



Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

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Submittal Deadline: November 16, 2015
Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us



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Check the [EQB Calendar](#) for Monitor deadlines and Board meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the [EQB website](#).

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Environmental Assessment Worksheets

The following EAWs have a comment deadline of December 9, 2015

Project Title: Mirror Lake Improvements

Project Description: The City of St. Anthony Village and Rice Creek Watershed District propose to complete a water quality improvement and flood control project in Mirror Lake. The project will provide improved pollutant removals, reduce nutrient transport downstream to Long Lake, and reduce downstream local flooding.

RGU: City of St. Anthony Village

Contact Person:

Jay Hartman
Director of Public Works
City of St. Anthony Village
3301 Silver Lake Road
St. Anthony, MN 55418
612-782-3314
jay.hartman@ci.saint-anthony.mn.us

Project Title: Southeast Industrial Park

Project Description: The Southeast Industrial Park is 38.72 acres of Industrial guided land in Cottage Grove, MN. The site bordered by the Canadian Pacific Railway, Highway 61, Hamlet Park, and 92nd Street contains predominantly non-native grassland with a small amount of

woods. Construction of 560,000 square feet of Industrial space is anticipated.

The EAW may be viewed at City Hall or the Park Grove Branch Library, and is available for download on the City's website. Alternatively, you may contact Ben Gozola at 763-746-1650 or bgozola@sambatek.com, and he will provide you with a copy.

RGU: City of Cottage Grove

Contact Person:

John Burbank
Senior Planner
City of Cottage Grove
12800 Ravine Parkway
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-458-2825
jburbank@cottage-grove.org

Project Title: Minnesota Municipal Power Agency – Shakopee Distributed Generation Facility

Project Description: The Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (Proposer) is proposing to build, own, and operate a new electric generating energy station (Project) in the city of Shakopee (City), Minnesota. See Attachments 1 and 2. This new electric generating station is to be known as the Shakopee Distributed Generation (SDG) Facility (SDG Facility). The Proposer, a municipal power agency, provides wholesale electrical generation and transmission service to 12 municipally-owned member utilities. The Project includes installation of five 9.341 megawatt (MW) Wartsila reciprocating natural gas-fired electrical generating units (which consists of both the engines and generators, and is also known as gensets) in a new building, for a total capacity of up to 46.705 megawatts. The SDG Facility will also include air quality controls - post-combustion catalytic controls (selective catalytic reduction and catalytic oxidation). Liquefied natural gas (LNG) will be used as a limited back up. The SDG Facility will interconnect to the City's Dean Lake Substation at a distribution level voltage.

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>

Comment Period: November 9 - December 9, 2015

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Nancy Drach
Planner Principal
Environmental Review Unit – 4th Floor
Resource Management and Assistance Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
651-757-2317
nancy.drach@state.mn.us

Environmental Assessment Worksheet Need Decisions

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

- Department of Natural Resources, Proposed Pelican Lake Muskellunge Stocking Program (denied)

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project 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.

- City of Duluth, Hartley Park Phase 1 Implementation of Master Plan, 10-27-15 (8-31-15)
- City of Woodbury, Tamarack Interchange Area, 10-28-15 (8-17-15)
- Sciota Township, Castle Rock Materials Sciota Quarry, 10-13-15 (4-27-15)

Final Environmental Impact Statements

There is no formal comment period for the Final EIS below (Minnesota Rules 7850); however, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will make a decision on the adequacy of the EIS at a future Commission meeting. The Commission's meeting calendar is available on-line: www.mn.gov/puc.

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21

DOE/EIS 0499

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has released the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties.

The FEIS analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the project and possible measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate these impacts. It analyzes route alternatives and route variations that could be used for the project and provides a comparative analysis of routing options. The FEIS responds to the comments received on the draft EIS for the project. The FEIS will be used by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in deciding

whether to issue a route permit for the project.

The FEIS can be viewed on the Department's website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33847>

The FEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website:

<http://mn.gov/puc>, select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The FEIS is also available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Project Description. Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile long, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roseau County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

Project Mailing List. To add your name to the mailing list for this project, contact the environmental review manager or public advisor (see below) or sign up on-line at:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33847>.

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 certificate of need and route permit dockets for this project by signing up at: <http://mn.gov/puc>, 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 Bill Storm (651-539-1844, bill.storm@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, consumer.puc@state.mn.us).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.

Comment Deadline: December 14, 2015 at 4:30 PM CST

Project Title: PolyMet Mining, Inc., NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange

Project Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), has prepared a joint state/federal Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS)

for the proposed PolyMet Mining, Inc. (PolyMet) NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange, located near the cities of Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt in northeastern Minnesota.

The NorthMet Mining Project would create an open pit copper, nickel, and platinum group element mine with adjacent temporary stockpiles and a permanent stockpile; refurbish a portion of the former LTV Steel Mining Company (LTVSMC) processing plant and construct a new hydrometallurgical facility at the plant site; construct an upgraded tailings basin facility on the existing LTVSMC tailings facilities; construct waste water treatment facilities at both the mine site and plant site; and add to existing utility infrastructure and rail lines. The Land Exchange would consist of USFS conveyance of Superior National Forest Lands encompassing the NorthMet mine site and surrounding lands to PolyMet, and USFS acquisition from PolyMet of up to five tracts of private lands within the Superior National Forest proclamation boundary.

The Final EIS responds to timely substantive comments received on the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS, and serves as the complete EIS for the proposed NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange. The Final EIS discusses the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange, a no action alternative, and considers mitigation of adverse effects.

The FEIS may be accessed electronically at MDNR's website at:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/polymet/index.html>.

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

- MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul;
- MDNR Regional Office at 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids;
- MDNR-Division of Lands and Minerals Regional Office at 1525 Third Avenue East, Hibbing;
- Hoyt Lakes Public Library at 206 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Hoyt Lakes;
- Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Drive, Babbitt;
- Duluth Public Library, 520 West Superior Street, Duluth; and
- Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis.

Public Review: Interested parties may submit comments on the adequacy of the FEIS to the MDNR during the 30-day review period that ends on **December 14, 2015 at 4:30 PM CST**. An adequacy determination will be made by MDNR following the public review period. The Final EIS shall be determined adequate if it:

1. Addresses the potentially significant issues and alternatives raised in scoping so that all significant issues for which information can be reasonably obtained have been analyzed in conformance with Minnesota Rules, part 4410.2300, items G and H;
2. Provides responses to the substantive comments received during the draft EIS review concerning issues raised in scoping; and
3. Was prepared in compliance with the procedures of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act and Minnesota Rules, parts 4410.0200 to 4410.6500.

Written comments should be e-mailed to NorthMetFEIS.dnr@state.mn.us or sent to the contact listed below. All written submissions should include a full name and legal mailing address.

The Final EIS is a detailed and lengthy document; due to the cost of printing, a limited number of hardcopies have been produced. However, the executive summary and/or DVD of the Final EIS may be requested by calling the MDNR at 651-259-5110.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person:

Lisa Fay, EIS Project Manager
MDNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Environmental Review Unit

500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025
651-259-5110
lisa.fay@state.mn.us

Notices

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

| MDA Notification | Applicant | Crop | Project Category | County(s) |
|------------------|----------------------|-------|---|-----------|
| 15-NO-050 | Bayer CropScience | wheat | Herbicide Tolerance, Agronomic Properties | Clay (3) |

For additional information contact Dr. Kathryn Kromroy, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6343,
kathryn.kromroy@state.mn.us

Good Cause Exempt Rulemaking Relating to Recreational Trails

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will be engaged in "good cause" rulemaking to make its rules consistent with changes directed through statute adopted in the 2015 legislative session. Good cause rulemaking is a streamlined process that is limited to only rule amendments that do not require any interpretation of law. This means that the public will be invited to comment only on whether the EQB's proposed rule amendments accurately incorporate the legislative directives. Interested parties who wish to be notified of their opportunity to comment and the final adoption of these amendments are encouraged to register for GovDelivery at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNEQB/subscriber/new>.

For additional information about this rulemaking, contact Erik Cedarleaf Dahl at erik.dahl@state.mn.us or 651-757-2364.

Request for Comments on Possible Amendments to Rules Governing the Environmental Review Program, Minnesota Rules Chapter, 4410; Revisor's ID Number R-04157

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board is considering revising the existing rules governing the Environmental Review Program and has published a request for comments in the November 9, 2015 *State Register*. These are the rules under which Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other environmental review documents are prepared. If you are interested in being notified when a draft of the rule revisions is available and of other activities related to this rulemaking, please register for GovDelivery at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNEQB/subscriber/new>.

For more information on this rulemaking see the Minnesota State Register's current issue at: <http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/mnbookstore.asp?page=register> or contact Courtney Ahlers-Nelson at courtney.ahlers@state.mn.us or 651-757-2183.

Notice of the Power Plant Siting and Transmission Line Routing Program Annual Hearing

Issued: November 6, 2015

In the Matter of the 2015 Power Plant Siting Act Annual Hearing

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: E999/M-15-785

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 60-2500-32901

Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Large Hearing Room, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc

Hearing Description

The annual hearing is required by Minnesota Statute § 216E.07, which provides that:

The commission shall hold an annual public hearing at a time and place prescribed by rule in order to afford interested persons an opportunity to be heard regarding any matters relating to the siting of large electric generating power plants and routing of high-voltage transmission lines. At the meeting, the commission shall advise the public of the permits issued by the commission in the past year....

Note – No decisions about specific projects are made at the annual hearing.

Public Hearing Information

- Public hearings start on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Administrative Law Judge James LaFave will preside over the hearing.
- Public Utilities Commission and Department of Commerce staff members are available to answer questions about the Power Plant Siting Act processes and the projects.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- Learn more about participating at a public hearing at <http://mn.gov/puc/resources/meetings-and-hearings.jsp>
- Judge LaFave will use information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period to write a summary report for the Commission

Submit Comments

Topics for Public Comment:

- Any matters related to the site permit process for large electric generating power plants and routing of high-voltage transmission lines.

Comment Period: November 6, 2015 through January 5, 2016 at 4:30pm.

- *Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date*
- *Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered*

Online Visit mn.gov/puc, select Speak Up!, find this docket (15-785), and add your comments

to the discussion.

If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via eFiling (see below) or U.S. Mail.

Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

Filing Requirements: Utilities and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select eFiling, and follow the prompts.

Important Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Hearing Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Overview of Programs
 - A. Public Utilities Commission – Facilities Permitting and Public Advisor
 - B. Department of Commerce – Energy Facilities Permitting Unit
 - C. Role of Other Agencies
- III. Projects Reviewed
 - A. Projects Permitted in 2015
 - B. Pending and Anticipated Projects
 - C. Electric Facilities Subject to Power Plant Siting Act
 - 1. Generating Plants
 - 2. Transmission Lines
- IV. Public Questions and Testimony
- V. Adjourn

How to Learn More

Subscribe to the Docket: Subscribe to receive email notifications when new documents are filed. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. mn.gov/puc
2. Select Subscribe to a Docket
3. Type your email address
4. For Type of Subscription, select Docket Number
5. For Docket Number, select 15 in the first box, type 785 in the second box
6. Select Add to List
7. Select Save

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select Search eDockets, enter the year (15) and the docket number (785), select Search.

Project Mailing Lists: Sign up to receive notices and opportunities to participate in other dockets relating to specific projects in which you are interested (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2234 with the docket number, your name, mailing address and email address.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: The hearing is being conducted according to Minnesota Statute 216E.07. Minnesota Statutes are available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Tracy Smetana - consumer.puc@state.mn.us, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner

Michael Kaluzniak – mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

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

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or 651-361-7878 (TTY) at least one week in advance of the meeting.