The attached Terrestrial Carbon Sequestration Monitoring Networks and Demonstration Sites. Part II, Report to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources completes the studies and reports requested of the Regents of the University of Minnesota in Minnesota Law 2007, ch. 57, article 2, section 35. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources entered into contracts with the University's Water Resources Center to complete reports as on the ability to capture and store atmospheric carbon with plants and soils as outlined in statute. The primary report was submitted to the committee chairs with jurisdiction over natural resources and energy on February 1, 2008.

The attached report follows up on the earlier work and focuses on the monitoring and demonstration of practices which show potential for carbon capture and storage. There is a growing interest in and expectation for integrating carbon management into broader land management activities. This report addresses the legislative request to:

(3) identify a network of benchmark monitoring sites to measure the impact of long-term, large-scale factors, such as changes in climate, carbon dioxide levels, and land use, on the terrestrial carbon sequestration capacity of various land types, to improve understanding of carbon-terrestrial interactions and dynamics; and

(4) identify long-term demonstration projects to measure the impact of deliberate sequestration practices, including the establishment of biofuel production systems, on forest, agricultural, wetland, and prairie ecosystems.

The report focuses on opportunities to integrate monitoring and demonstration efforts into on-going land management initiatives. If you have further questions regarding these reports, please let Mark Lindquist, Energy/Biofuels Program Manager (507-359-6038), or me know.

Sincerely,

Mark Holsten
Commissioner