



Publication Date: April 21, 2008
Vol. 32, No. 8

Next Publication: May 5, 2008
Submittal Deadline: April 28, 2008

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: May 21, 2008

Project Title: Mike O'Leary Feedlot Expansion

Description: Mike O'Leary Farms, Inc. is proposing to expand the existing operation with the construction of a new swine finishing barn in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 12, West Bank Township, Swift County. The new total confinement, power ventilated facility will consist of a swine finishing barn with a maximum physical capacity of 4,000 finishing hogs (1,200 animal units). Manure will be collected and stored in reinforced concrete pits beneath the barns. Each fall, the manure will be pumped from the facility and injected at agronomic rates into designated cropland as fertilizer.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

Barbara Jean Conti, Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road No.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
651-296-6703

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: Breezy Sand & Gravel

Description: Breezy Sand & Gravel is a proposed gravel pit located on 60 acres in the City of Breezy Point. The project will involve extraction of sand and gravel primarily for use as sewer rock and Class V fill. After gravel extraction, the site will be developed as a commercial or industrial park.

RGU: City of Breezy Point

Contact Person:

Brad Scott or Jim Perry
City of Breezy Point
8319 County Road 11
Breezy Point, MN 56472
Phone: 218-562-4441 ext. 262
Fax: 218-562-4468
brad@cityofbreezypointmn.us
jim@cityofbreezypointmn.us

Project Title: Sunrise Estates

Description: Sunrise Estates is a proposed 271-lot single-family residential development with 14 light-industrial lots located on 142 acres in Richmond, MN. The minimum lot size is 7,000 square feet for the residential lots and approximately 33,000 square feet for the light-industrial lots. The project will be serviced by municipal sewer and water.

RGU: City of Richmond

Contact Person:

Dan Coughlin, City Administrator
PO Box 400
Richmond, MN 56368
Phone: 320-597-2075
Fax: 320-597-2975
danc@ci.richmond.mn.us

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*.

- Savage City Council, Dan Patch Trail residential development project, April 7, 2008 (December 31, 2007)
- City of Moorhead, 34th Street Corridor and Interstate 94 Interchange project, January 7, 2008 (October 22, 2007)
- City of St. Paul, Southport Barge Channel Improvements, March 26, 2008 (January 28, 2008)
- Lakes and Hills of Douglas County Planned Unit Development, April 8, 2008 (January 14, 2008)
- Chatfield City Council, Hilltop Estates, April 14, 2008 (March 12, 2008)
- City of Emily, Roosevelt Shores Development, December 31, 2007 (March 11, 2008)

PETITIONS 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.

- Cass County, Kirkeby Point plat
- City of Duluth, Duluth School District Comprehensive Facilities project

SCOPING EAW & DRAFT SCOPING DECISION DOCUMENT

Nelson Mine Expansion Project Cottage Grove, Washington County, MN Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document

Description: Aggregate Industries proposes to expand its existing sand and gravel mine (Nelson Mine) onto approximately 404 acres to the south and east into a privately-owned portion of the backwaters of the Mississippi River. The proposed mine expansion would take place over approximately 20-years. The existing Nelson Mine is located at 11250 Grey Cloud Trail, Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

A floating dredge, similar to the existing dredge, would operate in the proposed expansion area. A floating conveyor system will be extended into the backwater mining area to the dredge. In the first few years of mining, the excess sand and fine particles will be pumped to create a barrier dike between Lower Grey Cloud Island and the first barrier island. Once a large enough depression is created by the underwater mining in the backwater area, the excess sand will be pumped into this depression. Mining in the proposed expansion area will take approximately twenty (20) years. The main processing plant is proposed to remain in the existing location for the foreseeable future and would be used for the crushing, screening, washing and barge loading of approximately 1,500,000 tons of aggregate per year.

The City of Cottage Grove has prepared a Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document to identify issues and analyses to be contained in the EIS. The Draft Scoping Decision Document is a preliminary document based on information currently available. It is subject to revision based on the entire record of the scoping process. Copies of the Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document are available for public reviewing during regular business hours at the following locations:

Park Grove Branch Library; 7900 Hemingway Avenue South, Cottage Grove, MN
City of Cottage Grove; 7516 – 80th Street South, Cottage Grove, MN

The Scoping Document is available for review online at <http://www.cottage-grove.org/nelsonmineproject>.

An open house will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2008 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall; 7516 – 80th Street South, Cottage Grove, MN.

Copies of the Scoping Document are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on April 21, 2008. Comments will be accepted through May 21, 2008 and can be directed to the contact listed below.

RGU: City of Cottage Grove

Contact: John McCool, Senior Planner for the City of Cottage Grove; 7516 – 80th Street South; Cottage Grove, MN 55016; Phone No. (651) 458-2874; Fax No. (651-458-2881); or via email jmccool@cottage-grove.org.

AUAR UPDATE AVAILABLE

**Project Title: 2008 Updated Final Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR)
United Health Group – Eden Prairie, Minnesota**

Description: The proposed Mixed Use Development consists of 1,140,000 square feet of office, 25,000 square feet of retail, a 125-room hotel with restaurant, and approximately 324 attached residential units. The 71+-acre site is located in the southeast quadrant of TH 62 and Shady Oak Road. Comment period ends May 2, 2008.

RGU: City of Eden Prairie

Contact Person:

Scott Kipp, Senior Planner
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Phone: 952-949-8489
Fax: 952-949-8392
skip@edenprairie.org

DRAFT EIS AVAILABLE

Title: Trunk Highway 23 and U.S. 71

Description: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) is available for State Project 3412-70, which involves improvements to Trunk Highway (TH) 23 and US Highway 71. The proposed improvements are located in the 3.5-mile common section of Trunk Highway 23 and U.S. Highway 71 (“Highway 23/71”). The project corridor extends from the Highway 23/71 northern split in Dovre Township to the southern split of TH 23/71 and Business 71 in the City of Willmar.

Copies of the Highway 23/71 Draft EIS are being distributed to those agencies on the current MEQB document review list and others. The comment period will begin on **April 21, 2008** and will extend through **June 6, 2008**. Copies of the Highway 23/71 Draft EIS are available for public review at the following locations and on the project website at www.projects.dot.state.mn.us/seh/2371:

- Mn/DOT District 8 Offices, 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar, MN
- Willmar City Hall, 333 SW 6th Street, Willmar, MN
- Kandiyohi County Highway Department, 1801 E Litchfield, Willmar, MN
- Willmar Public Library, 410 5th Street SW, Willmar, MN

Comments on the Draft EIS are being requested from individuals on the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board distribution list, as well as from other persons or agencies to whom the proposed project may be of interest. The comment period will begin on April 21, 2008 and will extend through June 6, 2008. All comments should be directed to: Lowell Flaten, Mn/DOT Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Transportation at the address found below. Comments received will be used by Mn/DOT and the Federal Highway Administration in selecting a preferred alignment alternative.

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the Draft EIS, a public hearing/open house meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday May 20, 2008 at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building, Multi-Purpose room, 2200 23rd Street NE, Willmar, MN 56201. An open house style public hearing will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Mn/DOT representatives along with their consultants Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., will be present to answer questions during the open house.

The Draft EIS can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Project Manager at (320) 214-3698 or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 or (651) 296-9930 TTY. Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Project Manager or through the Minnesota Relay Service at the telephone numbers listed above, as soon as possible.

RGU:

Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:

Lowell Flaten
Mn/DOT Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation – District 8
2505 Transportation Road
Willmar, MN 56201
lowell.flaten@dot.state.mn.us

FINAL EIS AVAILABLE

Project Title: Xcel Energy West Lakeland Ash Disposal Facility

Description: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposal by Xcel Energy, Inc. (Xcel) to construct and operate a fly ash disposal landfill on a 46-acre land parcel in West Lakeland Township. This is Xcel's preferred means of disposing of fly ash from the Allen S. King Electric Generating Plant in Oak Park Heights, which has recently been rebuilt to operate for the next 25-30 years, and whose current fly ash disposal facility in Oak Park Heights will reach permitted capacity in 2010.

The Final EIS is being placed on public notice for ten days. Comments on it must arrive at the MPCA not later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2008. Pursuant to applicable rules, the Final EIS consists of the timely Draft EIS comment letters and the Response to Comments document, which contains the MPCA's responses to timely comments on the Draft EIS.

The Final EIS is available for review at the following locations: the MPCA at 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul; the Legislative Reference Library at 645 State Office Building, St. Paul; the Minneapolis Public Library at 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; the Washington County Library at 8595 Central Park Place, Woodbury; and the Valley Branch Library at 380 St. Croix Trail, Lakeland.

The Final EIS may also be viewed on the MPCA Web site at: www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/xcel-eis.html.

Questions on the Final EIS and the EIS process should be directed to Jennifer Groebner at 651-296-7706.

Written comments on this Final EIS should be sent to William Lynott at the address listed below.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person:

William Lynott, Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division – 4th Floor
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

NOTICES

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
08-NO-070	University of North Texas	Wheat	Disease Resistance	Dakota
08-NO-071	Dow Agro-Sciences	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Dakota Fillmore
08-NO-072	Syngenta	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Meeker, Redwood, Renville

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 .