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Submittal Deadline: November 9, 2009

EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: December 2, 2009

Project Title: Pope/Douglas Waste-To-Energy Facility Expansion

Description: The Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management Board is proposing to add a third mixed municipal solid waste combustor to the existing two combustors at its waste-to-energy facility in the city of Alexandria. The new combustor (Unit 3) would have a throughput capacity of 120 tons per day (tpd). After construction, the total waste combustor throughput capacity at the site would be 240 tpd (60 tpd each for the existing Units 1 and 2 and 120 tpd for the new Unit 3). In addition to the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft Air Emissions Permit will also be available for public comment beginning November 4, 2009. The contact person for the Air Emission Permit is Bruce Braaten at 507-206-2607.

Comments will be accepted on the EAW until December 2, 2009, and on the Air Emissions Permit until December 4, 2009. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will host a public meeting on a proposed expansion of the Pope/Douglas Waste-To-Energy on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, at the Alexandria Technical College located at 1601 Jefferson Street, Auditorium Room 2005.

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:

Kevin Kain, Planner Principal
Environmental Review and Feedlot Section

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>

Regional Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2482

DRAFT EIS AVAILABLE

PolyMet Mining, Inc., NorthMet Project

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) that describes the anticipated environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed PolyMet Mining, Inc. (PolyMet) NorthMet Project. The NorthMet Project would create an open pit copper, nickel, cobalt and precious metals mine with adjacent stockpile areas; retrofit a portion of the former LTV Steel Mining Company (LTVSMC) processing plant and construct a new hydrometallurgical facility at the plant site; construct a new tailings basin facility on the site of LTVSMC tailings facilities; and add to existing utility infrastructure and rail lines.

The purpose and need of the project would be to produce base and precious metal precipitates, and flotation concentrates from ore mined at the NorthMet deposit by uninterrupted operation of the former LTVSMC processing plant site. The processed resources would help meet domestic and global demand by sale of these products to domestic and world markets.

The DNR will accept comments on the Draft EIS during the public review and comment period that concludes at **4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 3, 2010**. Written comments should be submitted to:

Stuart Arkley, EIS Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological Resources
Environmental Review Unit
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Comments may also be e-mailed to Environmentalrev.Dnr@state.mn.us (include "NorthMet" in the subject line). All e-mails should include a full name and legal mailing address.

The DNR will hold two public informational meetings for the purpose of considering public comments on the Draft EIS, as follows:

Wednesday, December 9, 2009
Memorial Gymnasium
Mesabi East Schools
601 North First Street West
Aurora, Minnesota 55705

Thursday, December 10, 2009
Schwan Center
National Sports Center
1700 105th Avenue Northeast
Blaine, Minnesota 55449

Both meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and will be preceded by open house sessions starting at 5:00 p.m.

Verbal and written comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted at these meetings.

Public review copies of the documents are available at: The DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul; the DNR Regional Office at 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids; the DNR-Division of Lands and Minerals Regional Office at 1525 Third Avenue East, Hibbing; the Hoyt Lakes Public Library at 206 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Hoyt Lakes; the Duluth Public Library, 520 West Superior Street, Duluth; and the Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. The documents are also posted on DNR's website at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/polymet/index.html>

There are limited hardcopy versions of the Draft EIS available. However a Draft EIS Summary document and a CD containing the full version may be requested via the e-mail address provided above or by calling the DNR at 651-259-5089.

Draft EIS Available and Public Information Meeting

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a 345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota

PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-08-1474

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Brookings to Hampton 345 kV transmission line project. The OES will hold public informational meetings to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the Draft EIS.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

Thursday, November 12, 2009

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

&

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Lonsdale VFM
115 2nd Avenue Southwest
Lonsdale, MN

Friday, November 13, 2009

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

&

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
20800 Kenrick Avenue
Lakeville, MN

Monday, November 16, 2009

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Prairie's Edge Casino & Resort
5616 Prairie's Edge Lane
Granite Falls, MN 56241

Tuesday, November 17, 2009
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
&
5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Best Western
1500 East College Drive
Marshall, MN

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
&
5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel
39375 County Highway 24
Morton, MN

Thursday, November 19, 2009
5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Brass Top Hall/
Wild Hog Saloon
514 Main Street
Henderson, MN

Public Information Meeting. The first half hour of each meeting will be an open house followed by a brief presentation. Following the presentation members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the Draft EIS. Representatives from the OES and the Applicants will be available for both the open house and presentation portion of the meeting to answer questions. A court reporter will also be present during each meeting to transcribe any verbal comments from the public.

The OES will accept written comments on the scope of the EIS until **Monday, November 30, 2009**. Please include Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474 on your comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Scott Ek
Project Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-297-7891
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted online via the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) energy facility permitting website at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/publicComments.html>

Project Documents. The Draft EIS discusses the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and evaluates 26 route alignment alternatives and 47 route segment alternatives as identified in the EIS Scoping Decision Document.

Electronic versions of the Draft EIS and other documents relevant to this matter are available for viewing and downloading on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19860>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDockets website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter year "08" and docket number "1474").

The Draft EIS will also be available at public libraries in the cities listed below after October 23, 2009:

- Brookings, South Dakota
- Bird Island
- Montevideo
- Northfield
- Ivanhoe
- Hutchinson
- Redwood Falls
- Chaska
- Shakopee
- Montgomery
- Farmington
- Saint Peter
- New Ulm
- Henderson
- Granite Falls
- Lakeville
- Marshall

Project Description. Great River Energy and Xcel Energy propose to construct and operate a 345 kV transmission line, approximately 237 miles long, beginning at the state's western border near Hendricks, Minnesota, and ending south of the Twin Cities metro area near Hampton, Minnesota. The Applicants have proposed two possible routes for the transmission line, a preferred and alternate route. These routes cross portions of the following counties: Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Redwood, Brown, Renville, Sibley, Le Sueur, Scott, Rice, and Dakota.

The Applicants' proposal also includes the construction of four new substations and the expansion of four existing substations. New substations include the Hazel Creek substation near Granite Falls, the Helena substation near New Prague, the Cedar Mountain substation near Franklin, and the Hampton substation near Hampton.

Review Process. Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. 216E), a route permit from the Commission is required to build a high voltage transmission line. A route permit application for the project was filed by the Applicants on December 29, 2008. The application was accepted as complete by the Commission on January 29, 2009. The Commission has one year from the time the application is accepted to complete the permitting process and make a decision on the route permit.

Route permit applications for high voltage transmission lines are subject to environmental review (Minn. Rules 7850). OES staff collected comments for the scope of the EIS by convening two advisory task forces, holding public scoping meetings throughout the proposed project area, and accepting written comments from March 30, 2009, through April 30, 2009. The EIS Scoping Decision Document was issued on June 30, 2009. On October 20, 2009, OES staff released the Draft EIS. Comments received during the Draft EIS public information meetings and during the Draft EIS comment period (October 20, 2009, to November 30, 2009) will be reviewed, responded to, and included in a final EIS.

Public hearings on the Brookings-Hampton 345 kV route permit will be held from November 30, 2009, to December 11, 2009, and will be presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ). A separate notice of these public hearings will be published in newspapers of general circulation throughout the proposed project area. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearings, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. The ALJ will submit a report to the Commission containing findings of fact, conclusions, and a recommendation on a route permit for the proposed transmission line.

Additional information on the transmission line route permitting process is available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/TransmissionLines.html>

Project Mailing List. Persons interested in adding their names to the Department of Commerce mailing list for this project should contact the OES project manager, public advisor, or register online at:

<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#MailingLists>

Project Contacts. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project please contact:

Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security

Scott Ek, Project Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-8813
scott.ek@state.mn.us

Raymond Kirsch, Public Advisor
Energy Facility Permitting
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
(651) 296-7588
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Applicants

Craig Poorker, Routing Lead
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
1-888-473-2279
cpoorker@grenergy.com

Pam Rasmussen
Xcel Energy
PO Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702
1-800-238-7968
pamela.jo.rasmussen@xcelenergy.com

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

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AUAR AVAILABLE

Project Title: Carver Freeway Commercial District Study Area Draft AUAR

Description: The AUAR area is approximately 164 acres of contiguous, mostly undeveloped land located along a major transportation corridor – TH 212. The AUAR assesses the potential environmental impacts of two development scenarios:

Scenario 1 - This scenario is the land use that is consistent with the adopted Carver County 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Under Scenario 1 (County Plan), the three farmsteads/rural residences would remain and two more would be added. The primary land use would remain agricultural, with some areas of undeveloped woodland.

Scenario 2 - This scenario is consistent with the adopted City of Carver 2030 Comprehensive Plan, should the AUAR area be annexed to the city. Under Scenario 2 (City Plan), the AUAR area would be converted to commercial land use, with approximately 920,000 sq ft of development.

The AUAR is available on the City of Carver website at www.cityofcarver.com

RGU: City of Carver

Contact Person

Cindy Nash, AICP, City Planner
Collaborative Planning, LLC
PO Box 251
Medina, MN 55340
Phone: 763-473-0569
Fax: 763-473-0659
E-Mail: c.planning@mchsi.com

AUAR UPDATE AVAILABLE

Project Title: Airport South District AUAR

At their meeting on October 19, 2009, the Bloomington City Council approved for distribution the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) update report for the Airport South District.

The AUAR update document will be available for review in the Planning Division offices at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. It will also be available for review on the City's website: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.

Written comments on the AUAR update report can be address to:

Robert Sharlin, Senior Planner
City of Bloomington
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431-3027
Phone: 952-563-8925; Fax: 952-563-8949
Email: bsharlin@ci.bloomington.mn.us

NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security

Issued: October 22, 2009

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

**In the Matter of the Application of EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC,
For a Certificate of Need for Large Energy Facility,
a 280 MW Wind Energy Farm in Fillmore County**

PUC Docket Number: IP-6688/CN-08-961

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the environmental report (ER) for the EcoHarmony West Wind Project has been completed and is available for review by the public. The ER addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives. Copies of the ER and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19910>

Project Description

EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company, is proposing to construct a 280 megawatt (MW) wind project in Fillmore County, Minnesota. A final decision on turbine selection and design has not been made, but the project will consist of turbines with a rated output between 1.5 and 3.0 MW in such number and combination as to yield 280 MW.

Facilities associated with the project include gravel access roads, a new substation, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building, meteorological towers, and an electrical collection system. The area of direct land use will be between 47 and 94 acres for turbines and access roads, depending on turbine size and number, with an additional 10 acres required for the new substation and O&M building.

The project will interconnect to the transmission grid through a 161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, approximately 8.5 miles long, which will connect the new project substation to a switching station and an existing 161 kV transmission line owned by ITC-Midwest.

The project will be located in the southeastern Minnesota townships of Harmony, Bristol, York, Carimona, Forestville, and Preston, each in Fillmore County. The project will be sited on approximately 23,000 acres within the 50,000 acre project boundary.

Commission Review Process

The EcoHarmony West Wind project is designed to produce 280 megawatts (MW) of power and thus is a large energy facility (Minn. Stat. §216B.2421). In accordance with Minnesota Statute 216B.243, no large energy facility may be sited or constructed in Minnesota without issuance of a certificate of need (CON) by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). On October 22, 2008, the EcoHarmony West Wind,

LLC, submitted a certificate of need application to the Commission. On January 15, 2009, the Commission issued an order accepting the application as complete and authorizing an informal review process.

The informal review process includes several steps designed to develop a record upon which a CON decision can be made by the Commission. These include the development of an environmental report by the Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES), and a public hearing conducted by an administrative law judge (ALJ). Based on the ALJ's hearing report and the entire record, Commission staff will make a recommendation to the Commission on issuance of the certificate of need. The Commission is the final decision-making body.

The public hearing on the certificate of need will be held on Monday, November 9, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Harmony Community Center, 2254 3rd Ave SW in Harmony, MN. A separate hearing notice will be provided with the detailed information. The Commission's review process for the CON is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of this electrical generation project will be considered.

Related Actions

In addition to a certificate of need, the EcoHarmony West Wind project requires a site permit for the wind farm, and a route permit for the 161 kV transmission line from the Commission. The site permit (WS-08-973) and route permit (TL-09-601) are being considered by the Commission in separate dockets.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the process, the project, or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact Larry Hartman (651-296-5089 or larry.hartman@state.mn.us) 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 Office of Energy Security.

This document can be made available in alternative formats; i.e., large print or audio tape by calling (651) 201-2202 (Voice) OR 1800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).