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# EQB MONITOR

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: October 10, 2007

### Project Title: MGT Products, LLC, Feedlot Expansion

**Description:** MGT Products, LLC, proposes to expand its current feedlot by constructing one 47,000 head grower turkey total confinement barn and one 52,000 head starter turkey total confinement barn in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 13 of Burnhamville Township, Todd County. The final capacity at the site after expansion is 188,450 turkeys or 2,105.1 animal units (AUs). The manure will be of the dry litter type and will be collected on the barn floors. Manure will be removed from the barns each fall, winter, spring, and/or summer, stockpiled, and applied to cropland as fertilizer.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Website at the following: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>.

**RGU:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

### Contact Person:

Barbara Jean Conti, Project Manager  
Environmental Review and Operations Section  
Regional Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road No.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 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: Miller Development—Waite Park, Minnesota**

**Description:** Miller Development is proposing to construct a multi-use development that would include food, gas, and retail services on approximately 54 acres of land. The new development would be located south of Trunk Highway (TH) 23 (2nd Street So.) and west of 10th Avenue South on the western edge of Waite Park.

**RGU:** City of Waite Park

**Contact Person:**

Shaunna Johnson, City Administrator  
19 13th Ave. No.  
Waite Park, MN 56387  
Phone: 320-252-6822  
[sjohnson@waitepark.org](mailto:sjohnson@waitepark.org)

**Project Title: Cormorant Township Gravel Mine NE 1/4 Section 32**

**Description:** Development of an approximate 120 acre aggregate mining operation in the northernmost 120 acres of NE 1/4, Section 32, T138N, R43W, Cormorant Township, Becker County. Adjacent property is primarily mining operations and some agricultural land. Access will be on the north side of the mining site to 115th St., then west to Co. Rd. 145, and north to U.S. Highway 10.

**RGU:** Becker County Zoning and Planning Dept.

**Contact Person:**

Patricia L. Swenson, Administrator  
835 Lake Ave.  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0787  
Phone: 218-846-7314  
Fax: 218-846-7266  
[plswens@co.becker.mn.us](mailto:plswens@co.becker.mn.us)

**Project Title: ANOVA Off Axis Detector Facility at Ash River Site**

**Description:** The University of Minnesota is proposing to construct an electron neutrino detector for research on sub-atomic particles. The facility will be about 30 miles southeast of International Falls, Minnesota and will include a 38,028 square foot detector assembly and service building, and a 3-mile access road. A public meeting will be held at the VFW Hall, Highway 53 in Orr, MN on Wednesday, September 26, at 7 p.m. The EAW may be viewed online at [www.soudan.umn.edu](http://www.soudan.umn.edu), copies are available for public review at the central public libraries in International Falls, Duluth, and Minneapolis and at the Orr city offices.

**RGU:** Regents of the University of Minnesota

**Contact Person:**

Kathleen O'Brien, VP for University Services  
317 Morrill Hall  
100 Church St. SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Phone: 612-624-3557  
Fax: 612-626-2278

**Project Title: Stearns County CSAH 2-South Project**

**Description:** Stearns County is proposing the construction of a 1.3-mile realignment of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2, providing a direct connection between Interstate (I)-94 and CSAH 75. The proposed roadway will initially be constructed as a 2-lane roadway, and ultimately being constructed to a 4-lane roadway. The proposed roadway would serve as a north-south minor arterial roadway in the growing western area of St. Joseph. Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to begin in 2009.

The EAW can be viewed at the following locations beginning September 10: Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN; Al Ringsmuth Library, 253 N. 5th Ave., Waite Park, MN; Great River Regional Library, 405 St. Germain, St. Cloud, MN; St. Joseph City Hall, 25 College Ave. N., St. Joseph, MN.; Stearns County Public Works Department, 455 28th Avenue South, Waite Park, MN.

An opportunity for the public to comment on the EAW will be provided during the Tuesday, September 25, 2007 meeting of the Stearns County Board. Stearns County Board meetings begin at 9:00 am and are held at the Administration Center Board Room (705 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud, MN).

**RGU:** Stearns County

**Contact Person:**

Mitch Anderson, P.E., County Engineer  
Stearns County Public Works Dept.  
PO Box 246  
St. Cloud, MN 56302  
Phone: 320-255-6180  
Fax: 320-255-6186  
[mitch.anderson@co.stearns.mn.us](mailto:mitch.anderson@co.stearns.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.

- Roseville City Council, Oak Acres, Denied.

## 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*.

- Faribault City Council, TH 60 West Commercial Development, August 28, 2007 (July 16, 2007)
- Blue Earth County Board, SMC Madsen—Little Pit, Rapidan Township, May 29, 2007 (March 12, 2007)
- Eureka Town board, Eureka Sand and Gravel Mining, August 13, 2007 (June 18, 2007)

## AUAR UPDATE AVAILABLE

### **Project Title: Twin Lakes Business Park AUAR Update**

On August 27, 2007, the City of Roseville's City Council passed a resolution deeming its Draft Twin Lakes Business Park Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) Update "complete and accurate" and releasing it for agency review and public comment.

As part of the August 27th resolution, the City council extended the ten-day review period for the AUAR Update to twenty days due to the extent of changes made to the original 2001 Twin Lakes Business Park AUAR. Twenty business days from the Council's release date is September 25, 2007.

Please direct questions and comments on the AUAR Update to:

Jamie Radel  
City of Roseville  
2660 Civic Center Dr.  
Roseville, MN 55113  
Phone: 651-792-7072  
[jamie.radel@ci.roseville.mn.us](mailto:jamie.radel@ci.roseville.mn.us)

## AUAR

### **Project Title: Northwest Expansion Area AUAR Update**

An AUAR was adopted in February 2006 for the 3,140-acre Northwest Expansion Area of Inver Grove Heights. A proposed land use change for a portion of the study area requires the update of the Development Scenario and an update to the AUAR. Forty-seven acres at the northwest quadrant of TH 55 and TH 3 change from Office/Industrial to a new land use category Office/Industrial/Commercial. This update is necessary since the proposed land use change increases the total amount of commercial development in the Northwest Expansion area.

The comment period for the AUAR Update will remain open until September 25, 2007. Comments on the AUAR Update should be submitted directly to Tom Link, Community Development Director, City of Inver Grove Heights, 8150 Barbara Ave., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077-3410.

This document is also available for review at Inver Glen Library, 8090 Barbara Ave. and at City Hall, 8150 Barbara Ave.

## NOTICES

### **Public Meeting Notice – Minnesota Forest Resources Council**

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) will meet on Wednesday, September 19, from 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Cloquet Forestry Center in Cloquet, 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>.

### **NOTICE OF SALE OF STATE METALLIC MINERALS LEASES**

Notice is hereby given that a sale of leases to explore for, mine and remove metallic minerals in trust fund lands, lands and minerals forfeited for non-payment of taxes, lands and minerals otherwise acquired, and other state-owned land under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Natural Resources, and located in portions of Carlton, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. The sale will take place in the East-West Conference Room located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the DNR Central Office Building, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The Commissioner of Natural Resources will receive sealed bids and applications for leases covering minerals in state lands, in accordance with Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 through 6125.0700, which are the metallic minerals rules issued under the authority of Minnesota Statutes.

Each bid must be submitted on a form obtained from the Commissioner. Each bid form must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or bank money order, payable to the Department of Natural Resources in the sum of the following amounts: a) an application fee of \$100.00 for each mining unit bid upon; and b) rental for one full calendar year for each mining unit bid upon. All bids must be received by the Commissioner at the office of the Division of Lands and Minerals, Fourth Floor, DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4045, before 4:30 p.m. of Tuesday, October 23, 2007.

On Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at the time specified, the Commissioner or his representative will publicly open the bids and announce the amount of each bid separately. At a subsequent time leases will be awarded by the Commissioner, with the approval of the State Executive Council, to the highest bidder for the respective mining units, but no bids will be accepted that do not equal or exceed the base royalty rates set forth

in the rules or that do not comply with all provisions of the rules. The right is reserved to the State, through the Executive Council, to reject any or all bids.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules is to promote and regulate the prospecting for, mining and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These rules, and the leases issued under the rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of minimum rentals which increase with the passage of time, the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed, the submission of data and other reports, and the submission of exploration plans. In addition, the state lessee must comply with all applicable regulatory laws. No land or water areas within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness or Voyageurs National Park are included in this or any state mineral lease sale.

After the conclusion of the sale, the Commissioner shall request each high bidder to provide evidence the bidder is qualified to hold state mineral leases pursuant to Minnesota Rules, part 6125.0410. The rules state that a lease will only be issued to an applicant qualified to do business in Minnesota and qualified to conduct exploratory borings in Minnesota. In addition, the Commissioner may request evidence that the lease applicant is technically and financially capable of performing under the terms of a state mineral lease. The requested evidence must be provided within 45 days of the request from the Commissioner or the bids from that high bidder will be rejected.

Upon the award of a lease, the application fee submitted with the bid will be deposited as a fee for the lease. All bids not accepted will become void, and the application fee and rental payment accompanying such bids will be returned to the respective bidders; provided, however, the application fee and rental payment accompanying a bid shall not be returned if the bidder was the high bidder and subsequently withdrew the bid prior to the awarding of a lease.

Bid forms, instructions on how bids are to be submitted, copies of the rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 through 6125.0700) and copies of the Mining Unit Book, listing the land areas designated by the Commissioner as mining units, may be obtained from the Transactions Section, Division of Lands and Minerals, DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4045. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [kathy.lewis@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:kathy.lewis@dnr.state.mn.us).

The Mining Unit Book will be available at least thirty days prior to October 24, 2007. Application for each copy of the Mining Unit Book must be accompanied by a check or money order payable to the Department of Natural Resources in the sum of \$20.00 as a fee for such Mining Unit Book plus shipping and applicable State of Minnesota Sales Tax. Unit books will also be available for inspection at the Hibbing and Saint Paul offices of the Division of Lands and Minerals, and on the internet through the DNR website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals).

By: Marty K. Vadis, Director  
Division of Lands and Minerals

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**  
**Issued: August 30, 2007**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE, DRAFT SITE PERMIT  
AVAILABILITY, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING**

**For the**  
**Wapsipinicon/Grand Meadow Wind Project in Mower County**  
**Proposed by enXco Development Corporation and Xcel Energy**

**Site Permit and Certificate of Need Applications**  
**PUC Docket Numbers:**  
**IP6646/WS-07-839 & E0022/CN-07-873**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that enXco Development Corporation (enXco) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit for a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) of approximately 205.5 megawatts (MW) in Mower County.

Xcel Energy entered into an agreement to purchase from enXco 100.5 MW of the proposed Wapsipinicon 205.5 MW Wind Project. However, Xcel Energy must first obtain a Certificate of Need. Xcel Energy has filed a Certificate of Need with the PUC for the portion of the project they will purchase which is referred to as the Grand Meadow Wind Farm.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff will prepare an Environmental Report (ER) on the Project. A public information and environmental report scoping meeting will be held at the location listed below.

**Wednesday, September 19, 2007, 7:00 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, to take public comment and suggestions on the Draft Site Permit issued by the PUC for the site permit and on the scope of the ER that will be prepared on the CON application.

The public is invited to review the Applications and proposed Wapsipinicon/Grand Meadow Wind Farm Project, learn about the PUC review process, make comments and ask questions.

**Project Description**

enXco's proposed 205.5 MW Wapsipinicon Wind Project, which includes Xcel Energy's proposed purchase of 100.5 MW and is referred to as the Grand Meadow Wind Farm, is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) comprising up to 137 General Electric 1.5 MW turbines and associated facilities.



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. enXco 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. This transmission line project will be reviewed and permitted by Mower County and does require a route permit from the PUC.

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

### **Proposed Site Location**

As shown on the accompanying map, the proposed project site is located in central Mower County; portions of the project will be located in parts of Clayton, Marshall, Dexter, Grand Meadow, Pleasant Valley and Sargeant Townships. The total project site area including the wind plant and land easements is approximately 65 square miles (41,600 acres) as proposed to provide turbine siting flexibility and to allow sufficient room for buffers from microwave beam paths, setbacks from existing wind projects and other features within or close to the site.

### **PUC Review Process**

Two separate PUC approvals are required, in this instance, to build a large wind energy conversion facility. First, a project over 50 MW must obtain a Certificate of Need under Minnesota Statute 216B.243 from the PUC. Second, a Site Permit for a large wind energy conversion system under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F is required from the PUC.

enXco filed its LWECs Site Permit Application on June 25, 2007, with the PUC for the 205.5 MW Wapsipinicon Wind Project. enXco entered into an agreement with Xcel Energy to sell 100.5 MW's of the 205.5 MW project to Xcel.

Xcel Energy filed its CON Application on June 25, 2007, for its 100.5 MW Grand Meadow Wind Farm, which Xcel will purchase from enXco, the developer of the Wapsipinicon Wind Project.

On August 7, 2007, the PUC accepted enXco's Site Permit Application and Xcel's CON application for the Wapsipinicon/Grand Meadow Wind Project.

The DOC EFP unit is responsible for conducting public meetings and environmental review of the CON Application under Minnesota Rule 4410.7030. The DOC will prepare and Environmental Report (ER) prior to the public hearing for the CON and the PUC's determination of need for Xcel's 100.5 MW Grand Meadow Wind Farm. The ER will consider issues related to the CON for the Project, such as size, type, timing, voltage and system configurations and general environmental impacts of the Project.



The DOC EFP unit is also responsible for conducting the public participation process for the Site Permit Application. Environmental review for the Site Permit is addressed in the Site Permit Application and the draft Site Permit. Human, social and environmental impacts identified in public comments may be addressed by adding or modifying specific conditions of the Draft Site Permit.

After completion of the ER, the PUC will hold a public hearing on the CON application which will be presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under state law, the CON 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. These items will not be addressed in the PUC Site Permit process. Notice of the CON public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list with the DOC. Persons interested in adding their names to this mailing list should contact the DOC project manager or register on the webpage cited below.

### **Public Comment Period**

The site permit application, Draft Site Permit and the agency rules guiding the review process are available on the MPUC website at:

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

Interested persons may comment on the site permit application, Draft Site Permit, items and alternatives to be evaluated in the ER at the public meeting or may submit written or fax (651-297-1959) comments by 4:30 p.m. on **October 10, 2007**. **Please include the following docket number (IP6646/WS-07-839 or E0022/CN-07-873 ) on any written material submitted.** Written or fax comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

### **Hearing Request**

Any person may request a contested case hearing for the site permit Application (Minnesota Rule 7836.0900 Subp.5.A. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Sharon Ferguson (address above) in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 10, 2007**. The person requesting the public hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reasons why a 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.

Upon completion of the public participation and CON hearing process, the records compiled in each proceeding will be presented to the PUC for final decisions on the Applications.

### **Eminent Domain**

enXco Development Corporation, 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 enXco Development Corporation and individual landowners.

## Project Contacts and Information

**Site Permit Contact Department of Commerce.** Questions about the project and the PUC permitting process may be directed to: Larry B. Hartman, Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; Tel: 651-296-5089; e-mail [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us).

David Birkholz, with the DOC staff, has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. He can be contacted at: Tel: 651-296-2878 or e-mail: [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us) and 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 DOC

**CON Contact Public Utilities Commission.** Questions about the Certificate of Need proceeding for the Grand Meadow Wind Farm may be directed to Bret Eknes, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101; Tel: 651-201-2236 or e-mail: [bret.eknes@state.mn.us](mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us).

**enXco.** Questions about the Wapsipinicon Wind Project Site Permit Application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ian Krygowski at 612-746-0770 or [iank@enxco.com](mailto:iank@enxco.com).

**Xcel Energy.** Questions about Xcel's CON application may be directed to Brian Zelenak at 612-330-5641 or [brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com](mailto:brian.r.zelenak@xcelenergy.com).

## Project Background Information

Copies of the Wapsipinicon Site Permit Application have been distributed to affected landowners, and township, county and state officials. Copies of the application and Draft Site Permit 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. All site permit project documents are available on the PUC Web site identified above.

Information regarding the PUC proceedings on the site permit and CON applications will be available on the website identified above or on eDockets at:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

For information on the site permit type in 07-839 and for information on the CON proceeding type in 07-873.



