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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: September 12, 2007

Project Title: Lake Redwood Reclamation Project

Description: Description: The Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA), a multi-county joint powers organization, proposes to reclaim Lake Redwood by dredging accumulated sediments. This project proposes to restore original conditions of the 65-acre reservoir by removing up to approximately 650,000 cubic yards of sediment from Lake Redwood by hydraulic dredging. The proposed project will increase the average water depth from 2.6 feet to almost 10 feet with a maximum depth of 20 feet. A slurry of sediment and water will be pumped to a diked disposal area for dewatering. Return flows will be discharged back to the river. Agricultural fields are being considered for disposal sites.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be available for review at the office of the RCRCA, and will be posted on the RCRCA website at the following: <http://www.rcrca.com>

RGU: Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Contact Person:

Jim Doering, Executive Director
Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area
1241 East Bridge St.
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Phone: 507-637-2142
Jim.doering@mn.nacdnet.net

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: Chandler Farms

Description: Jeff and Marvin Chandler are proposing to expand their existing 700-animal unit (AU) beef cattle feedlot operation by constructing a new cattle finishing barn with a capacity of 2,000 head (2,000 AUs). The proposed expansion (Project) is located in the SW¼ of the NW¼ of Section 13 of Shelburne Township in Lyon County. For the purposes of environmental review, the Project consists of three existing open lots, three existing partial confinement barns housing 700 head of finishing cattle, one existing above-ground fiberglass lined steel slurry store, and one proposed total confinement barn. The final capacity of the site will be 2,700 AUs.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Chai Insook, Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road No.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Project Title: Revier Feedlot

Description: Revier Cattle Co., Inc., proposes to expand its existing beef cattle feedlot operation located in Section 17 of Norfolk Township, Renville County. The existing feedlot operation consists of open lots and partial confinement barns capable of housing 4,500 animals (4,500 animal units). The proposed project will include the construction of two naturally ventilated, total confinement barns to house 3,000 heads each, for a total increase of 6,000 animals (6,000 animal units).

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Chai Insook, Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road No.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Project Title: Ritchie Bros. Auction Site

Description: Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers propose to convert 120-acres of agricultural land into a permanent auction facility west of Interstate 35 southwest of Medford, Minnesota. The permanent auction site will include a display yard, auction building, refurbishing building, check-in building and event parking lot. Scheduled auctions will occur four to six times per year over the course of one to three days with a maximum of 2,500 bidders attending each auction. The City of Medford will provide public infrastructure, including municipal water, sewer and emergency response services to the site.

RGU: City of Medford

Contact Person:

Kym Christiansen, City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Medford
PO Box 127
Medford, MN 55049-0127
Phone: 507-455-2866
Fax: 507-455-2088
kchristiansen@qwest.net

Project Title: Menards – New Ulm Store

Description: The Project proposes to construct and operate a Menards commercial store on 41.58 acres of land currently utilized for agricultural purposes in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 14, T110N, R31W, Milford Township, Brown County, Minnesota. The Project includes a commercial retail store, a warehouse, a fenced open air retail yard, covered garden center and retail yard, concrete parking lot, and street/access road construction on the subject property. The proposed Project also involves the installation of sewer and water mains, the extension of a municipal roadway to the Project site, and improvements to U.S. Highway 14. The commercial store and yard areas will be used for the sale of building materials, landscaping products, various hand power tools, and other home improvement items.

Copies of the EAW are available for review during regular business hours at:

- City of New Ulm, 100 North Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073
- New Ulm Public Library, 17 N. Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073
- Minnesota Valley Regional Library Reference Dept, 100 E Main, Mankato, MN 56001

RGU: City of New Ulm

Contact Person:

Steven P. Koehler, P.E., City Engineer
City of New Ulm
100 No. Broadway
New Ulm, MN 56073-0636
Steve.koehler@ci.new-ulm.mn.us

Project Title: NMCWD Eden Prairie Lakes Water Quality Improvement Project, NW and SW Anderson Lakes Drawdown

Description: The project proposes a drawdown of the water level in Southwest and Northwest Anderson Lakes and winter freeze to control non-native aquatic vegetation such as curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and consolidation of the lake sediment, thus reducing the internal phosphorus load. As an option, chemical treatment to control curlyleaf pondweed can be considered.

RGU: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

Contact Person:

Kevin Bigalke, District Administrator
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
7710 Computer Ave., Suite 135
Edina, MN 55435
952-835-2078
kbigalke@ninemilecreek.org

EAs AVAILABLE

Project Title: City of Blue Earth Municipal Airport Improvements

Description: The proposed project will extend the Main Runway 16-34 from 3,400 feet to 4,000 feet to accommodate larger aircraft for the near future Phase I improvements. Phase 2 improvements will extend the main runway from 4,000 feet to 4,400 feet in the future. The project is needed to allow the larger small business jet to be able to land and take off safely. The project will also entail vacating 80th Street, a Township Road, which is north of Runway 16-34.

Draft EAs may be viewed at:

Blue Earth City Hall
125 6th St.
Blue Earth, MN 56013-0038

Contact Person:

Sandy DePotty, Program Manager
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
612-713-4363

Ben Martig, City Administrator
City of Blue Earth
507-526-7336

Project Title: I-694: 35W to 35E

Description: The proposed action involves reconstruction of a 5.2-mile segment of I-694 as a six-lane freeway with auxiliary lanes and reconstructing interchanges at I-35W, Highway 10/Snelling Avenue, Victoria Street, and Rice Street. The I-694 EA is being distributed to those agencies on the current MEQB document review list and other interested agencies/individuals. The official public/agency comment period will begin on Monday, August 13, 2007 and will extend through Wednesday, September 12, 2007. Comments should address the accuracy and completeness of information, potential impacts that warrant further investigation and/or the need for an EIS. Comments should be directed to:

Mark J. Lindeberg
Mn/DOT Project Manager
1500 West County Road B-2
Roseville, MN 55113
Mark.lindeberg@dot.state.mn.us

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies, and groups to comment on the EA, a public hearing/open house has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2007, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Ramsey County Public Works Building, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Dr., Arden Hills, MN 55112. An informal open house format will be used and a project presentation will be conducted at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing/open house is to share information with the public regarding the project and encourage the public to comment and ask questions. The hearing/open house will also satisfy the environmental review legal requirements for the project.

The above referenced document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Mn/DOT Project Manager at 651-234-7722 or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529. Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public hearing/open house, please contact the Mn/DOT Project Manager or the Minnesota Relay Service as soon as possible.

RGU: MnDOT

Contact Person:

Mark J. Lindeberg
Mn/DOT Project Manager
1500 West County Road B-2
Roseville, MN 55113
Mark.lindeberg@dot.state.mn.us

FINAL AUAR ADOPTED

The Town of Hassan has officially adopted by resolution the final AUAR and Mitigation Plan for southeast Hassan, including the approximately 630 acre proposed Stones Throw Development project consisting of a mixture of residential and commercial development. The Town Board adopted the resolution on July 12, 2007. The total project area encompasses approximately 1,045 acres of land area in southeast Hassan Township. This area has been guided for urban services by the Town's Comprehensive Plan since 1999.

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.

- Department of Natural Resources, Waupaca Northwoods project

NOTICES

**Elm Creek Wind, LLC
Certificate of Need and Site Permit Applications
PUC Docket Numbers: IP6631/CN-07-789 and IP6631/WS-07-388**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND
SCOPING MEETING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Elm Creek Wind, LLC, has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a Certificate of Need (CON) and a Site Permit for a large wind energy conversion system up to 100 megawatts (MW) in Jackson and Martin counties. The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Energy 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.

**August 21, 2007, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Jackson County Library
311 3rd Street
Jackson, Minnesota**

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed Project, to take public comment and input on the draft Site Permit issued by the PUC and on the scope of the ER that will be prepared for the CON Application.

The public information meeting will follow an open-house format until 7:00 p.m. when the DOC will make a formal presentation. The public is invited to review the Applications and proposed Elm Creek Wind Project, learn more about the PUC review process, make comments and ask questions.

Project Description

Elm Creek Wind, LLC, an affiliate of PPM Energy, proposes a 100 MW wind energy conversion system using between 33 - 66 utility scale wind turbine generators each 1.5 – 3.0 MW in capacity and associated facilities including access roads, junction boxes, meteorological towers, communications lines and power lines. The Project is located approximately 10 miles north of Jackson and 10 miles west of Trimont on up to 10,000 acres under the Applicant's control in Enterprise, Belmont, Cedar, Kimball and Christiana townships (see attached map). Electricity from the Project would be transmitted to the existing Trimont Substation via 34.5 kilovolt electric lines. The Project is proposed to connect to the electrical grid at the Xcel Energy Martin County Substation.

PUC Review Process

Two separate PUC approvals are required to build a large wind energy conversion facility greater than 50 MW in size. First, a project developer must obtain a Certificate of Need under Minnesota Statute 216B.243 from the PUC. Second, a Site Permit for a large wind energy conversion system under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F is required from the PUC.

Elm Creek Wind, LLC, filed its CON Application on June 12, 2007, and its Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit Application on June 15, 2007. The PUC accepted the Applications and issued a draft Site Permit on July 26, 2007. The Applications and draft Site Permit are available from the web site and persons listed below. Landowners and governments inside the Project boundary will receive a copy of the Site Permit Application directly from the Elm Creek Wind, LLC.

The DOC EFP unit is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the CON Application under Minnesota Rule 4410.7030. The DOC will prepare an ER prior to public hearing and the PUC's determination of the need for the Project. The ER will consider issues related to the CON for the Project, such as size, type, timing, voltage and system configurations and general environmental impacts of the Project.

The DOC EFP unit is also responsible for conducting the public participation process for the Site Permit Application. Environmental review for the Site Permit is addressed in the Site Permit Application and the draft Site Permit. Human, social and environmental impacts raised in public comments may be addressed by adding or modifying specific conditions of the draft Site Permit.

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. These items will not be addressed in the PUC Site Permit process. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the Department. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager or register on the webpage cited below.

Public Comment Period

The DOC will accept written comments on the Elm Creek Wind Project Site Permit Application and the draft Site Permit, and suggested alternatives to be evaluated in the ER until September 12, 2007. Any person may request a contested case hearing on the Site Permit Application during the comment period pursuant to Minnesota Rule 4401.0550. Written comments and requests should be mailed or e-mailed to Sharon Ferguson, Docket Manager, at 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198 or sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us.

Upon completion of the public participation and hearing process, the records compiled in each proceeding will be presented to the PUC for final decisions on the Applications.

Eminent Domain

Elm Creek Wind, 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 Elm Creek Wind, 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, Site Permit Adam Sokolski Minnesota Department of Commerce 651-296-2096 adam.sokolski@state.mn.us	Public Advisor, Certificate of Need Bret Eknes Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 651-201-2236 bret.eknes@state.mn.us
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Copies of both Applications and other relevant documents, including Minnesota Rules and Statutes governing the process, are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19191>

Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the DOC EFP for future mailings regarding the Elm Creek Wind Project. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Sokolski or electronically by visiting the PUC Energy Facilities Permitting website above.

Finally, questions about the Elm Creek Wind Project can also be directed to the Applicant by contacting Mr. Tim Seck, PPM Energy, at 651-917-9285 or Timothy.Seck@PPMEnergy.com.

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BADOURA HVTL PROJECT
 PROJECT PROPOSER
 MINNESOTA POWER & GREAT RIVER ENERGY
 Hubbard, Cass and Crow Wing Counties, Minnesota
 PUC Docket No. ET2, E015/TL-07-76**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Badoura HVTL project proposed by Minnesota Power (MP) and Great River Energy (GRE).

Copies of the Environmental Assessment can be obtained through the DOC Project Manager and maybe viewed at PUC web site

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19051>

Persons can also register to be added to the project mailing list at this site.

Background. On May 25, 2006, the PUC issued an Order certifying that the Tower Project is needed and designating the project as a priority electric transmission project.

On March 16, 2007, MP and GRE submitted to the PUC a HVTL Route permit application regarding the proposed Badoura Transmission Project. On April 3, 2007, the PUC accepted the application as substantially complete and notified the applicant in writing of the decision.

Regulatory Review Process. In accordance with the Power Plant Siting Act a route permit is required before a high voltage transmission line (HVTL) can be constructed. The power plant siting act requirement became law in 1973 in Minnesota Statutes, 116C.51 through 116C.69. The rules to implement the permitting requirement for LEPGP are in Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400.

A HVTL is defined as a conductor of electric energy and associated facilities designed for and capable of operating at a nominal voltage of 100 kilovolts or more either immediately or without significant modification.

The application is being reviewed under the Alternative Review Process (Minnesota Rules 4400.2010) of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes 116C.51 to 116C.69). Under the Alternative Review Process, an applicant is not required to propose any alternative sites or routes. The Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting Staff prepares a document called an Environmental Assessment, and a public hearing is required. The PUC has six months to reach a decision under the Alternative Process from the time the application is accepted.

Project Description. MP proposes to construct and own the new Pine River 115 kilovolt (kV) Substation and the new 115 kV transmission line between the Pequot Lakes, Pine River and Badoura substations (approximately 30 miles). GRE proposes to construct and own the new 115 kV transmission line between the Badoura Substation and the Birch Lake Substation, and between the Badoura Substation and the Long Lake Substation (approximately 33 miles). Equipment modifications will be made at the Pequot Lakes, Badoura, Birch Lake and Long Lake substations to accommodate the new 115 kV transmission line.

Inquiries about this project should be directed to the DOC project manager, Bill Storm (bill.storm@state.mn.us) or the public adviser, Deb Pile (Deborah.Pile@State.mn.us) 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101, telephone 651.296.7502, facsimile 651.297.7891 (TTY relay service 800.627.3529).