



Publication Date: December 3, 2007  
Vol. 31, No. 25

Next Publication: December 17, 2007  
Submittal Deadline: December 10, 2007

# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: January 2, 2008

### Project Title: CSAH 11 over the Buffalo River

**Description:** As part of replacing Bridge No. 90856 over the Buffalo River, five miles of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 11 will be reconstructed. The proposed project will include regrading on the existing alignment between CSAH 18 and CSAH 26 and realignment approximately 200 feet to the east of the existing alignment between 1,350 feet south and 5,300 feet north of the proposed bridge (a distance of 1.3 miles) to provide improved approaches to the proposed bridge location.

**RGU:** Clay County

### Contact Person:

David L. Overbo, Engineer  
2951 41 1/2 Street So.  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
Phone: 218-299-5099  
Fax: 218-299-7304  
david.overbo@co.clay.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: Repair Pine County Ditch #1**

**Description:** Pine County Ditch #1 flows from Section 36, then through Section 35 Township 43, Range 21, and Sections 2, 3, 9, 10 and 16, and terminates at Grindstone Lake Township 42, Range 21, Pine County. There are a number of beaver dams along the ditch, which are identified in this document.

The Pine County Board will be having a public hearing to receive comments on December 17, 2007 at 1 p.m. in the Pine County Board room at the Pine County Courthouse, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, MN. If you do not wish to attend the public hearing, you can submit a written comment. All written comments must be received by January 2, 2008, and can be mailed to the Pine County Board of Commissioners in care of John Stieben, Pine County Coordinator, 635 Northridge Drive, NW, Suite 200, Pine City, MN 55063.

**RGU:** Pine County

**Contact Person:**

John Stieben, County Coordinator  
635 Northridge Drive NW  
Pine City, MN 55063-5895  
Phone: 320-591-1620  
Fax: 320-591-1628  
[jgstiebe@co.pine.mn.us](mailto:jgstiebe@co.pine.mn.us)

**Project Title: Agassiz Energy Ethanol Production Facility**

**Description:** Agassiz Energy, LLC (Agassiz) is proposing to construct and operate a fuel-grade ethanol production facility (Facility) near Erskine, Minnesota, with the capacity to produce 70 million gallons per year of undenatured ethanol using coal for steam generation. As a by-product, the Facility will also produce 228,545 tons per year of Dried Distillers' Grains and Solubles or, alternatively, 714,202 tons per year of Wet Distillers' Grains. Agassiz proposes to withdraw a maximum of 783 gallons per minute with an average pumping rate of 522 gpm from ground water sources for its water needs. This Facility will be a zero liquid discharge facility (i.e., no process water or utility wastewater will be discharged to the environment).

In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will soon release for public comment draft Air Emissions and Water Permits for the proposed project. The contact person for the Air Emission Permit is Dave Beil at 651-296-7810, and the Water Permit contact person is Nancy Drach at 651-296-9272.

Comments will be accepted on the EAW until January 17, 2008, at 4 p.m.

A public information meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on December 19, 2007, at the Win-E-Mac school gymnasium in Erskine, to explain the review process, how to comment, and provide an overview of the EAW for the Agassiz project.

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

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**Contact Person:**

Mike Rafferty, Planner Principal  
Ethanol Sector  
Industrial Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road No.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
651-297-7173

**Project Title: Willmar Wastewater Treatment Facility and Conveyance System**

**Description:** The city of Willmar proposes to upgrade and relocate its existing 5.04 million gallons per day (mgd) wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) by constructing a 7.51 mgd WWTF in St. Johns Township, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. The project also includes a new sanitary sewer interceptor, force main and two pump stations, outfall sewer, and modifications to the existing WWTF. In addition to the EAW, the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) Permit will be available for public comment concurrently. The contact person for the NPDES/SDS Permit is Lisa McCormick at 320-231-5343.

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**Contact Person:**

Diana Vanderbosch, Planner Principal  
Environmental Review and Operations Section  
Regional Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road No.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
651-297-1796

## **EAW NEED DECISIONS**

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

- Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners, Cottages at Boyd Lodge, denied.
- Greenwood Township, Waters of Vermilion project, proposer volunteered.
- Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, proposed Lake Redwood Reclamation project, denied.
- Barry Township, Dan Peterson Gravel Pit, denied.
- Castle Rock Township Board of Supervisors, petition for the property located at 22355 Albatross Circle, 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*.

- Eden Prairie City Council, Presbyterian Homes Eden Prairie Redevelopment, November 13, 2007 (September 24, 2007)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Revier Cattle Company, Inc. Feedlot Expansion Project, November 27, 2007 (August 13, 2007)

## EIS PREPARATION NOTICE

### Notice of EIS Preparation

The UNIMIN North Mine in Ottawa Township, LeSueur County, Minnesota, is nonmetallic mineral mining of a 1,015.5-acre site in an area where mining has occurred for 80 years. The mining involves excavation of overburden to expose sandstone that is blasted, placed in slurry form, and pumped to an existing processing plant. Reclamation will be ongoing as mining is conducted.

On October 23, 2007, the LeSueur County Board of Commissioners, as the Responsible Government Unit (RGU), approved the Final Scoping Decision Document (FSDD) for the UNIMIN North Mine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The approval followed the EIS scoping process according to the environmental review rules established by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB).

A notice was published in the July 30, 2007 issue of the *EQB Monitor* informing the public of the availability of the Scoping EAW and the Draft Scoping Decision Document (DSDD). A public meeting was held on August 22, 2007 at the LeSueur County Environmental Services Building, LeCenter, Minnesota. The comment period ran through August 29, 2007, with comments being received from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Byron J. and Janet M. Nordstrom, the Ottawa Township Supervisors, Bill Prige-Evans, Alvin and Amy Haas, Nierengarten & Hippert, Ltd on behalf of Robert Haas, Jamie Bender, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The FSDD defines the subjects that will be evaluated in greater detail in the EIS. These subjects include:

- mining and reclamation plans;
- land use, including project compatibility and potential conflicts;
- potential environmental hazards due to past site uses, including the adjacent Tellijohn landfill;
- the presence of and effects on unique species of plants/animals and potential mitigation measures;
- the presence of an effects on state-listed species, rare plant communities, or other sensitive ecological resources on or near the site and possible mitigation measures;
- the effects of mining on the intermittent stream identified on the MDNR Protected Waters Inventory Map;
- the effects of mining on wetlands identified through delineation;

- the effects of dewatering on groundwater in the area of the mine;
- erosion and sedimentation control measures, including the need for storm water facilities;
- surface water quality and runoff routes;
- potential groundwater conditions due to soil contamination and proposed mitigation measures;
- the generation of solid or hazardous wastes and materials, including the use of blasting agents as part of the mining process
- the effects of blasting and ground vibration on the flare and gas-line collection system at the Tellijohn Landfill;
- the use of storage tanks in the project area;
- vehicle-related air emissions;
- stationary source air emissions;
- generation of noise and dust;
- the effects on archaeological, historic, or architectural resources on or in proximity to the project site, including a cemetery and historical stone structures;
- the impact of the project on the nearby Chamberlain Woods Scientific and Natural Area (SNA);
- the effect of lighting and other potential visual impacts;
- compatibility with the LeSueur County draft land use goals and policies and land use regulations;
- impacts of the project on railroad and utilities (such as power lines); and
- cumulative impacts.

**RGU:** LeSueur County

**Contact Person:**

Kathy Brockway, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
88 South Park Ave.  
LeCenter, MN 56057-1652  
Phone: 507-357-8209  
Fax: 507-357-8541  
kbrockway@co.le-sueur.mn.us

## **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 Minnetonka, Crossroads Corporate Center project

## FINAL AUAR ADOPTED

The Inver Grove Heights City Council adopted the Northwest Area Alternative Urban Area-Wide Review Update on October 22, 2007.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact:

Thomas J. Link, Director of Community Development  
City of Inver Grove Heights  
651-450-2546

## NOTICES

Below is a link to the MDA Biodiesel Task Force Web Site.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/renewable/biodiesel/biodieselforce.htm>

### Public Meeting Notice

#### Northern Regional Landscape Committee Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Northern Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in International Falls at the Holiday Inn.

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

#### Northeast Regional Landscape Committee Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Northern Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Duluth at the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) building.

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

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Large Electric Power Generating Plant Site Application  
Great River Energy's Elk River Peaking Station Project  
PUC Docket No. ET2/GS-07-715**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Elk River Peaking Stations Project (PUC Docket ET2/GS-07-715) for public comment, as well as the dates, locations and times for public meetings.

Copies of the DEIS can be obtained through the DOC Project Manager and maybe viewed at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) web site:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19178>

Copies are also available for viewing at the Elk River and Rosemount city halls.

**Public Meeting.** DOC will conduct two public meetings to obtain comments on the DEIS. The meetings will be held beginning at 7 p.m. at the following locations:

**Elk River**

Thursday, December 20, 2007  
Elk River City Hall  
13065 Orono Parkway NW  
Elk River, MN 55330-5600

**Rosemount**

Wednesday, December 19, 2007  
Rosemount City Hall  
2875 145<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Rosemount, MN 55068-4997

The public will also have until Monday, December 31, 2007, to submit written comments to the DOC on the DEIS. Written comments should be mailed to Bill Storm ([bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)), Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198.

**Background:** May 18, 2007, Great River Energy (GRE) submitted an application for a Certificate of Need (CON) for the proposed Elk River Peaking Station. The PUC issued an Order finding the CON application to be substantially complete on June 19, 2007. The docket number for this filing is ET2/CN-07-678.

On June 14, 2007, GRE submitted an application for a Site Permit for the proposed Elk River Peaking Station. The PUC issued an Order finding the Site Permit application to be complete on August 1, 2007, and authorized the Department to initiate the full review process under Minn. Rules 7845.5010 to .6500. The docket number for this filing is ET2/GS-07-715.

**Regulatory Review Process.** In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, 216E.001 through 216E.18) a site permit is required before a large electric power generating plant (LEPGP) can be constructed. The power plant siting act requirement became law in 1973. The rules to implement the permitting requirement for LEPGP are in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849.5010 through 7849.6500. A LEPGP is defined as any electric power generating equipment and associated facilities designed for or capable of operation at a capacity of 50,000 kilowatts or more.

GRE's LEPGP site permit application is being reviewed under the Full Review Process (Minnesota Rule Chapter 7849.5200) within the Power Plant Siting Act. Under the full permitting process the applicant is required to submit two sites (i.e., a preferred and an alternate) for consideration. As part of the permitting process, the Department of Commerce is responsible for certain procedural requirements (i.e., public notice and meetings), issuing the EIS Scoping Decision and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A contested case hearing will also be conducted following completion of the draft EIS. The PUC will make the final decision; that decision includes a determination on the adequacy of the EIS and the determination whether to grant the requested permits, as well as, site selection and permit conditions.

### Project Description.

Inquiries about this project should be directed to the DOC project manager, Bill Storm ([bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) or the public adviser, Deb Pile ([Deborah.Pile@State.mn.us](mailto:Deborah.Pile@State.mn.us)) 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101, telephone 651.296.9535, (toll free 1.800.657.3794), facsimile 651.296.3698 (TTY relay service 800.627.3529).

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

### In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Certificate of Need Application for Three 345 kV Transmission Lines in Minnesota PUC Docket ET-2, E-002/CN-06-1115

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will hold public information meetings at the dates, times and locations below concerning the following project: Xcel Energy and Great River Energy, on behalf of 11 transmission-owning utilities known as the CapX 2020 transmission expansion initiative, have applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) for a Certificate of Need for three 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines.

<b>Monday, December 10</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 11</b>	<b>Thursday, December 13</b>
<p><b>12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.</b> Courtyard by Marriot 1080 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Moorhead, MN 56560</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</b> Best Western Events Center 921 Western Ave. Fergus Falls, MN 56537</p>	<p><b>12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.</b> City Hall, Council Chambers 704 Broadway Alexandria, MN 56308</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</b> American Legion 505 Pine St. Clearwater, MN 55320</p>	<p><b>12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.</b> Riverport Inn 900 Bruski Drive Winona, MN 55987</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</b> Heritage Suites 2829 43<sup>rd</sup> St. NW Rochester, MN 55901</p>
<b>Monday, December 17</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 18</b>	



**12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
Best Western Marshall Inn  
1500 East College Drive  
Marshall, MN 56258

**6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**  
Max's Grill  
1325 West Lincoln Ave.  
Olivia, MN 56277

**12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
Arlington Community Center  
204 Shamrock Drive  
Arlington, MN 55307

**6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**  
Grandpa's Event Center  
31846 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

The meetings will inform the public about the project and the regulatory proceedings; discuss environmental, social and economic issues of importance in the areas potentially affected; and gather public input into the scope of the Environment Report (ER) to be prepared for the project. The meetings provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about the project and suggest alternatives and specific impacts that should be addressed in the ER.

Representatives of DOC, PUC and the CapX 2020 utilities will be at the meetings to describe the proposed project and answer questions.

## **Project Description**

The proposed transmission lines would connect substations in the following locations:

- A 250-mile line between Fargo, North Dakota and Monticello.
- A 200-mile line from a substation near Brookings, South Dakota to a new substation near Hampton; plus a related line between Marshall and Granite Falls.
- A 150-mile line running from a new substation near Hampton to Rochester and continuing to La Crosse, Wisconsin.

These transmission lines are part of a longer-term plan intended to strengthen the transmission network to meet demand for electrical power anticipated in Minnesota and parts of surrounding states by 2020 and to increase access to renewable energy sources. In addition, the project is intended to address community service reliability concerns in several communities including Rochester, St. Cloud, the Alexandria area and the Red River Valley.

Specific routes that the transmission lines would follow, if approved, have not yet been proposed by the CapX 2020 utilities. The transmission line routes will be reviewed through a separate PUC permitting process expected to begin sometime in 2008.

## **Certificate of Need**

Before any large High Voltage Transmission Lines can be constructed in Minnesota, the Commission must determine that they are necessary and in the best interest of the state. The Certificate of Need process includes environmental review and public hearings, and typically takes 12 months. This process is the only proceeding in which a no-build alternative and the size, type, timing, system configuration and voltage of the proposed project will be considered.

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy applied for a Certificate of Need on August 16, 2007. A copy of the Certificate of Need application can be reviewed at the CapX 2020 web page at:

<http://www.capx2020.com/Regulatory/State/Minnesota/capx2020con.html>

If issued a Certificate of Need and route permits by the PUC, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for the project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12 and Minnesota Statute 117.

The DOC is responsible for analyzing the Certificate of Need application and administering the environmental review process for the Commission. The PUC is responsible for determining if the transmission lines proposed are needed.

### **Environmental Report and Public Comment Period**

The Environmental Report is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed 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 Certificate of Need application. These public information meetings and the comment period are your 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 January 14, 2008. Once the scope is determined, DOC staff will prepare the ER and introduce it into the record at a public hearing to be scheduled, noticed and held at a later date.

### **Additional Information and Mailing List**

If you would like to obtain additional information about the project, the regulatory proceedings, the environmental review process, or to be added to the mailing list for future notices regarding environmental review of this project, please contact Mr. David Birkholz, 651-296-2878, toll-free 1-800-657-3794, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101, [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us).

You can review documents relevant to this proceeding through the Commission’s web site at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19120>

You can also search for documents “efiled” in this docket on eDockets. Search “06-1115” at:

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

## CapX 2020 Proposed 345-kV Project Study Corridors



Fargo-Alexandria-St. Cloud-Monticello (345-kV)  
 SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse (345-kV)  
 Brookings, SD-SE Twin Cities (345-kV)

\* The shaded areas are potential corridors for the proposed lines.

### Fargo-Alexandria-St. Cloud- Monticello (345-kV)

**Proposed or modified substations:**

- Alexandria (modified)
- Maple River (modified)
- Monticello (modified)
- Quarry (new)

### Brookings, SD-SE Twin Cities (345-kV)

**Proposed or modified substations:**

- Brookings County (modified)
- Franklin (modified)
- Hampton Corner (new)
- Hazel Creek (new)
- Helena (new)
- Lake Marion (modified)
- Lyon County (modified)
- Minnesota Valley (modified)

### SE Twin Cities-Rochester-La Crosse (345-kV)

**Proposed or modified substations:**

- Belvidere (new)
- Hampton Corner (new)
- North La Crosse (modified)
- North Rochester (new)

**EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2008**

<b>Volume Number</b>	<b>Deadline for Submission</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>EAW Comment Deadline</b>
31-27	December 24, 2007	December 31, 2007	January 30, 2008
32-1	January 7, 2008	January 14, 2008	February 13
32-2	January 21	January 28	February 27
32-3	February 4	February 11	March 12
32-4	February 15 (Friday)	February 25	March 26
32-5	March 3	March 10	April 9
32-6	March 17	March 24	April 23
32-7	March 31	April 7	May 7
32-8	April 14	April 21	May 21
32-9	April 28	May 5	June 4
32-10	May 12	May 19	June 18
32-11	May 26	June 2	July 2
32-12	June 9	June 16	July 16
32-13	June 23	June 30	July 30
32-14	July 7	July 14	August 13
32-15	July 21	July 28	August 27
32-16	August 4	August 11	September 10
32-17	August 18	August 25	September 24
32-18	August 29 (Friday)	September 8	October 8
32-19	September 15	September 22	October 22
32-20	September 29	October 6	November 5
32-21	October 13	October 20	November 19
32-22	October 27	November 3	December 3
32-23	November 10	November 17	December 17
32-24	November 24	December 1	December 31
32-25	December 8	December 15	January 14, 2008
32-26	December 22	December 29	January 28