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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: April 9, 2008

Project Title: Pine Way PUD

Description: The planned unit development includes nine (9) single family residential unit lots and one (1) common lot on 8.93 acres riparian to Ten Mile Lake (GD). The single family residential unit lots average 7,000 square feet with the remaining area, about 7.5 acres, as common open space. A dock system with mooring for nine (9) watercraft is also provided. "Pine Way" is located about four (4) miles west of TH # 371 along the north side of CSAH # 6 in Section 15 of Hiram Township (15-140-31).

RGU: Cass County Planning Commission

Contact Person:

Paul Fairbanks
Environmental Service Department
Cass County Courthouse
PO Box 3000
Walker, MN 56484
Phone: 218-547-7287
Fax: 218-547-7429
Paul.fairbanks@co.cass.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: North Central Speedway Campsite

Description: The proposed project is to provide primitive camping to recreational vehicles in Crow Wing Township. The development will occur on a 33-acre parcel of property and will include 150 parking sites that will accommodate different types of recreational vehicles.

RGU: Crow Wing Township

Contact Person:

Ryan Leister, Planner
14084 Baxter Dr., Suite 7
Baxter, MN 56425
Phone : 218-828-3064
Fax : 218-828-3069
leister@communitygrowth.com

Project Title: Oakport Township Flood Mitigation

Description: The proposed project entails constructing earthen dikes that will provide flood protection to 750 acres of rural residential development including 320 existing homes. The project will include the construction of a six (6) mile earthen dike, a stormwater collection system, and a stormwater treatment system.

RGU: Buffalo-Red River Watershed District

Contact Person:

Bruce E. Albright, District Administrator
PO Box 341
Barnesville, MN 56514
Phone: 218-354-7710
Fax: 218-354-2503

Project Title: Son-D Farms, Inc. – Thompson Site

Description: Son-D Farms, Inc is proposing to construct a 1,440-animal unit (AU) (4,800 finishing hogs) swine finishing site (Thompson Site) by constructing two new swine finishing barns with dimensions of 102 feet by 192 feet, and maximum capacities of 2,400 head each. Manure generated by the swine will be stored in below-barn, eight-foot deep, reinforced concrete pits. The proposed project is located in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 101 North, Range 41 West, Ransom Township, in Nobles County. All animals at the project site will be housed in total confinement barns. The final capacity at the site will be 1,440 AU.

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:

Nancy Drach, Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road No.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
651-297-8236

FINAL AUAR EXTENDED COMMENT PERIOD

Project Title: Elk Run AUAR, Pine Island, MN

The City of Pine Island issued a Draft AUAR for Elk Run that was in the Environmental Quality Board Monitor on November 5, 2007. The City of Pine Island received comments from the City of Oronoco, Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Olmsted County/ROCOG, and Mn/DOT. Since the comment period that ended on December 5, 2007 (except for Olmsted County/ROCOG which was extended to December 27, 2007) the City of Pine Island has had informal meetings to clarify the comments received from the City of Oronoco, Olmsted County/ROCOG, and MnDOT.

The AUAR boundary is reduced from its original size to include only the 2012 analysis as shown on the revised AUAR boundary map. All references to 2012 will now mean 2013.

The normal comment period is 10 working days. The City of Pine Island is extending the comment period to April 11, 2008. The original Draft AUAR, dated October 24, 2007, was not revised. Responses and mitigation plan to the comments received are addressed in the folder titled Responses and Mitigation. All references to the 2025 analysis are to be ignored.

EA/EAW AVAILABLE

Project Title: Minnesota Trunk Highway 23 Improvements in Lyon County

Project Description: The project involves improvements proposed on Minnesota Trunk Highway (TH) 23 in Lyon County. The proposed project is located on TH 23, from 0.9 miles north of Lyon County Highway 33 to 0.1 miles north of Lyon County Highway 24 at Cottonwood. The proposed project includes a concrete overlay of approximately 9.24 miles, and the construction of one four-lane divided highway passing lane section.

Public Review: Copies of the Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA) are being distributed to the EQB Distribution List, and others. Comments made on the EA will be received in either written form or verbally (by a recorder) and will become part of the official public hearing record. Written comments on the EA will be accepted prior to the close of the public comment period on April 23, 2008. Comments should be directed to the contact person indicated below.

The EA is available for review during business hours at the following locations:

Minnesota Department of Transportation, 1800 East College Drive, Marshall
Minnesota Department of Transportation, 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar
Lyon County Public Works Department, 504 Fairgrounds Road, Marshall
Marshall-Lyon County Library, 301 W. Lyon St., Marshall

The EA is also available online at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/23marshtocotton/index.html> and by contacting Susann Karnowski, Mn/DOT Project Manager at telephone (320) 214-6370, facsimile at (320) 214-6305, or email at susann.karnowski@dot.state.mn.us.

Public Hearing: The public is encouraged to attend an open house and public hearing to be held regarding the EA for the project. The open house will be held from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on April 2, 2008 at the Minnesota Department of Transportation building, 1800 East College Drive in Marshall. Members of the public will be able to view the EA, project maps and drawings, and speak to project representatives.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Susann Karnowski, Mn/DOT Project Manager
Mn/DOT District 8
2505 Transportation Road
Willmar, MN, 56201
Telephone (320) 214-6370
facsimile (320) 214-6305
email: susann.karnowski@dot.state.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.

- Cass County Environmental Services, Great River Energy (GRE) Transmission Line Project. Exempt.
- Carver County Board of Commissioners, railroad transloading facility in Dahlgren Township. Ordered.

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*.

- Sherburne County Board of Commissioners, Vonco II Gravel Mining, March 11, 2008 (December 31, 2007).

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Lyon County Sanitary Landfill Expansion Project, March 2, 2008 (December 31, 2007).
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, New Sweden Dairy, February 28, 2008 (January 14, 2008).
- Nicollet County Board of Commissioners, New Ulm Quartzite Quarries Phased Expansion, March 11, 2008 (December 31, 2007).

EIS NEED DECISION – POSITIVE DECLARATION

- Sherburne County Board of Commissioners, Vonco II C&D Landfill, March 11, 2008 (December 31, 2007).

The Sherburne County Board of Commissioners resolved that:

1. The information in the EAW did not adequately address all environmental issues relating to the Vonco II proposed Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill expansion project;
2. That the following concerns have been raised by the County Commissioners and will need to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):
 - A. Landfill leachate, is the primary vehicle for the generation and transport of contaminants from a landfill. While not a current landfill monitoring requirement, PFC's have been identified at some landfill monitoring wells. The County has concerns regarding the adequacy of the proposed groundwater monitoring wells to detect potential contamination of groundwater flowing toward the Mississippi River.
 - B. Vonco II is proposing to supplement their existing storage of landfill leachate by constructing a pond on top of the landfill when their final grades are reached. Vonco II also proposes to construct a 20 acre land application site on top of the landfill. Inadequate information was provided regarding their phase development of the facility as it pertains to their proposed management of their leachate, and when they reach final grade elevations.
 - C. The proposed project is an extension of an existing 160 acre Construction and Demolition Debris, and Industrial Waste Landfill operation that was approved in 2002. If approved, this proposal would effectively allow for a combined 306 acre Construction and Demolition Debris, and Industrial Waste Landfill operation.
 - D. Remaining Ultimate Capacity of the existing Vonco II facility is 17,111,124 cubic yards. The Ultimate Capacity of the proposed expansion site is 20,911,000 cubic yards. Combined, the total Ultimate Capacity of the facility would be 38,022,124 cubic yards, which would be larger than the Elk River Landfill, both MSW, and North Demo Expansion sites combined.
 - E. **(Omitted at the direction of the County Board)** The existence of high voltage transmission lines, owned by Xcel Energy, cross the northeast corner of the property, and the County is concerned with how the proposed landfill expansion project will impact these transmission lines.

- F. **(Omitted at the direction of the County Board)** Vonco II's proposed final grade elevations are 1035' Mean Sea Level, which is approximately 85.61' above average grade. This would require a 60.61' variance from the County's Solid Waste Management Ordinance. Final grade elevations of 1035' Mean Sea Level would be a continuation of what is currently approved at the existing facility. Recreational features in the area of the facility include the Mississippi River, which is designated as Wild and Scenic, and the Xcel Energy Great River Woodland Trail.
- G. **(Omitted at the direction of the County Board)** A perched water table is present on the southwest corner of the proposed expansion site. The extent of the perched groundwater is unknown.
- H. Hydrologic modeling results are not presented for the operational phase of the C&D landfill operation. Results for the final landfill cap are presented only for a 25-year, 24-hour storm event. The information presented indicates that 2-year and 100-year 24-hour storm water events were also analyzed, but the results were not presented for review. Additionally, the information presented on the conceptual stormwater catchment basins does not indicate where they discharge. This information is necessary to determine the potential geomorphologic changes to local drainage courses, erosion of these drainage courses, or the occurrence of localized flooding. Also, there is a concern regarding the adequacy of information provided pertaining to the management of their leachate storage pond and proposed land spreading location (located on top of landfill) in the occurrence of a significant rain event.
- I. The Sherburne County Comprehensive Plan shows this site as Urban Reserve.
- J. There are several heavy industrial facilities situated along the Mississippi River within Sherburne County. These facilities include Phase I of the VONCO II C&D landfill, the Sherco ash landfill, the NRG Energy, Inc. RDF Ash Landfill, the GRE Elk River Station, and the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. Whether these facilities result in an adverse or beneficial cumulative impact is not known. Further environmental study is needed to determine what the impact of these heavy industrial facilities may have to the long term viability of the Mississippi River in this area.
- K. The potential cumulative effects to surface waters from the VONCO II expansion (i.e., future) needs assessing along with the impacts associated with the current facility. The Mississippi River is the ultimate receiving water for surface runoff leaving the current and expanded VONCO II site. Between the current facility and the proposed expansion, 147.9 acres will be converted initially to an open gravel mine (from previously agricultural land). This conversion is expected to result in a reduction of surface water runoff and pollutant mass reaching the Mississippi River. Excess precipitation is expected to be retained within the open gravel mine. Gravel mining will effectively remove a portion of the subwatershed from the current drainage area to the Mississippi River. The area removed is small compared to the total drainage area (e.g., the drainage area of the Mississippi River at the St. Cloud gage exceeds 13,000 square miles – see the U.S. Geological Survey web site).

NOTICES

Public Meeting Notice

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, March 26th from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Shoreview Community Center in Shoreview, MN.

For more information please contact Leslie McInenly at 651-603-6761 or visit the calendar on the MFRC website at <http://www.frc.state.mn.us>.

Public Notice

The Pope County Board of Commissioners will hold a public input hearing in regards to amending the Pope County Comprehensive Local Water Plan. The Pope County Board of Commissioners had appointed several members to serve on a special task force to assist with this process and advise the Board on the contents of these plans for adoption. The public is invited to attend this public hearing and make comments on proposed plans.

This Plan is designed to make improvements to Pope County's local water quality. If adopted, these goals and objectives will stay in effect until 2013.

The public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 9 a.m. at the Pope County Courthouse Board of Commissioners Room.

Questions may be directed to:

Steven A. Lawrence, Director
Pope County Land & Resource Management
130 East Minnesota Avenue
Glenwood, MN 56334
Phone: 320-634-5715

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
08-NO-032	Monsanto	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance	Freeborn (5), Steele (3)
08-NO-033	Pioneer	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Freeborn, Steele
08-NO-034	Pioneer	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Redwood, Waseca
08-NO-035	M.S. Technologies	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Blue Earth
08-NO-036	Syngenta	Corn	Drought Tolerance Improved Yield Improved Stress Tolerance	Rice, Mower (2), Faribault, Dakota, Brown, Goodhue
08-NO-037	Monsanto	Soybean	Increased Yield Herbicide Tolerance	Otter Tail
08-NO-038	Monsanto	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Otter Tail Wilkin
08-NO-039	Syngenta	Corn	Disease Resistance	Brown, Dakota, Faribault, Goodhue, Mower (2), Rice
08-NO-040	Monsanto	Soybean	Increased Yield Herbicide Tolerance	Clay, Redwood, Wilkin
08-NO-041	Stine Seed Farm	Corn	Herbicide Tolerance Drought Tolerance	Renville
08-NO-042	Monsanto	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance Modified Oil Composition	Blue Earth, Clay, Redwood, Sibley

For more information contact Mary Hanks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651/201-6277, mary.hanks@state.mn.us .

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the Fenton – Nobles #2 115kV High Voltage Transmission Line

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed for the Xcel Energy Fenton to Nobles County transmission project and is available to the public. The EA addresses potential human

and environmental impacts of the proposed high voltage transmission line (HVTL) project and a route alternative. Copies of the EA and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19346>

Paper copies must be requested from the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security staff listed at the end of this notice.

Project Description

Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) has filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“PUC” or “Commission”) for a Route Permit for the Fenton to Nobles #2 Transmission Line Project (“Project”) on October 17, 2007 respectively, pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E.

Xcel Energy proposes construction of a second 23 mile long, 115,000 volt (115 kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the company’s existing Fenton Substation in Murray County and its existing Nobles County Substation in Nobles County. The proposed Project is required in order to accommodate wind energy on the Buffalo Ridge.

PUC Review Process

Xcel Energy has submitted an Application for a Route Permit to the Public Utilities Commission. DOC has been assigned to hold public meetings and prepare an environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed transmission lines under the alternative review process found in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849.

The DOC has prepared the EA, analyzing the environmental impacts and a route alternative.

A Public Hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings will be announced, noticed and held in Wilmont, Minn. at a time and date to be announced. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons receiving this notice by U.S. Mail.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact the DOC project manager, Adam Sokolski (Tel: 651-296-2096 or adam.sokolski@state.mn.us) or Deborah Pile (Tel: 651-297-2375 or deborah.pile@state.mn.us) Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint 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, and ask for the DOC.