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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

EAW Comment Deadline: June 18, 2008

Project Title: Pelican Lake Restoration Project

Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) proposes a restoration project to lower high lake levels 3.3 feet from the current elevation of 954.0 feet on the 4,000-acre Pelican Lake (an MDNR-designated wildlife lake) in Wright County for wildlife management purposes, including reducing high water levels, constructing an outlet weir, constructing 23,800 feet of new stream channel, restoring a 180-acre wetland, stabilizing the lower reaches of Regal Creek (i.e., former Wright County Ditch No. 21), and constructing a velocity-tube fish barrier. The proposed project is located in Wright County, Minnesota in the cities of Albertville and St. Michael and in Buffalo and Monticello Townships.

The MDNR will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) during the public review and comment period, which begins on Monday, May 19 and concludes Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments on the EAW must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 to the attention of Charlotte W. Cohn, EAW Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4025. Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to environmental.review@dnr.state.mn.us with "Pelican Lake Restoration Project" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, please include your name and U.S. mailing address.

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>

Public review copies of the EAW are available at the following locations:

- MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155;
- MDNR Central Regional Headquarters, 1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55106;
- MDNR Division of Fish and Wildlife Area Office, 940 Industrial Drive South, #103, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, 56379;
- MDNR Area Fisheries Office, 7372 State Hwy. 25 S.W., Montrose, Minnesota, 55363;
- Great River Regional Library (Region 7W Regional Library), 405 St. Germain Street West, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301-3667;
- Buffalo Public Library, 18 N.W. Lake Boulevard, Buffalo, Minnesota, 55313;
- Monticello Public Library, 200 West 6th Street, Monticello, Minnesota, 55362; and
- Roy Simms Library, St. Michael Public Library, Colonial Mall, 403 Central Avenue East, Box 309, St. Michael, Minnesota, 55376-5501.

The EAW is also posted on the MDNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us. (Click on "Public Input", then select "Pelican Lake Restoration Project" from the scroll-down list under "Environmental Review"). Additional copies may be requested by calling (651-259-5101).

DRAFT AUAR AVAILABLE

Project Title: Winona Alternative Urban Areawide Review

Description: An Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) prepared to describe potential environmental impacts of development surrounding the City of Winona, Winona County, Minnesota is available. Please be advised that comments must be submitted, in writing, by June 18, 2008, by 5 p.m. to the contact person below.

RGU: City of Winona

Contact Person:

Mark Moeller, City Planner
PO Box 378
207 Lafayette St.
Winona, MN 55987

EAW NEED DECISION

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

- Duluth Planning Commission, 2007 Duluth School District's Long Range Comprehensive Facilities Plan (Red Plan), April 23, 2008 (March 28, 2008). Denied

EIS ADEQUACY DECISIONS

Project Title: TH 23 at Paynesville

On April 30, 2008, the Minnesota Department of Transportation determined that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for improvements to Minnesota Trunk Highway 23 in and near Paynesville in Kandiyohi and Stearns Counties is adequate. This decision completes the Minnesota environmental review process as found in Minnesota Rules 4410. The record supporting the Adequacy Determination is available via the internet at www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/paynesvillebypass/environment.html. Those without internet access may obtain a hard copy by request to Project Manager Lowell Flaten at 320-214-6367 or 1-800-657-3961. Notification has been provided to the EIS distribution list and others.

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*.

- City of Plymouth, Plymouth Creek Water Quality Ponds Project, April 8, 2008 (February 11, 2008)

AUAR UPDATE AVAILABLE

Project Title : Excelsior Crossings Corporate Office Campus – Hopkins, Minnesota

Excelsior Crossings has an approved December 2006 AUAR Update for 740,000 SF of office space and 6,000 SF of retail space. The developer proposes to change the project by shifting the use from general office to corporate office campus by adding approximately 56,000 square feet of office space and by changing the 6,000 SF of retail space to either 10,000 SF of employee-only daycare or 5,000 SF of employee-only daycare and 5,000 SF of retail.

Contact John E. Dietrich, ASLA, at 952-933-0972 with any questions you may have or e-mail him at: jdietrich@rlkinc.com.

FINAL AUAR ADOPTED

The Lakeville City Council adopted, pursuant to Minnesota Rules, Section 4410.3610, Subpart 5.E., the April 9, 2008 Final Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR), Final Mitigation Plan and Response to Comments for the First Park Lakeville development at the City Council meeting on May 5, 2008.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Proposed Amendments to Rules Governing the Environmental Review Program, Minnesota Rules, chapter 4410

Subject of Rules. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is considering four minor amendments to the Environmental Review Program rules which it intends to add to the group of amendments for which a Request for Comments was published in the State Register on August 7, 2006. This group of amendments has been termed the “Phase 2” amendments of the Environmental Review program. These are the rules under which Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs), Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), and other environmental review documents are prepared.

The EQB has recently identified four errors in the chapter 4410 rules that have not yet been addressed. Two of the errors occurred in the “Phase 1” amendments adopted in 2006. The errors occur in the following four rule provisions: 4410.0400, subpart 4; 4410.1000, subpart 5; 4410.1700, subpart 5; and 4410.4600, subpart 7. The proposed corrections are explained in the document described under “Rule Drafts” below.

Persons Affected. The proposed amendments may specifically affect project developers, local units of government and state agencies, citizens groups, and environmental groups. However, changes to the rules governing the Environmental Review Program may directly or indirectly affect all citizens of the state. The four changes covered by this notice would have very little if any affect, however, other than to reduce uncertainties or confusion about the interpretation of the rules.

Statutory Authority. *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 116D.04 & 116D.045, establish the Environmental Review Program and authorize the EQB to adopt administrative rules governing its operation.

Public Comment. Interested persons or groups may submit comments or information on possible rule amendments in writing or orally until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2008.

Rule Drafts. A description of the amendments being considered by EQB is available at the EQB website, www.eqb.state.mn.us, and from the EQB contact person noted below.

Agency Contact Person. Written or oral comments, questions, requests to be appointed to an advisory group, requests to receive the preliminary draft of the proposed amendments, or requests for more information on these possible amendments to rules should be directed to:

Gregg Downing
Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone: 651/201-2476
Fax: 651/296-3698
E-mail: gregg.downing@state.mn.us
TTY users may call the Board at 800/627-3529.

Alternative Format. Upon request, this Request for Comments can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape. To make such a request, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

Note: Comments received in response to this notice will not necessarily be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the administrative law judge when a proceeding to adopt rules is started. The agency is required to submit to the judge only those written comments received in response to the rules after they are proposed. If you submitted comments during the development of the rules and you want to ensure that the administrative law judge reviews the comments, you should resubmit the comments after the rules are formally proposed.

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE: AERIAL APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES

MN Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Division of Wildlife

The MN Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is planning to aerially apply herbicides on state lands. Herbicide applications will occur on approximately 771 acres and involve 22 individual sites. These applications will be used to prepare sites for the planting of trees as well as for the release of planted trees from overtopping and competing vegetation. Aerial application will begin on approximately July 15 and end on approximately September 12, 2008.

Administrative Area	# Sites	Acres	Herbicides
Blackduck	1	37	Accord
Littlefork	5	91	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Orr	6	205	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Tower	2	99	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Two Harbors	5	256	Accord, Garlon, Oust
Warroad	3	83	Accord
TOTALS	22	771	

For further information regarding this project, contact:

Bill Schnell, Forest Management Aerial Program Leader
MN DNR Forestry
1201 E. Hwy 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-999-7842

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
08-NO-079	Pioneer	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance Altered Fatty Acid Level	Clay
08-NO-080	Syngenta	Soybean	Herbicide Tolerance	Redwood

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.



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce



**Decisions on Great River Energy's Elk River Station Project:
Environmental Impact Statement Adequacy; Site Designation and Site Permit.**

At a meeting on April 24, 2008, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) determined that the Environmental Impact Statement for the GRE Elk River Station Project was adequate. The Commission also designated a site and issued a Site Permit for the proposed large electric power generating plant (LEPGP). The site is located on GRE's campus in Elk River, Sherburne County, Minnesota. The Elk River campus currently includes Elk River Station, a Refuse-Derived-Fuel (RDF) combustor that co-produces electricity, and the GRE's corporate offices.

On May 8, 2008, the Commission issued an Order adopting the ALJ's report, as amended and granting GRE a Site Permit to construct a large electric power generating plant.

The facility will use natural gas as its primary fuel and ultra-low sulfur distillate fuel oil as its backup fuel. The preferred project site is on GRE's campus in Elk River, Sherburne County, Minnesota. The proposed project consists of a single natural gas-fired simple-cycle combustion turbine generator (CT) with a nominal summer generating capacity of 175 MW and other associated facilities.

If you have any questions about this project or would like more information, please contact the Department of Commerce project manager: Bill Storm, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55155. Tel: 651-296-9535; e-mail: bill.storm@state.mn.us



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce



Notice of Public Information Meeting

In the Matter of the Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy)
Certificate of Need Application and
Site Permit Application for a
Power Uprate at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-08-185 (Certificate of Need)
PUC Docket Number: E002/GS-07-1567 (Site Permit)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting at the location listed below on a proposal by Xcel Energy to increase the electrical generating capacity at its Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP) in Wright County, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed generating capacity increase (power uprate) and to identify issues to study in an Environmental Assessment (EA) / Environmental Report (ER) to be prepared by the Department evaluating the proposal.

Thursday, May 29, 2008 – 7:00 PM
River City Extreme
3875 School Boulevard
Monticello, MN 55362

The public is invited to review the certificate of need application and site permit application, learn more about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) permitting process and ask questions. Representatives from the DOC and Xcel Energy will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, alternatives and specific impacts to be addressed in the EA.

The DOC will accept written comments on the scope of the EA until **June 9, 2008**. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

Bill Storm, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500,
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
bill.storm@state.mn.us

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to uprate the electrical generating capacity of MNGP from 585 megawatts electric to 656 megawatts electric (MWe). The uprate will occur in two phases – the first completed by 2009, the second by 2011. The 71 MWe uprate will be achieved by increasing the steam output of the nuclear reactor and capturing this additional output with improved electrical generation equipment and systems. Steam output will be increased through an increase in the number of new fuel assemblies replaced in the reactor core at each refueling. Equipment and systems modifications include:

- Replacement of the high pressure turbine
- Modification to the low pressure turbine
- Replacement of condensate demineralizers, condensate pump and motor
- Upgrades of electrical power supplies and power cooling systems

All modifications, except for limited power supply upgrades, will occur within the current physical footprint of MNGP. No new structures are proposed.

The proposed power uprate will require approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). An application is pending at this time.

The proposed MNGP uprate is part of Xcel Energy's 2007 Resource Plan to meet projected base load energy and capacity needs.

Regulatory Review Process***Certificate of Need***

No large energy facility can be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a certificate of need by the PUC. The certificate of need process is the only proceeding in which a no-build alternative and the size, type, timing, system configuration, and voltage of a proposed project will be considered.

The Department of Commerce (DOC) prepares an Environmental Report (ER) on proposed large energy facilities that come before the PUC for a determination of need. The ER analyzes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and project alternatives, and addresses mitigating measures for anticipated adverse impacts. To focus the content or "scope" of the ER, the DOC conducts public hearings to gather comments, questions, and alternatives to the proposed project.

The proposed MNGP power uprate qualifies as a large energy facility (Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421). Xcel Energy applied for a certificate of need for the MNGP uprate on February 14, 2008. On April 10, 2008, the PUC accepted the application as complete.

Site Permit

No large electric power generating plant can be sited or constructed in Minnesota without the issuance of a site permit by the PUC. The site permitting process is governed by the Power Plant Siting Act and Minnesota Rules 7849.5010 – 7849.6500. Certain smaller generating plants qualify for an alternative review process by the PUC. Under the alternative review process, DOC prepares an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA contains information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and addresses mitigating

measures for anticipated impacts. To focus the content or “scope” of the EA, the DOC conducts public hearings to gather comments and questions on the proposed project.

The proposed MNGP power uprate qualifies for the alternative environmental review process (Minn. Rule 7849.5500). Xcel Energy applied for a site permit for the MNGP uprate on May 2, 2008. On May 8, 2008, the PUC accepted the application as complete.

Coordinated Review Process

Under Minnesota Rule 7849.7100, a coordinated review process and hearing for a certificate of need and site permit is conducted if it is feasible, relatively more efficient, and in the public interest. For the proposed MNGP uprate, these conditions are met. Therefore, the Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct a coordinated scoping and environmental review process for Xcel Energy’s certificate of need and site permit applications. DOC will scope and develop one environmental document for both applications, an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Upon completion of the EA, additional public hearings will be held. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearings, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. The hearing for the certificate of need application will be a contested case hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). The ALJ will issue a report containing findings, conclusions, and a recommendation on whether the PUC should issue a certificate of need for the proposed project. The PUC must issue a certificate of need prior to issuing a site permit. The PUC must issue a site permit within six months of accepting the site permit application.

Eminent Domain

If issued a site permit by the PUC, Xcel Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire land for this project pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 216E.12. However, as the proposed power uprate would take place within an existing Xcel Energy facility, the use of eminent domain is not anticipated.

Project Contacts and Mailing Lists

Public advisors from the DOC and the PUC have been appointed to assist persons interested in taking part in the permitting process. For more information, contact one of the persons listed below:

Department of Commerce

The DOC has designated staff member Bill Storm (651-296-9535, bill.storm@state.mn.us) as project manager and Ray Kirsch (651-296-7588, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us) as public advisor for the site permit proceedings. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 1-800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Public Utilities Commission

The PUC has designated staff member Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257, Fax: 651-297-7073, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us) as its project manager and public advisor for the certificate of need proceedings. Mr. Kaluzniak may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Xcel Energy

Information about this project is available from Xcel Energy. You can direct questions to Brian Zelenak (612-330-5641, brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com). Mr. Zelenak may be contacted in writing at: Xcel Energy, 414 Nicollet Mall, 7th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Project Mailing Lists

If you would like to have your name added to the DOC project mailing list for this project, you may register on line at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19542> or contact DOC staff at the address above.

The PUC maintains a separate service list for certificate of need proceedings. To be placed on the list for this project, mail, fax or email Robin Benson at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, Fax: 651-297-7073, robin.benson@state.mn.us.

Information Availability

Copies of the certificate of need application and site permit application are available at:

- www.xcelenergy.com (Home > About Energy & Rates > Power Generation > Monticello Uprate)
- <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/powerplants.html>

Both applications can also be viewed at the following libraries:

St. Paul Public Library
90 Fourth St. West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Minneapolis Public Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Monticello Branch Library
404 W. Walnut
Monticello, MN 55362-8840

St. Cloud Public Library
405 St. Germain
St. Cloud, MN 56301-3697