and expansion of dry cask storage at Xcel Energy's Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The Draft Scoping Decision, which identifies issues and analyses for the EIS, is a preliminary document based on information currently available. It is subject to revision based on the entire record of the scoping process. Information on the proposed project, the scoping process (including a public meeting), and how to comment on the scope of the EIS are noted in the public meeting notice below. Comments on the scope of the EIS are due by **October 7, 2008**.

**Draft EIS Scope Availability**

Public review copies of the Draft Scoping Decision will be available at the following libraries:

Red Wing Public Library  
315 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Hastings Public Library  
830 Vermillion Street  
Hastings, MN 55033

Ellsworth Public Library  
312 West Main Street  
Ellsworth, MN 54011

St. Paul Public Library  
90 Fourth St. West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Copies can also be viewed on the Public Utilities Commission website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19602>.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy)  
Certificate of Need Applications and Site Permit Application**

**Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant  
Extended Power Uprate and Additional Dry Cask Storage Proposals**

**PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-08-509 (Certificate of Need Extended Power Uprate)  
PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-08-510 (Certificate of Need Additional Dry Cask storage)  
PUC Docket Number: E002/GS-08-690 (Site Permit)**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) Office of Energy Security (OES) will conduct a public information and environmental impact statement (EIS) scoping meeting at the location listed below. Xcel Energy has filed applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Certificate of Need (CON) and a Site Permit to increase the electrical generating capacity from 1650 megawatts electric to 1805 megawatts electric and for a CON for Additional Dry Cask Storage at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP) near Red Wing, Minnesota.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the Xcel Energy proposals and to identify issues to study in an EIS to be prepared by OES evaluating the proposals.

**Wednesday, September 10, 2008 – 7:00 PM**

***Red Wing Public Library***

***Foot Room***

**225 East Avenue**

**Red Wing, MN 55066**

**<http://redwing.lib.mn.us/>**

The public is invited to review the certificate of need applications and the site permit application, learn more about the Commission permitting process and ask questions. Representatives from the OES and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, alternatives and specific impacts to be addressed in the EIS.

The OES will accept written comments on the scope of the EIS until **October 7, 2008**.

Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Bill Storm, Project Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198  
[bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

### **Project Descriptions**

**Power Uprate** - The extended power uprate (EPU) would involve increasing the amount of heat produced in the reactor, which would result in more steam being produced. Balance-of-plant changes would be made to convert the additional steam to electricity. The power uprate is proposed to be implemented during the 2013 and 2015 refueling outages for Unit 1 and Unit 2 respectively.

The major balance-of-plant modifications will include Upgrade high-pressure turbines, replace main generator rewinds, Replace generator step-up transformers, Replace moisture separator reheaters, and Upgrade isophase bus duct cooling.

Xcel Energy intends to apply to the NRC for an amendment to the Prairie Island Operating License for the proposed EPU in 2010.



**Additional Dry Cask Storage** - This project requests to increase the number of canisters stored at the existing Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI). The PINGP currently has State authorization for 29 canisters to store the spent fuel generated until the end of the current operating licenses in 2013 and 2014. Extending the life of the plant an additional 20 years and implementing the power uprate will require an additional 35 canisters. The concrete pads within the existing ISFSI would be expanded to hold the additional canisters. The ISFSI is currently licensed by the NRC to store 48 TN-40 casks and the proposed extension of the storage pads would be sufficient to accommodate the 16 additional casks.

## **Regulatory Review Process**

### ***Certificate of Need***

No large energy facility can be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a certificate of need by the Commission. The certificate of need process is the only proceeding in which a no-build alternative and the size, type, timing, system configuration, and voltage of a proposed project will be considered.

The OES prepares an Environmental Report (ER) on proposed large energy facilities that come before the Commission for a determination of need. The ER analyzes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and project alternatives, and addresses mitigating measures for anticipated adverse impacts. To focus the content or “scope” of the ER, the OES conducts public meetings to gather comments, questions, and input on alternatives to the proposed project.

The proposed PINGP power uprate qualifies as a large energy facility (Minn. Stat. 216B.2421). Xcel Energy applied for a certificate of need for the PINGP EPU on May 16, 2008. On July 22, 2008, the Commission accepted the application as complete. The docket number for the certificate of need for the EPU is E002/CN-08-509.

### ***Site Permit***

The proposed EPU of the electrical generating capacity of the PINGP by 164 MW electric also falls within the definition of a Large Electric Power Generating Plant (LEPGP) in the Power Plant Siting Act and, thus, requires a Site Permit from the Commission prior to construction. Xcel Energy applied for a site permit following the full review process on August 1, 2008.

LEPGP Site Permit Applications under the full review process must provide specific information about the proposed project, applicant, an alternative site, environmental impacts, and mitigation measures (Minnesota Rule 7849.5220).

The review process begins with the determination by the Commission that the application is complete. The Commission has one year to reach a decision from the time the application is accepted. On August 14, 2008, the Commission accepted the application as complete. The docket number for the site permit for the EPU is E002/CN-08-690.

### ***Additional Dry Cask Storage Docket***

Along with its May 16, 2008, filing, Xcel Energy also filed a CON for additional dry cask storage at the existing Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) at the PINGP. This filing was pursuant to Minn. Stat. 116C.83, Minn. Stat. 216B.243, and Minn. Rule 7855.



Authorization of any additional dry cask storage or expansion or establishment of an independent spent-fuel storage facility at a nuclear generation facility in Minnesota is subject to approval of a certificate of need by the Commission pursuant to Minn. Stat. 216B.243. In any proceeding under this subdivision, the commission may make a decision that could result in a shutdown of a nuclear generating facility.

On July 15, 2008, the Commission accepted the CON application as complete (July 22, 2008 order); the docket number for the certificate of need for the Additional Dry Cask Storage is E002/CN-08-510.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required for the construction and operation of a new or expanded independent spent-fuel storage installation (Minn. Stat. 116C.83). The commissioner of the Department is the responsible governmental unit for the environmental impact statement. Prior to finding the statement adequate, the commissioner must find that the applicant has demonstrated that the facility is designed to provide a reasonable expectation that the operation of the facility will not result in groundwater contamination in excess of the standards established in section 116C.76, subdivision 1, clauses (1) to (3).

#### ***Coordinated Environmental Review Process***

The Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a coordinated scoping and environmental review process for Xcel Energy's certificates of need and site permit applications (Minnesota Rule 7849.7100). DOC will scope and develop one environmental document, an EIS, for both applications.

Additionally, the OES in consultation with Commission staff has determined that further process efficiencies can be obtained by incorporating the EIS requirements for the Additional Dry Cask Storage CON process with those addressed above for the EPU CON and Site Permit approval processes.

Upon completion of the EIS, additional public hearings will be noticed and held. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearings, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments.

#### **Eminent Domain**

If issued a site permit by the Commission, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Stat. 216E.12. However, as the proposed power uprate would take place within an existing Xcel Energy facility, the use of eminent domain is not anticipated.

#### **Project Contacts and Mailing Lists**

Public advisors from the OES and the Commission have been appointed to assist persons interested in taking part in the permitting process. For more information, contact one of the persons listed below:

##### ***Department of Commerce – Office of Energy Security***

The OES has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) as project manager and Ray Kirsch (651-296-7588, [raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)) as public advisor for the site permit proceedings. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 1-800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

**Public Utilities Commission**

The Commission has designated staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, [mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us](mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us)) as its public advisor for the certificate of need proceedings. Mr. Kaluzniak may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

**Xcel Energy**

Information about this project is available from Xcel Energy. You can direct questions to Brian Zelenak (612-330-5641, [brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com](mailto:brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com)). Mr. Zelenak may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

**Project Mailing Lists**

If you would like to have your name added to the DOC project mailing list for this project, you may register on line at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19602> or contact OES staff at the address above.

The Commission maintains a separate service list for certificate of need proceedings. To be placed on the list for this project, mail, fax or email Robin Benson at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, Fax: 651-297-7073, [robin.benson@state.mn.us](mailto:robin.benson@state.mn.us).

**Information Availability**

Copies of the certificate of need application and site permit application are available at:

- [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com) (Home > About Energy & Rates > Power Generation > Prairie Island Uprate)
- <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/powerplants.html>

Both applications can also be viewed at the following libraries:

Red Wing Public Library  
315 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Hastings Public Library  
830 Vermillion Street  
Hastings, MN 55033

Ellsworth Public Library  
312 West Main Street  
Ellsworth, MN 54011

St. Paul Public Library  
90 Fourth St. West  
St. Paul, MN 55102