



## Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

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**Next Publication: July 6, 2015**  
Submittal Deadline: June 29, 2015  
Submit to [EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us](mailto:EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us)



**CORRECTION:** This bulletin includes a correction regarding the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Trunk Highway 1/169 Eagles Nest Lake Area Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Need Decision.

The EQB has transitioned to a new electronic notification system called GovDelivery. Add [MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com) to your address book or safe sender list. Manage your subscription.

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

Comment Deadline: July 22, 2015

## Project Title: Miller Creek Habitat Enhancement Project

**Project Description:** The Miller Creek Habitat Enhancement Project will realign approximately 300 feet of Miller Creek, a designated trout stream that is impaired for temperature, chloride and e. coli. The proposed project will improve trout habitat, reduce shear stress on a potentially unstable bank, and create a more hydrologically stable channel with available floodplain.

**RGU:** South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District

**Contact Person:** Kate Kubiak, Conservation Specialist

South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District  
215 N 1st Ave. E Room 301  
Duluth, MN 55802  
218-723-4946  
[Kate.Kubiak@southstlouisswcd.org](mailto:Kate.Kubiak@southstlouisswcd.org)

## **Project Title: Cormorant Township Gravel Mine S 1/4 of NW 1/2, Section 29**

**Project Description:** The Becker County Zoning and Planning Department (County) announced the release of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed Cormorant Township Gravel Mine S½ of NW¼, Section 29 Project ("Project"). The Project proposes the development of approximately 71 acres as an aggregate mining operation in the S½, NW¼, Section 29, T138N, R43W, Cormorant Township, Becker County.

The public is encouraged to provide comments on the EAW, which may be obtained from the County website at [www.co.becker.mn.us](http://www.co.becker.mn.us). Release of the EAW formally begins a 30-day public review process; comments are due by July 22 at 4:30 p.m. A decision about the need for a more detailed analysis of the potential impacts of the Project through the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement will be made by the County following the close of the public comment period.

**RGU:** Becker County

**Contact Person:** Eric Evenson-Marden, Zoning Supervisor  
915 Lake Ave  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218-846-7314  
Fax: 218-846-7266

## **Project Title: Lock and Dam 1 Scour Repair**

**Project Description:** The Lock and Dam 1 Scour Repair project is located within immediately downstream of Lock and Dam within the Mississippi River, between the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, MN.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to repair scouring immediately downstream of Lock and Dam 1 to ensure its structural integrity. The repair would involve placing approximately 14,000 cubic yards of rock below the water surface along the width of the dam and up to 150 feet downstream. An estimated three acres south of the dam would be impacted by the project. There would be two acres of rock fill and about one acre of temporary disturbance.

The MDNR will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, July 22, 2015, at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to Kate Frantz, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155-4025. Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to [Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us) with "Lock and Dam 1 Scour Repair" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, include name and mailing address. Written comments may also be sent by fax to (651) 296-1811.

A copy of the EAW is available for public review at:

- DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025
- DNR Central Region, 1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106
- Minneapolis Central Library, Government Documents, 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992

The EAW is also posted on the DNR's website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>

(Click on "Public Input", then select "Lock and Dam 1 Scour Repair" from the scroll-down list under "Environmental Review").

Additional copies may be requested by calling (651) 259-5082.

**RGU:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Contact Person:** Kate Frantz, Planning Director  
Environmental Review Unit  
500 Lafayette Rd, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-259-5802  
Fax: 651-297-1500  
[kate.frantz@state.mn.us](mailto:kate.frantz@state.mn.us)

## Project Title: CSAH 16 Roadway Reconstruction

**Project Description:** Scott County proposes to reconstruct 1.7 miles of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 16, a two-lane rural roadway into a four-lane divided urban roadway with turn lanes, paved shoulders, and multi-use trails on the north and south sides of the roadway. The horizontal alignment will be shifted to the south for a portion of the project to create a frontage road from the existing roadway and eliminate a number of direct accesses off of CSAH 16. The existing four-lane segment between CSAH 83 and Dean Lake Trail (approximately 0.25 miles) will also be rehabilitated as part of the project. The purpose of the project is to improve safety, mobility, and capacity on Scott CSAH 16 between CSAH 83 and CSAH 21 in the City of Shakopee, Minnesota.

The comment period for this project will be June 22, 2015 through July 22, 2015. A copy of the EAW can be accessed from Scott County's website at <http://www.co.scott.mn.us/RoadsTransport/Roads/Design/Pages/cp1631.aspx>. It will also be available in hard copy at the following locations:

- Shakopee Public Library, 235 Lewis St S, Shakopee, MN 55379
- Hennepin County Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401

**RGU:** Scott County

**Contact Person:** Andy Hingeveld, Senior Planner  
Scott County  
600 County Rail East  
Jordan, MN 55352  
952-496-8365  
[ahingeveld@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:ahingeveld@co.scott.mn.us)

## Project Title: The Pullet Connection, Inc.

**Project Description:** The Pullet Connection, Inc. (Proposer) proposes to build one 85' x 475' total confinement poultry building. The Proposer also plans to build one 80' x 160' manure storage building with a concrete floor between the proposed building and the existing poultry buildings (Project) located in Section 31 of Henryville Township, Renville County. The two new

buildings are referred to as the Project here. The Project will house 400,000 pullets and increase the total capacity of the feedlot operation by 1,200 animal units (AU); the total site capacity with the existing operation and the new Project will be 2,772 AU.

A copy of the environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website, at the following:  
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>. Written comments on the EAW should be submitted to Charles Peterson. A copy of the EAW may also be obtained by contacting Beth Tegdesch at 651-757-2100.

In addition to the EAW, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft Feedlot Permit will also be available for public comment beginning June 08, 2015. The contact person for the Feedlot Permit is George Schwint at 320-894-5866.

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**Contact Person:** Charles Peterson, Planner Principal  
Env. Review Unit  
Resource Management and Assistance Division  
MPCA  
520 Lafayette Rd N  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
651-757-2856  
[charles.peterson@state.mn.us](mailto:charles.peterson@state.mn.us)

## Project Title: Rice Creek Meander Project at County Road H

**Project Description:** Ramsey County proposes to relocate and reintroduce meanders within a portion of Rice Creek, affecting approximately 925 feet of existing channel. The primary purpose of the project is to facilitate the reconstruction of the intersection at County Road (CR) H, I-35W northbound (NB) on-ramp, proposed I-35W NB exit ramp, and the proposed Rice Creek Commons (former TCAAP site) access roads, into a five-legged double-lane roundabout. The realignment of the creek will minimize the length of channel that would be in culverts and provide opportunity for creek enhancements.

The comment period for this project will be June 22, 2015 through July 22, 2015. A copy of the EAW can be accessed from Ramsey County's website at <http://ricecreekcommons.com/the-vision/rice-creek-meander-project/>. It will also be available in hard copy at the following locations:

- Ramsey County Library in Mounds View, 2576 County Hwy 10, Mounds View, MN 55112
- Hennepin County Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401

**RGU:** Ramsey County

**Contact Person:** Beth Engum, Project Manager  
Ramsey County  
1425 Kirkwood Drive  
Arden Hills, MN 55112  
651-266-7115  
[beth.engum@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:beth.engum@co.ramsey.mn.us)

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## Environmental Assessment Worksheet Need Decision

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

- Morrison County, Fish Trap Lake Campground and RV Resort Petition (denied)
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## Environmental Impact Statement Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does not require preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) notice was published in the EQB Monitor.

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Canisteo Mine Pit Temporary Dewatering Project, 6-1-15 (3-16-15)
  - Rochester Township, Lilly Estates Suburban Subdivision, 5-14-15 (3-2-15)
  - Otter Tail County, Little McDonald Lake-Proposed Outlet Discharge into Otter Tail River, 5-26-15 (3-16-15)
  - **CORRECTION:** Minnesota Department of Transportation, Trunk Highway 1/169 Eagles Nest Lake Area Project (S.P. 6904-46), 6-5-15 (12-22-14)
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## Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Comment Deadline: August 10, 2015



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Department of Commerce



### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

**In the Matter of the Route Permit Applications 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**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	Americinn 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kelliher	Kelliher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.



The Department will accept written comments on the DEIS through **Monday, August 10, 2015**. Please include the docket number TL-14-21 on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101  
Fax: 651-539-0109 | [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34161>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be 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

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

**Project Description.** Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 270 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.

**Federal Review Process.** Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential Permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

**State of Minnesota Review Process.** In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) HVTL a Route Permit.

**Environmental Review.** Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the GNTL project constitutes a Major Federal Action, DOE must consider the environmental effects of the project, and reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS does not advocate or state a preference for a specific route or route alternative. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

**Public Hearings.** Public hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application will be held in the project area the weeks of August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

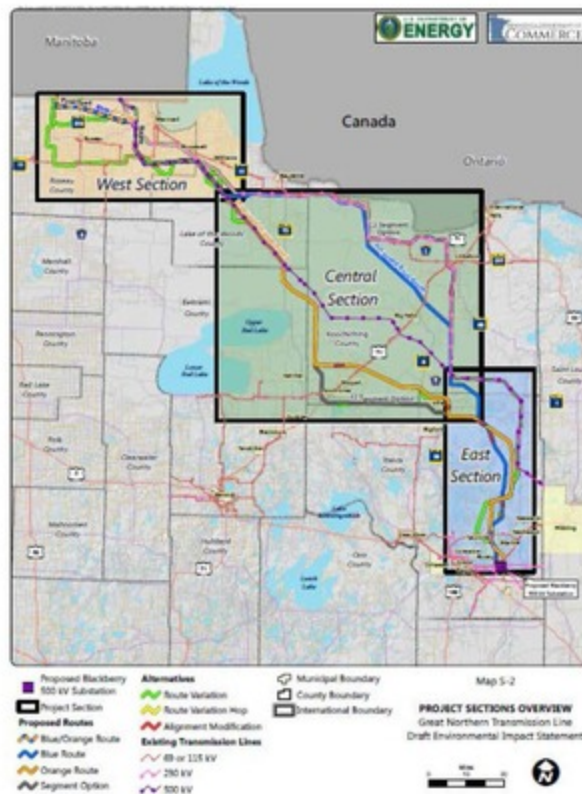
**Project Mailing List.** To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the environmental review manager or public advisor (see below).

**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 route permit docket for this project by signing up at: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note – subscribing may result in a large number of emails.



**State Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto: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.



## Final Environmental Impact Statement

Comment Deadline: July 6, 2015

## Project Title: US Highway 53 Virginia to Eveleth

**Project Description:** MnDOT has prepared a Final EIS in accordance with state requirements for the US Highway 53 Virginia to Eveleth project. The Final EIS evaluates the preferred

alternative (Alternative E-2 with the Interchange Option and Straight Option), describing the transportation and environmental impacts associated with the pending termination of easement rights for a one and a half mile segment of the US 53 corridor where it crosses the United Taconite open-pit mine between Virginia and Eveleth, Minnesota.

After the comment period on the state Final EIS, MnDOT will consider any comments received and make an Adequacy Determination.

For the federal environmental process, after the state Adequacy Determination and in accordance with the provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and MnDOT will be issuing a single document that combines the Final EIS and the Record of Decision (ROD). This publication under federal rules is anticipated to occur in the fall of 2015. The intent to combine these documents was described on the signature page of the Draft EIS. After reviewing the comments received on the Draft EIS, FHWA and MnDOT jointly affirmed the decision to prepare a combined Final EIS/ROD.

Documentation regarding Section 4(f) recreational resource impacts is also included in the Final EIS. FHWA's final de minimis determination for the Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area will be included in the ROD.

The Final EIS may be accessed electronically on the project website ([www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy53relocation](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy53relocation)), and paper copies will be available for review at the following locations:

- Eveleth Public Library, 614 Pierce Street, Eveleth, MN
- Gilbert Public Library, 17 N. Broadway, Gilbert, MN
- Mountain Iron Public Library, 5742 Mountain Avenue, Mt. Iron, MN
- Virginia Public Library, 215 5th Avenue S, Virginia, MN
- Duluth Public Library, 520 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN
- MnDOT – District 1 Duluth Office, 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, MN
- Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN

**RGU:** Minnesota Department of Transportation

**Contact Person:** Pat Huston, Project Manager  
MnDOT District 1  
1123 Mesaba Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55811  
[Patrick.Huston@state.mn.us](mailto:Patrick.Huston@state.mn.us)

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## Environmental Assessment

Comment Deadline: July 3, 2015

## Project Title: Long Lake to Mantrap 115 kV Transmission Upgrade Project

**Project Description:** Itasca-Mantrap Co-op Electrical Association (I-M) is proposing to convert the existing 34.5 kilovolt (kV) Mantrap Substation to operate at 115 kV and Great River Energy is proposing to rebuild an existing 34.5 kV transmission line (approximately 6.5 miles) to 115 kV near the City of Park Rapids in Hubbard County, Minnesota.

This project will include:

- Conducting 0.50 miles of Great River Energy's existing "IM-BL" 34.5 kV line, already built to double-circuit standard, with a new 115 kV circuit;
- Overtaking 1.25 miles of Minnesota Power's existing 34.5/19.9 kV line and rebuilding it to 115 kV (with 34.5 kV underbuild) and placing the 19.9 kV circuit underground;
- Replacing Great River Energy's existing 4.75 mile 34.5 kV "PM" line with the new 115 kV line; and
- Replacing the existing 34.5 kV equipment at the Mantrap Substation with new 115 kV equipment (I-M).

A copy of the Environmental Assessment for the project is available at the:

- Hubbard County Library  
210 W. First Street  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

**RGU:** Henrietta Township

**Contact Person:** Deb Anderson, Township Clerk  
Henrietta Township  
P.O. Box 81  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
218- 732-4395  
fax: 218-732-0321  
[henriettatown@unitelc.com](mailto:henriettatown@unitelc.com)  
<http://www.henriettatownship.govoffice2.com/>

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## Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Comment Deadline: July 22, 2015

# Project Title: US 63 River Bridge and Approach Roadways Project

**Project Description:** The US 63 River Bridge and Approach Roadways Project include the Mississippi River bridge and the bridge approaches in Red Wing, Minnesota and Hager City, Wisconsin. The project will replace the existing Eisenhower Bridge river bridge with a new bridge structure. The Wisconsin approach includes a jughandle intersection at 825th Street and the Minnesota approach includes reconfiguration of the connection to US 61 as a buttonhook intersection.

A combined Federal Environmental Assessment and Minnesota Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) identifies the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts from the proposed project. The EA/EAW includes documentation on the Section 106 findings regarding historic properties, as well as a Draft Programmatic Agreement which outlines measures to minimize effects to Historic Properties. The EA/EAW document also includes A Draft Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation for use of Bridge 9103 (US 63 bridge over US 61) which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The EA/EAW, is available on the project website at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/redwing-bridge/>. Copies of the EA/EAW will also be available for comment at the project website.

viewing during business hours at the following locations:

- Rochester Public Library, 101 Second Street SE, Rochester, MN 55904;
- Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066;
- Ellsworth Public Library, 312 Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011;
- MnDOT District 6 – Rochester Office Building Lobby, 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901;
- Minneapolis Public Library, Technical & Science Division, Government Docs., 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992; and
- MnDOT Library, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EA/EAW, a public hearing/open house meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at the Red Wing Public Library, 225 East Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066. The open house/public hearing will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., with a presentation at 5:00 p.m.

To request this document in an alternative format, please contact the Affirmative Action Office at 651-366-4718 or call 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota). For Minnesota Relay, call 711 or 1-800-627- 3529. You may also send an e-mail to [ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us).

**RGU:** Minnesota Department of Transportation

**Contact Person:** Chad Hanson, P.E.  
Minnesota Department of Transportation,  
District 6  
2900 48th Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone (507) 286-7637  
[chad.hanson@state.mn.us](mailto:chad.hanson@state.mn.us)

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## Petition

The following petition has been filed with the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) requesting preparation of an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW). The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Hawkins Inc.
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## Department of Natural Resources' Notice of Intent to Hold State Metallic Minerals Lease Sale

### State Lands Being Considered for Metallic Minerals Leasing

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announces that plans are being developed to hold the state's 34th sale of metallic minerals exploration and mining leases. The sale is tentatively scheduled for late 2015. The lease sale plans are being announced at this time in order to give all interested parties time to review and provide input on the areas under consideration (draft mining unit book).

The metallic minerals lease sale involves non-ferrous minerals, which are all metals except iron ore and taconite. Examples of non-ferrous metallic minerals are: copper, nickel, platinum, palladium, gold, silver, cobalt, chromium, zinc, lead, bismuth, tin, tungsten, tantalum, and niobium.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 - .0700) is to promote and regulate the exploration for and mining and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These rules, and the leases issued under these rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of rentals that increase with the passage of time, the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed, compliance with all applicable environmental statutes and rules, and the submission of data and other reports. In addition, the state lessee must comply with all other applicable regulatory laws.

The areas under consideration contain lands in portions of Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching and St. Louis Counties. Some of the lands being considered for the metallic minerals lease sale have been offered in previous lease sales, but based upon the interest shown by industry, new geologic data, and exploration techniques developed during the past few years, certain new lands of interest are also being considered for the lease sale. The Department of Natural Resources will be accepting public input for 60 days regarding the lands listed in the areas of consideration (draft mining unit book).

Written public input regarding the areas under consideration (draft mining unit book) will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on August 21, 2015. Input may be submitted by U.S. mail or email. All input received is public information. Following the public input period, the DNR will review the input, and modify and finalize the lands to be offered in the lease sale.

The exact time and place of the lease sale will be announced by legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the sale. The final mining unit book, listing the state lands to be offered at the lease sale, will be released at that time and will be available on the DNR website.

The areas under consideration (draft mining unit book) are available on the internet through the DNR website at [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals/leasesale/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/leasesale/index.html) and for review at the Hibbing and St. Paul offices of the Division of Lands and Minerals. Interactive maps of the lands under consideration may also be viewed on the DNR website. Written public input may be sent to: Division of Lands and Minerals, Box 45, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155-4045, email: [MMLeaseSale.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:MMLeaseSale.dnr@state.mn.us)

Dated: June 15, 2015

Jess Richards, Director  
Division of Lands and Minerals

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Comment Deadline: September 18, 2015

## **Correction: The Docket Number was changed**

### **Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Investigation into Environmental and Socioeconomic Costs Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.2422, Subd. 3**

**Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 80-2500-31888 and Minnesota Public Utilities (MPUC) Docket Number E-999/CI-14-643**

**Project Description:** The MPUC is providing notice of a public hearing and comment period regarding its reopened investigation into the environmental costs of four specific pollutants: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). In 1997, as required under [Minnesota Statute § 216B.2422, Subdivision 3](#), the MPUC established environmental costs of different methods of generating electricity. Starting in 2001, the values were increased each year to account for inflation.

The Commission has reopened this investigation which is focused on three technical questions.

1. Is the Federal Social Cost of Carbon reasonable and is it the best measure to determine the environmental cost of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)?
2. If not, what measure is better and why?
3. What are the appropriate environmental cost values for particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and why?

A public hearing will be held at the MPUC's Large Hearing Room – 3rd Floor, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101 on **August 26, 2015 at 2p.m.**

Comments will be received until **September 18, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.** Further information regarding how to provide comment and the public hearing is available at <http://mn.gov/puc/>, select [SpeakUp!](#). All documents filed in this docket are available via the Commission's website at <http://mn.gov/puc/>, select [Search eDockets](#), enter the year (14) and the docket number (643), select Search.