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Submittal Deadline: October 26, 2009

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: November 18, 2009

Project Title: SMC Sioux Rock Quarry

Description: The project proposes the expansion of the existing SMC Sioux Rock Quarry utilizing open-pit quarrying of quartzite which includes blasting, crushing, dewatering, size classification, and reclamation activities of approximately 117.5 total acres in part of the SE ¼, Section 8, T107N, R35W (Delton Twp), Cottonwood County, Minnesota. Current land use includes quarry, row-crop agriculture, and natural area.

A copy of the EAW will be available for review during regular business hours at Cottonwood County Environmental Office, 41385 US Hwy 71, Windom and Marshall-Lyon County Library, 301 W Lyon St, Marshall. A copy of the EAW will also be posted at the I & S Group website at www.is-grp.com under 'Public/Project Info'

RGU: Cottonwood County

Contact Person:

Mike Hanson, Administrator
Cottonwood County Environmental Office
N 71 Office Building
41385 US Hwy 71
Windom, MN 56101
Phone: 507-831-2060
Email: c.michael.hanson@co.cottonwood.mn.us

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: Hutchinson Senior Housing

Description: Hutchinson Senior Housing would consist of a 120-bed skilled nursing area, 50 units of assisted living housing and 78 units of independent living housing plus food preparation and laundry service for Hutchinson Area Health Care Center.

RGU: City of Hutchinson

Contact Person:

Gary Plotz
City Administrator
111 Hassan Street SE
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350
Phone: 320-587-5151
Fax: 320-234-4240
Email: gplotz@ci.hutchinson.mn.us

Project Title: Tower Road Bridge and Street Project

Description: The proposed project involves construction of a new crossing over the Otter Tail River/Pisgah Dam Reservoir on the west side of Fergus Falls. The proposed project will connect Interstate 94 with Lincoln Avenue by constructing and/or reconstructing approximately 1.05 miles of CSAH 1 and Tower Road. The proposed project includes installation of a traffic signal at the Lincoln Avenue intersection, construction of a roundabout at the CSAH 1/Tower Road intersection with CSAH 15/Alcott Avenue, and construction of a bicycle and pedestrian trail from Alcott Avenue to Lincoln Avenue.

The EA/EAW describes the purpose and need for the project; anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts; and Federal Section 106 and Section 4(f) impacts. Copies of the EA/EAW will be distributed to the EQB distribution list and others. The EA/EAW can be viewed during normal business hours at the following locations: Fergus Falls City Hall, 112 W. Washington Avenue, Fergus Falls; Otter Tail County Highway Administration, South Court Building, 505 South Court Street, Fergus Falls; and Fergus Falls Public Library, 205 East Hampden Avenue, Fergus Falls. A copy of the EA/EAW will also be posted on the City of Fergus Falls Website at <http://www.ci.fergus-falls.mn.us/>.

The EA/EAW comment period will begin on October 19, 2009. The public comment record will be open through **December 2, 2009**. Comments should be directed to the contact person listed below.

The City of Fergus Falls will hold a public hearing on November 10 at the Fergus Falls City Hall, City Council Chambers (West Entrance) (112 W. Washington Avenue, Fergus Falls) from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The public hearing will be held in an open house format; with a presentation at 5:30 pm. Comments received will become part of the official record.

RGU: City of Fergus Falls

Contact Person:

Dan Edwards, P.E.
City Engineer, City of Fergus Falls
112 W. Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 868
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Phone: 218-332-5416
Fax: 218-332-5448
Email: Dan.Edwards@ci.fergus-falls.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.

- Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, Pierre and Mary duCharme, Star Lake. Project 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 Pollution Control Agency, Princeton Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion, October 5, 2009 (June 29, 2009)

NOTICES**PUBLIC NOTICE****Environmental Review Process
Metropolitan Airports Commission****Assessment of Environmental Effects of the
2010–2016 Capital Improvement Program**

Minnesota Statutes 1988, Chapter 664, requires the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to prepare an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AOEE) for projects in the Commission's seven-year (2010-2016) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for airports included in its system.

An EAW, EA, or EIS has been previously prepared and Public Hearing held for each Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Reliever Airport project in the 2010-2016 CIP that requires an EAW under Chapter 664. An assessment of the cumulative environmental effects of CIP projects at each affected airport in the system is presented in the AOEE.

A copy of the AOEE can be downloaded from the internet at
<http://maps.macnoise.com/files/2010-AOEE-FINAL-10-5-09.pdf>.

Additionally, a copy of the AOEE can be obtained by contacting Roy Fuhrmann, Metropolitan Airports Commission, 6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55450; 612.726.8134. Comments concerning the AOEE can be given at a Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 3048, Mezzanine Level, Lindbergh Terminal, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, or in writing to Roy Fuhrmann at 6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55450. Comments on the AOEE must be received by the close of business on Wednesday, November 18, 2009. Persons planning to attend the Public Hearing should call Christene Sirois Kron at 612.725.6455 for security checkpoint information.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Energy Security

Issued: October 8, 2009

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

In the Matter of the Noble Flat Hill Windpark I, LLC Applications for a 201 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit, a 230 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit and a Certificate of Need for the Noble Flat Hill Windpark I Project (Project) in Clay County.
(PUC Docket Numbers: IP-6687/WS-08-1134; TL-08-988; and CN-08-951)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Noble Flat Hill Windpark I. Copies of the FEIS can be obtained through the OES Project Manager and may be viewed at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) web site:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19714>

The FEIS is also available at the locations noted below:

Hawley Library
421 Hartford St.
Hawley, MN 56549
(See reference desk.)

Glyndon City Hall
36 3rd St. SE
Glyndon, MN 56547
(See receptionist.)

Project Description

The Project is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System, as defined by the Wind Siting Act, Minn. Stat. 216F.01. The Project is located in Clay County and will be up to 201 megawatts in size, consisting of up to 134, 1.5 MW General Electric wind turbine generators. Associated facilities include access roads, a substation, an operations and maintenance building, a wind electrical collection system, and a new 230 kV transmission line.

OES Project Manager

David Birkholz

651-296-2878

david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place E., Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, ask for DOC.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security

Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC
Certificate of Need Application
PUC Docket Number: IP-6684/CN-08-785

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a Certificate of Need (CON) for a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) of up to 138 megawatts (MW) in Yellow Medicine and Lincoln counties. The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security Energy (OES) Facilities Permitting Unit (EFP) will prepare an Environmental Report (ER) on the Project. A public information and environmental report scoping meeting will be held at the location listed below.

November 3, 2009, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Canby Community Center
110 Oscar Avenue
Canby, MN

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed Project and regulatory proceedings; discuss environmental, social and economic issues of importance in the area potentially affected; and to take public comment and input on the scope of the ER that will be prepared for the Project.

The meeting will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about the Project and to suggest alternatives and specific impacts to address in the ER. Representatives of the OES and Buffalo Ridge Power Partners will be at the meeting to describe the proposed Project and answer questions.

Project Description

Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, proposes a LWECS of up to 138 MW using between 46 and 92 utility scale wind turbine generators, depending on what turbines are ultimately selected. Turbines between 1.5 MW and 3.0 MW in nameplate capacity are under consideration. Turbines under consideration have hub heights between 80 meters (262 feet) and 120 meters (394 feet); total heights (ground to tip when blades are fully extended) of these turbines are 389 to 568 feet. In addition to the wind turbines, the Project would include access roads, meteorological towers, communications lines, power lines, and a Project substation.

The Project area (shown in map at the end of this notice) consists of 22,434 acres located in Fortier, Norman, and Florida Townships in Yellow Medicine County and in the northern portion of Hansonville Township in Lincoln County. Approximately 12,600 acres within the Project Area are under the Applicant's control. The Applicant anticipates that the Project will ultimately require between 37 and 49 acres for all the facilities. The Applicant expects to begin construction in 2011 and begin commercial operation 12 – 18 months after construction begins. Electricity from the Project would be transmitted via 34.5 kV electric lines to a new Project substation. The Project would connect to the electric grid along Otter Tail Power Company's 115 kV Toronto-Canby transmission line at the new Project substation.

Certificate of Need Process

For projects generating more than 50 MW of electricity, a project developer must obtain a Certificate of Need (CON) under Minnesota Statutes 216B.243 from the PUC. Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, filed its CON Application on April 28, 2009; the PUC accepted the CON Application as complete on July 7, 2009. The Application is available on the PUC eDockets webpage listed below.

The OES EFP unit is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the CON Application under Minnesota Rules part 7849.1400. The ER will consider issues related to the CON for the Project, such as size, type, timing, and general environmental impacts of the Project. The ER is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the Project, alternatives to the Project and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The ER must be prepared before the PUC can make a decision on the CON for the Project.

After completion of the ER, the PUC will hold a public hearing on the CON application which will be presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under state law, the CON proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type and timing of a new electrical generating facility can be considered. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the OES project mailing list. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager or register on the webpage cited below.

In addition to the CON, a Site Permit for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F is required from the Commission before the Project can be constructed. The Applicant recently applied for a site permit for the Project; information on obtaining copies of the Site Permit Application is provided in the Project Contacts and Information section of this notice. The process for reviewing site permit applications is outlined in Minnesota Rules, part 7850. Once the PUC accepts the Site Permit Application as complete, local units of government, landowners and other interested persons will be notified of the Project and invited to submit comments on the project. Following that comment period, the Commission will make a preliminary determination as to whether a permit should be issued or denied. If the determination is to issue a permit, then a draft site permit is prepared and made available for public review. The OES holds public information meetings and solicits comments on the draft site permit. The Commission makes a final decision within 180 days of the acceptance of the application. If the project is approved, a permit is issued with any

conditions the Commission considers necessary to protect the environment, enhance sustainable development, and promote the efficient use of resources.

Public Comment Period

The public information meetings and comment period are the public's opportunity to participate in the determination of the content or "scope" of the ER.

Written public comments can be sent to the address below until November 20, 2009. Once the scope is determined, the OES staff will prepare the ER.

Upon completion of the public participation and hearing process, the record compiled in this proceeding will be presented to the PUC for final decisions on the Certificate of Need Application.

Eminent Domain

Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, an independent power producer, does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights necessary for this Project. Wind and land rights necessary for the Project will be limited to voluntary easement or lease agreements between Buffalo Ridge Power Partners, LLC, and individual landowners.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process, the Project or to place your name on the Project mailing list, contact the persons listed below: Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Project Manager, Suzanne Steinhauer Office of Energy Security 651-296-2888 suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us	Public Advisor, Certificate of Need Michael Kaluzniak Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 651-201-2257 mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us
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A copy of the Certificate of Need Application can be found on the PUC's eDockets webpage <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> using Year "08" and Number "785." The LWECS Site Permit Application can be found on the eDockets webpage using Year "08" and Number "1448"

Copies of the Site Permit Application and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Rules and Statutes governing the process, are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25538>

Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the OES EFP for future mailings regarding the Bitter Root Wind Project. Names can be added to the list by contacting Ms. Steinhauer or electronically by visiting the PUC Energy Facilities Permitting website above.

Questions about the Bitter Root Wind Project can also be directed to the Applicant by contacting Peter Kennon, at (312) 673-3020 or PKennon@acciona-na.com.

