EQB MONITOR

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The EQB has transitioned to a new electronic notification system called GovDelivery. Add MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list. **Manage your subscription**.

EQB Meetings are regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month, which can be found on the EQB Calendar. There may be additional special meetings as well. Meeting minutes, packets, and agendas are posted on the **EQB website**.

- Environmental Assessment Worksheets
- EAW Need Decision
- EIS Need Decision
- Notices

Notice: EQB Releases "Tools to Assist Local Government in Planning for and Regulating Silica Sand Projects," Draft Model Standards and Criteria for Silica Sand Activities

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board has produced a draft document entitled "Tools to Assist Local Government in Planning for and Regulating Silica Sand Projects."

The document was prepared to fulfill the mandate by the 2013 legislature to prepare model standards and criteria for mining, processing, and transporting silica sand. The document is a toolbox of planning and regulatory approaches that local governments can use to address activities related to silica sand. Silica sand often is called 'frac sand' or 'frack sand'.

The draft of the Silica Sand Model Standards and Criteria can be viewed here:
http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/documents/Tools%20for%20Local%20Govt%20draft%20DECEMBER%2013_2013.pdf

The EQB is accepting comments on the "Tools" document. The public comment period runs December 13, 2013 through January 13, 2014. Comments can be submitted to the EQB until January 13, 2014.

Comments submitted via e-mail are preferable and can be submitted to: silicasand.eqb@state.mn.us

Hard copy comments can be submitted to: Jeff Smyser, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155-4194.

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

EAW Comment Deadline January 22, 2014

Project Title: Draft Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for TH 34 Passing Lanes from Detroit Lakes to Nevis

Project Description: This project involves constructing improvements to Trunk Highway (TH) 34 at eight locations between Detroit Lakes and Akeley (just east of Nevis) to provide turn lanes and/or passing lanes. The improvements will affect approximately 12 miles of the 57 mile corridor.

The comment period for this project will be December 23, 2013 through January 22, 2014. A copy of the Draft EAW can be accessed from MnDOT's website at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d4/projects/hwy34/. It will also be available in hard copy at the following locations:

• Detroit Lakes Public Library, 1000 Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
• Park Rapids Public Library, 210 1st Street W, Park Rapids, MN 56470
• Bemidji Public Library, 509 American Avenue NW, Bemidji, MN 56601
• Fergus Falls Public Library, 205 E Hampden, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
• Hennepin County Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

Contact Person: Thomas Lundberg
Project Manager
MnDOT
1000 Hwy 10 W
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218-846-3634
Thomas.Lundberg@state.mn.us

To request this document in an alternative format, please contact the Affirmative Action Office at 651-366-4723 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us. (Please request at least one week in advance.)

Project Title: Blazing Star State Trail, Myre-Big Island State Park to Hayward project

Project Description: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources proposes to extend the Blazing Star State Trail 2.4 miles from Myre-Big Island State Park to Hayward in Freeborn County. The trail will consist of a 10-foot wide bituminous surface for pedestrian, bicycle and other non-motorized uses, and requires a new bridge crossing Albert Lea Lake. The 100-foot single span pedestrian bridge will be adjacent and parallel to the existing railroad bridge.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at 4:30 p.m.

Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us with "Blazing Star EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, include name and mailing address. Written comments may also be sent by fax to (651) 296-1811.

A copy of the EAW is available for public review at:

• DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
• DNR South Region, 261 Highway 15 South, New Ulm, MN 56073
• Hennepin Co.- Minneapolis Central Library, Government Documents, 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992

• Albert Lea Public Library, 211 E. Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007
• Rochester Public Library, Reference Dept., 101 Second St. SE, Rochester, MN 55904

The EAW is also posted on the DNR's website at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html
(Click on "Public Input", then select "Blazing Star EAW" from the scroll-down list under "Environmental Review"). Additional copies may be requested by calling (651) 259-5157

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person: Ronald Wieland, EAW Project Manager
Environmental Policy and Review Unit
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN, 55155-4025

Project Title: Cambria Line #5 Expansion

Project Description: The Cambria Line #5 Expansion consists of a 110,410 gross square foot addition to the south end of the existing Cambria facility in Le Sueur, MN, comprising of a new slab production and warehousing space.

RGU: City of LeSueur

Contact Person: Jason Verly
Cambria USA
704 North Main Street
Le Sueur, MN 56058
jason.verly@cambriausa.com
507-665-4530

EAW Need Decision

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

- Coldspring CUP Request for Granite Quarry,City of St. Cloud, EAW denied

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EIS Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does 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.

- Mille Lacs County, Eddy's Demolition & Reconstruction, December 3, 2013 (September 16, 2013)

Notices

Notice of Draft Site Permit Issuance and Public Hearing

In the Matter of the Certificate of Need and Site Permit Application of Stoneray Power Partners, LLC for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Pipestone and Murray County - PUC Docket Number: IP-6646/CN-13-193 and WS-13-216 OAH Docket Number: 68-2500-31125

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Office of Administrative Hearings will hold a public hearing on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on the application of Stoneray Power Partners, LLC to the Commission for a site permit to build and operate a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of up to 105 megawatts (MW) in Pipestone and Murray County.

Tuesday, January 14, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Lake Wilson American Legion
Broadway Avenue/Main Street
Lake Wilson, MN 56151

The purpose of the Draft Site Permit is identify areas of contention. The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit public comments regarding the proposed Stoneray Wind Project and the Draft Site Permit issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). Stoneray Wind Power Partners, LLC (Stoneray) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of EDF Renewable Energy (EDF). Representatives from the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Commerce (EERA) and Stoneray Power Partners will be present to answer questions about the proposed project.

Public Comments. In addition to receiving comments at the public hearing, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will also accept written comments now until 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Please include Docket Number IP-6646/WS-13-216 on your comments. Comments can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to: The Honorable Jeanne M. Cochran, Office of Administrative Hearings, Email: RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us,, Fax: 651-361-7936, P.O. Box 64620, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620.

Proposed Site Location. The proposed Stoneray Wind Project is located in Pipestone and Murray Counties in the townships of Rock, Burke, Chanarambie and Cameron, around the community of Woodstock. The site encompasses 29,500 acres.

Project Description. Stoneray proposes to install between 32 and 62 wind turbine generators depending on what turbines are ultimately selected. Turbines under consideration are the General Electric 1.7-100, Vestas V110-2.0, Siemens SWT-2.3-108, and Siemens SWT-3.2-113. Hub heights range from 80 to 100 meters. Associated facilities include transmission lines, a project substation, collection and feeder lines, turbine access roads, temporary and permanent meteorological towers, and an O&M facility. Stoneray proposes is to achieve commercial operation by December 31, 2014.

Commission Review Process. The Commission is reviewing this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules chapter 7854).

Stoneray filed a site permit application for the 105 MW LWECS with the Commission on June 11, 2013. The Commission issued an order accepting the site permit application on July 24, 2013.

The Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff solicited comments on issues to be considered in developing a Draft Site Permit for this project until August 30, 2013. EERA staff has prepared a Draft Site Permit for consideration by the Commission. On December 19, 2013, the Commission met and verbally approved the Draft Site Permit for distribution and public comment, the draft site permit is available in eDockets. Under the LWECS siting process, environmental review is incorporated into the development of the site permit application and the site permit itself; there is no separate environmental review document prepared on the project.

Judge Cochran will use information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period to write a report for the Commission. The report will include findings, conclusions, and recommendations about this site proposed for this project and will include a summary of the public comments provided at the hearing. After receiving the Judge's report, the Commission will make final decisions on this project at a separate meeting, expected by June 2014.

Contested Case Hearing Request. Any person may request a contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for the Stoneray Wind Project pursuant to Minnesota Rules 7854.0900. All requests for a contested case hearing must be filed in writing with the ALJ by 4:30 p.m., January 28, 2014. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues sought to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested

case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that a contested case hearing will aid the Commission in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

Project Documents. Electronic versions of the site permit application, the draft site permit and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Commission's website: http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=33153 and on the Commission's eDocket website at: https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp (enter the docket number 13-216). A hard copy of the site permit application and Draft Site Permit are also available for review at the Meinders Community Library.

Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about this project. Contact the Public Advisor (see below) or visit http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#mailing to sign up for the project mailing list.

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

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor
Tracy Smetana at consumer.puc@state.mn.us,
651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Public Utilities Commission Staff Analyst
Tricia DeBleeckere at tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us
651-201-2254

Stoneray Power Partners, LLC Project Contact
Melissa Peterson at melissa.peterson@edf-re.com
612-486-4510
10 Second Street NE, Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55413

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

NOTICE OF THE POWER PLANT SITING AND TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTING PROGRAM ANNUAL HEARING

PUC Docket No. E999/M-13-965

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission held the annual public hearing on the Power Plant Siting and Transmission Line Routing Program at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, in the Large Hearing Room at the Commission's offices, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101. Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly presided.

The annual hearing is required by Minnesota Statute § 216E.07, which provides that:
The commission shall hold an annual public hearing at a time and place prescribed by rule in order to afford interested persons an opportunity to be heard regarding any matters relating to the siting of large electric generating power plants and routing of high-voltage transmission lines. At the meeting, the commission shall advise the public of the permits issued by the commission in the past year.

While the Commission grants permits for many different types of energy facilities, this hearing focused on the process for siting large electric power plants and the routing of high-voltage transmission lines. Comments made in this proceeding will not be part of the record in any other Commission docket. If you have comments as to a specific project that is now under review, please be sure to submit those items during the comment period for that docket.

The agenda for the Annual Hearing is available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us via the Commission's Calendar. Judge O'Reilly will take written statements from any person until 4:30 PM, January 31, 2014. Please refer to docket number E999/M-13-965 in all correspondence. Comments should be submitted directly to Judge O'Reilly at:

The Honorable Ann O'Reilly
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
Fax: 651-361-7936
Email: RouteComments.OAH@state.mn.us

At the close of the written comment period, Judge O'Reilly will provide a written summary of testimony given at the hearing and comments received during the comment period to the Commission.

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about this project at consumer.puc@state.mn.us, or call 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to PUC staff at (651) 296-0406 or via email at consumer.puc@state.mn.us.

Transgenic Soybean Event for Yield Enhancement - Commercial Use Exemption

Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
13-NO-076	Bayer CropScience	wheat	Herbicide tolerant, agronomic properties	Clay, Becker

Monsanto has requested an exemption from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Genetically Engineered Organism Release Permit for a soybean event designated as MON 87712, which has been genetically modified to increase yield by altering the plant's day/night processes to increases the availability of assimilates. A determination of non-regulated status has been issued by USDA. Under this exemption from state permit, Monsanto will be allowed utilize this technology without further regulation. For additional information contact Dr. Steve Malone, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-66531, stephen.malone@state.mn.us

EQB *Monitor* Publication Calendar for 2014

Volume Number	Deadline for Submission	Publication Date	EAW Comment Deadline
38-1	December 30	January 6	February 5
38-2	January 13	January 20	February 19
38-3	January 27	February 3	March 5
38-4	February 10	February 17	March 19
38-4	February 24	March 3	April 2
38-5	March 10	March 17	April 16

38-6	March 24	March 31	April 30
38-7	April 7	April 14	May 14
38-8	April 21	April 28	May 28
38-9	May 5	May 12	June 11
38-10	May 19	May 26	June 25
38-11	June 2	June 9	July 9
38-12	June 16	June 23	July 23
38-13	June 30	July 7	August 6
38-14	July 14	July 21	August 20
38-15	July 28	August 4	September 3
38-16	August 11	August 18	September 17
38-17	August 25	September 1	October 1
38-18	September 8	September 15	October 15
38-19	September 22	September 29	October 29
38-20	October 6	October 13	November 12
38-21	October 20	October 27	November 26
38-22	November 3	November 10	December 10
38-23	November 17	November 24	December 24
38-24	December 1	December 8	January 7, 2015
38-25	December 15	December 22	January 21, 2015
38-26	December 29	January 5, 2015	February 4, 2015