



Publication Date: June 30, 2008
Vol. 32, No. 13

Next Publication: July 14, 2008
Submittal Deadline: July 7, 2008

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: July 30, 2008

Project Title: Zimmerman Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Expansion

Description: The City of Zimmerman proposes to expand and upgrade its city wastewater treatment plant by adding new sequencing batch reactor tanks, tertiary treatment filtration, and sludge handling facilities. These improvements are necessary because the existing wastewater treatment facility is at capacity and cannot meet the future demands of the city.

A copy of the Environment 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:

William J. Lynott
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-296-7794

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: Rochester Phase 3 NE Trunk Sanitary Sewer Relief Line

Description: The City of Rochester plans to install approximately 1,700 feet of 60-inch and 3,300 feet of 48-inch relief sanitary sewer to address inadequate capacity issues within its existing sewer service areas. These lines will supplement the City's sanitary sewer system and provide additional protection against surcharge from peak wet weather flows.

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:

Jessica Ebertz
Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Operations Section
Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-296-8011

Project Title: Trunk Highway 10 Third-Lane Addition Project, City of Coon Rapids, Anoka County

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation is proposing to add a third lane in each direction in the center median of Trunk Highway (TH) 10 from Egret Boulevard to Hanson Boulevard in the City of Coon Rapids. The project is approximately 1.4 miles in length and will result in a six-lane freeway facility. In addition, two bridges over the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe railroad tracks will be replaced.

Copies of the EAW, which documents the purpose and need of the project, alternatives considered, and the anticipated social, economic, environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning **June 30, 2008** at the following locations:

- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro District 1500 West County Road, B2, Roseville, MN
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Library, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN
- Legislative Reference Library, 645 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN
- Crooked Lake Branch Library – Coon Rapids Library, 11440 Crooked Lake Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN
- Northdale Branch Library – Coon Rapids Library, 408 Northdale Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN

In addition, the EAW may also be accessed via the internet at the following web address:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy10coonrapids/index.html>

Copies of the EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin **June 30, 2008**. Comments will be accepted through **July 30, 2008**.

The EAW can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling Peter Davich, Mn/DOT Project Manager at (651) 243-7617 or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 or (651) 296-9930 TTY.

Project Proposer: Minnesota Department of Transportation

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:

Peter Davich, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation
1500 West County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113
Phone: 651-234-7617
peter.davich@dot.state.mn.us

Project Title: Wedgewood Cove and Golf Club

Description: This project consists of developing 252.4 acres of farmland into residential planned unit development and 18-hole golf course. The development, located in Albert Lea, MN will consist of 151 lots, averaging 12, 437 s.f. in size. All residences will be connected to the City's sewer and water system.

A copy of the EAW will be available during the 30-day comment period at the City of Albert Lea's website:
<http://www.city.albertlea.org/home.html>

RGU: City of Albert Lea

Contact Person:

Steve Wirtz
Environmental Engineer
221 E. Clark Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
Phone: (507) 377-4325
swirtz@city.albertlea.org

Project Title: Teck Cominco American Incorporation Metallurgical Sampling Project

Description: Teck Cominco American Incorporated (TCAI) proposes to collect a copper-nickel ore sample near Babbitt, Minnesota. Samples will be collected from two sites that will be excavated over a three to four week period. The sites will be reclaimed at the completion of the project. All excavated rock will undergo processing at an offsite facility.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Tuesday, July 29, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

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

- MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
- MDNR Regional Headquarters, 1201 E. Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802
- Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Drive, Babbitt, MN 55706
- Virginia Public Library, 215 5th Ave., Virginia, MN 55792

The EAW is also posted on the MDNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us. (Click on "Public Input", then select "Teck Cominco EAW" from the scroll-down list under "Environmental Review"). Additional copies may be requested by calling (651) 259-5156. Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to environmental.review@dnr.state.mn.us with "Teck Cominco EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, please include your name and mailing address.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person:

Randall Doneen
EAW Project Manager
Environmental Policy and Review Unit
Division of Ecological Services
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

EAW NEED DECISIONS

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

- Scandia City Council, Tiller Corporation Mining Project. Exempt.
- Pope County Board of Commissioners, South Pointe Park. Denied.
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Midtown Eco Energy Biomass Energy Facility. Withdrawn.

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*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Negative Declaration, June 19, 2008 (April 21, 2008)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Negative Declaration, June 10, 2008 (March 24, 2008)

EIS ADEQUACY DECISION

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) announces the completion of the Record of Decision and Adequacy for the Highway 23 Bypass around Paynesville.

A Record of Decision is the environmental decision document, issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which explains the reasons for the project decision and summarizes any mitigation measures that will be incorporated into the project. Completion of the Record of Decision marks the conclusion of the Federal environmental review process and allows a major project to proceed to detail design, right of way acquisition, letting and construction.

The Record of Decision and the Adequacy Determination are available online at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/paynesvillebypass/documents.html> . If hard copies of the document are desired, please contact Mn/DOT Project Manager, Lowell Flaten.

The project is scheduled for letting in November 2009 with construction to begin in the spring of 2010. Construction will take place over two construction seasons with completion in November 2011.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation – District 8

Contact Person:

Lowell Flaten, Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation – District 8
2505 Transportation Road
Willmar, MN 56201
Phone: 320-214-6367 or toll free: 1-800-657-3792
lowell.flaten@dot.state.mn.us

NOTICES**Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms**

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
08-NO-083	USDA Ag Research Service	Soybean	Genetic Marker Transposon Insertion	Dakota

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 .

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES**MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL
West Central Regional Landscape Committee**

The West Central Regional Landscape Committee of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Friday, July 11, 2008, from 9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. in Staples, Minnesota, at the T Maxwell's Restaurant.

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

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, July 16th from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the AmericInn in Wabasha, 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>.



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security
Energy Facilities Permitting



Issued: June 25, 2008

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

In the Matter of the Application of Wapsipinicon Wind Project, LLC for a Certificate of Need for a Large Energy Facility, a 105 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) in Mower County, Minnesota (PUC Docket Number: IP-6670/CN-08-334)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 1, 2008, Wapsipinicon Wind Project, LLC (Applicant) filed an application for a certificate of need (CN) for the Wapsipinicon North Wind project, a large (105 MW) energy facility as defined under Minn. Stat. § 216B.2421, subd. 2(1). Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.243 a large energy facility cannot be constructed in Minnesota unless it receives a certificate from the Commission. The rules governing the review of this project are found in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849.

A site permit for the Wapsipinicon project (Docket No. IP6646/WS-07-839) has already been reviewed and approved. The permit for the North Wind project area is being held pending a resolution of the CN process.

An Environmental Report (ER) on the project and alternatives to it is being conducted by the Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) unit of the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) under Minnesota Rule 7849.7010-7110. A public information and ER scoping meeting will be held at the time and location listed below:

**Thursday, July 10, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Elkton Community Center Building
117 Main Street
Elkton, MN 55926**

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed Project and to take public comment and suggestions on the scope of the ER that will be prepared for the CN application. The public is invited to review the application, learn about the PUC review process, and make comments and ask questions.

Project Description

The Applicant would own, construct, and operate the Project. The Project would have a nameplate capacity of up to 105 MW and consist of up to seventy 1.5 MW wind turbine generators. The towers will be 80 meters (262.5 feet) in height. The rotor diameter will be 77 meters (252.6 feet), resulting in a maximum overall height of 118.5 meters (388.8 feet) when one blade is in the vertical position.

The electrical collector system will consist of underground 34.5 kV collection lines and facilities providing step-up transformation. The Applicant is also proposing to build a 161/34.5 kV project substation which will consist generally of 2 161/34.5 transformers, and associated switching and protection equipment as well as metering equipment and a small control house.

Power from the turbines will be collected at this substation and transmitted to the Pleasant Valley Substation located in section 19 of Pleasant Valley Township via approximately 6 miles of overhead 161 kV transmission line.

Other Project associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and access roads.

Proposed Site Location

As shown on the accompanying map, The Project will be located in central Mower County, near the town of Dexter, in portions of Grand Meadow, Pleasant Valley, Dexter and Sargeant townships, and approximately 20 miles east of Austin, Minnesota. The Applicant has designated approximately 40 square miles as the Project area. The town of Dexter is adjacent to the Project site to the Southwest. Interstate 90 is the southern border of the Project area.

PUC Review Process

An LWECS project over 50 MW must obtain a Certificate of Need from the PUC. The Applicant filed its CN Application on April 1, 2008. On May 21, 2008, the PUC accepted the CN as complete, given the Applicant's filing of supplemental materials.

The OES EFP unit is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the CN Application under Minnesota Rule 4410.7030. OES will prepare an Environmental Report prior to the public hearing for the CN and the PUC's determination of need for Wapsipinicon North Wind Project. The ER will consider issues related to the CN for the Project, such as size, type, timing, voltage and system configurations and general environmental impacts of the Project. Under state law, the CN 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.

The PUC will hold a public hearing on the CN application which will be presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the CN public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the OES. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the OES project manager or register on the webpage cited below.

Public Comment Period

Interested persons may comment on the certificate of need application and items and alternatives to be evaluated in the ER at the public meeting or may submit written or faxed (651-297-7891) comments by 4:30 p.m. on **July 21, 2008. Please include the following docket number (IP6646/WS-08-334) on any written material submitted.** Written or faxed comments should be directed to: David Birkholz, Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198.

Eminent Domain

Wapsipinicon Wind Project, 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 easements or lease agreements between Wapsipinicon Wind Project, LLC, and individual landowners.

Project Contacts and Information

OES Staff. David Birkholz has been appointed to prepare the ER for the CN process. He can be contacted at: Tel: 651-296-2878 or e-mail: david.birkholz@state.mn.us or the mailing address above.

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 Office of Energy Security.

Public Utilities Commission. Questions about the Certificate of Need proceeding for the Wapsipinicon North Wind Project may be directed to Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101; Tel: 651-201-2236 or e-mail: bret.eknes@state.mn.us.

Wapsipinicon Wind Project, LLC. Questions about the Wapsipinicon North Wind Project CN Application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ian Krygowski at Tel: 612-746-0770 or e-mail: iank@enxco.com.

Project Information

Copies of the Wapsipinicon North CN Application have been distributed to affected landowners, and township, county and state officials. Copies of the application are available for review at the Auditor's Offices in Mower County, the city offices in Dexter and Elkton and the clerks in the townships of: Clayton, Marshall, Dexter, Grand Meadow, Pleasant Valley and Sargeant. Record documents in the case, including the CN application, are available on the PUC Web site identified below.

Information regarding the PUC proceedings on the CN applications are available on eDockets by entering 08-334 at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

Other relevant files, including documents concerning the site application, are available on the OES website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19234>



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Office of Energy Security



Issued: June 30, 2008

NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE
AND
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

In the Matter of a Site Permit Application for the 20 MW
Sibley County Wind Project in Sibley County, Minnesota
PUC Docket IP6666/WS-08-208

Tuesday, July 15, 2008
5:30 p.m. Open House
6:30 p.m. Public Information Meeting

**Winthrop Vets Club
206 North Main St.
Winthrop, MN**

**DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABLE
For the Proposed Sibley County Wind Project
MPUC Docket No. IP6666/WS-08-208**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Sibley Wind Substation, LLC, has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit to build and operate up to a 20 Megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) west of Winthrop, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security (OES) will hold a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at the Winthrop Vets Club. The meeting will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the proposed draft site permit for the Sibley County Wind Project. The public information meeting and a comment period will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about and make comments on the Project, the process and the draft site permit. Representatives of the OES and Sibley Wind Substation, LLC, will be at the meeting to describe the proposed Project and answer questions.

Prior to the public information meeting, the applicant will host an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m. The applicant's representatives will be available at the open house to discuss the project and answer questions.

Project Description

The Applicant is considering three possible wind turbine generators for the Project. Depending upon the turbine model selected, the Applicant proposes to install 10-13 wind turbine generators and anticipates an in-service date of no later than December 2010. The proposed turbines would use 80 meter (262 feet) tubular towers measured at the hub height. Depending upon the model selected, the rotor diameter of the turbines would be 225 – 288 feet, with a maximum overall height of approximately 375 - 406 feet above grade when one blade is in the vertical position.

Energy from the Project will be delivered to the Applicant's Sibley Wind substation in Section 12 of Cornish Township. Electricity will be stepped up to 69 kilovolts (kV) at the Sibley Wind Substation and delivered to the high voltage transmission system via an existing 69 kV line. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and turbine access roads.

Proposed Site Location

The proposed Sibley County Wind Project is located in Sibley County, approximately 1- 3 miles west and southwest of Winthrop, Minnesota. The site comprises approximately 2,100 acres in portions of eight sections in Cornish Township. The Applicants anticipate that approximately 10 – 12 acres of land would be permanently removed from agricultural production for turbine sites, access roads and the Project substation.

MPUC Site Permit Review Process

Sibley Wind Substation, LLC, a Minnesota based corporation, submitted a site permit application for the 20 MW Sibley County Wind Project on April 24, 2008. On May 22, 2008, the PUC accepted the applications as complete, made a preliminary determination that a permit may be issued and issued a draft site permit. The

application and draft site permit are available from the web site and contacts listed below. Landowners and governments within the Project boundary will receive a copy of the application directly Sibley Wind Substation, LLC.

The OES is now initiating the public participation process under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 7836). Upon completion of the public participation process, the OES will present the record of this matter to the PUC for a final permit decision.

Public Comments

The site permit application, draft site permit and the agency rules guiding the review process are available on the PUC website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19541>

You may register on this same web site to be added to the mailing list associated with this Project and to receive future notices by U.S. Mail.

Interested persons may comment on the application and draft site permit at the public meeting or may submit written comments until 4:30 p.m. on **July 30, 2008**. Written comments can be sent by mail, fax or by email. Please include the project docket number (**IP6650/WS-08-208**) on written comments. Written or fax comments should be directed to:

**Suzanne Steinhauer
Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500,
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.
Fax: 651-296-2888**

DOC Project Contacts

Suzanne Steinhauer, with the OES staff is the Project Manager for the permitting of the facility. Larry Hartman, also with the OES Staff, has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. Questions, comments and requests to add your name on the mailing list for the Sibley County Wind Project may be directed to:

Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-2888
Toll Free (800)657-3794
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

Larry Hartman, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Office of Energy Security
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-5089
Toll Free (800)657-3794
larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Questions about the Sibley County Wind Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Mr. David Norgaard, Sibley Wind Substation, LLC, at 507-247-5672, or commish5@frontiernet.net.

Contested Case Hearing Request

Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter (Minnesota Rule 7836.0900). All contested case hearing requests must be filed with the Department of Commerce in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **July 30, 2008**. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reasons why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The PUC shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the hearing will aid the PUC in making a final decision on the site permit application and draft site permit.

