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EQB MONITOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: December 1, 2010

Project Title: Trunk Highway 10 Elk River EA/EAW and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation (S.P. 7102-123)

Description: The proposed project involves reconstruction of Highway 10 from an urban arterial roadway to a freeway design within Elk River between Upland Avenue/County Road 44 and the Highway 101/169 interchange. The project includes the construction of a grade-separated interchange at Upland/Proctor Avenues and a half interchange at Main Street (interchange ramps to and from the east). A one-way pair of frontage roads would connect interchange ramps at Upland/Proctor Avenues. At-grade intersections would be removed, and frontage roads along Highway 10 would be constructed to provide local access. The BNSF Railway would be realigned to the north, and grade-separated crossings would be constructed at Proctor Avenue, Jackson Avenue, and Main Street.

The purpose of the project is to address regional mobility, traffic operations and local connectivity/accessibility while serving as a guide for comprehensive planning in the City of Elk River. There is no funding in place for construction of the Preferred Alternative. This EA/EAW process is intended to support the anticipated future use of federal funding and to allow for land use and local transportation improvements, consistent with the proposed project, to be implemented over time as funding becomes available.

Copies of the EA/EAW, which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, including Federal Section 206 and Section 4(f) impacts, are available for public review beginning **November 1, 2010**, at the following locations:

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

- Mn/DOT District 3 Offices, 7694 Industrial Park Road, Baxter, Mn 56425
- Mn/DOT District 3 Offices, 3725 12th Street North, St. Cloud, MN 56303
- Elk River City Hall, 13065 Orono Parkway, Elk River, MN 55330
- Sherburne County Public Works, 425 Jackson Avenue, Elk River, MN 55330
- Elk River Public Library, 13020 Orono Parkway, Elk River, Mn 55330
- Great River Regional Library, 1300 W St. Germain, St. Cloud, MN 56301

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups comment on the EA/EAW, a public hearing/open house meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, December 2, 2010, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Elk River City Hall (13065 Orono Parkway, Elk River). Individuals with a disability, who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Mn/DOT Project Manager (see below) or the Minnesota Relay Service at the telephone listed below.

The EA/EAW can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Mn/DOT Project Manager at 218-828-5797, or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 or (651)296-9930 TTY.

Copies of the EA/EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period for the EA/EAW ad Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation will begin on **November 1, 2010**. Comments will be accepted through **December 20, 2010.**

Written comments should be submitted to Jim Hallgren, Project Manager, Mn/DOT District 3, 7694 Industrial Park Road, Baxter, MN 56425, Phone 218-828-5797, Email james.hallgren@state.mn.us.

Project Proposer: Minnesota Department of Transportation

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:
Jim Hallgren, Project Manager
Mn/DOT District 3
7694 Industrial Park Road
Baxter, MN 56425
Phone: 218-828-5797
Email: james.hallgren@state.mn.us

Project Title: Trunk Highway 169 (Elk River to Zimmerman) EA/EAW and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation (S.P. 7106-71 and S.P. 7106-73)

Description: The proposed project includes reconstruction of Highway 169 to a freeway between Main Street in Elk River and CSAH 4 in Zimmerman, including redesign of the Highway 10/101/169 system interchange. The project includes improvements to Highway 101 from Highway 169 in Elk River to CSAH 39 in Otsego, including reconstruction of the Highway 101 bridge over the Mississippi River. The proposed project would remove at-grade intersections and signals along the project corridor. A system of interchanges, overpasses, and frontage/backage roads would replace existing at-grade intersections. A collector-distributor road design would be constructed providing full access interchanges at Main Street and School Street in Elk River. Interchanges

would also be constructed at Jackson Avenue/193rd Avenue/197th Avenue and 221st Avenue in Elk River. Interchanges would be constructed at CSAH 25/19 in Livonia Township and CSAH 4 in Zimmerman. The proposed project would result in consolidation and closure of access along Highway 169.

The purpose of the project is to address safety, mobility, and operational issues to maintain the functionality of Highway 169 as a principal arterial route. There is no funding in place for right of way acquisition or construction of the proposed project. This EA/EAW process is intended to support the anticipated future use of federal funding and to allow for improvements, consistent with the proposed project, to be implemented over time as funding becomes available. In the near term, this EA/EAW will be used to help inform local land use and transportation planning decisions.

Copies of the EA/EAW, which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, including Federal Section 106 and Section 4(f) impacts, are available for public review beginning **November 1, 2010,** at the following locations:

- Project Web site: http://projects.dot.state.mn.us/srf/169elkriver/
- Mn/DOT District 3 Offices, 7694 Industrial Park Road, Baxter, MN 56425
- Mn/DOT District 3 Offices, 3725 12th Street North, St. Cloud, MN 56303
- Elk River City Hall, 13065 Orono Parkway, Elk River, MN 55330
- Zimmerman City Hall, 12980 Fremont Avenue, Zimmerman, MN 55398
- Livonia Town Hall, 11162 265th Avenue, Zimmerman, MN 55398
- Sherburne County Public Works, 425 Jackson Avenue, Elk River, MN 55330
- Elk River Public Library, 13020 Orono Parkway, Elk River, MN 55330
- Great River Regional Library, 1300 W St. Germain, St. Cloud, MN 56301

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EA/EAW, a public hearing/open house meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 1, 2010, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Livonia Town Hall (11162 265th Avenue, Zimmerman) and on Thursday, December 2, 2010, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Elk River City Hall (13065 Orono Parkway, Elk River). Individuals with a disability, who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Mn/DOT Project Manager (see below) or the Minnesota Relay Service at the telephone numbers listed below.

The EA/EAW can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Mn/DOT Project Manager at 218-828-5797, or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529 or (651) 296-9930 TTY.

Copies of the EA/EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period for the EA/EAW and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation will begin on **November 1, 2010**. Comments will be accepted through **December 20, 2010**.

Written comments should be submitted to Jim Hallgren, Project Manager, Mn/DOT District 3, 7694 Industrial Park Road, Baxter, MN 56425, Phone 218-828-5797, Email james.hallgren@state.mn.us.

Project Proposer: Minnesota Department of Transportation

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person:
Jim Hallgren, Project Manager
Mn/DOT District 3
7694 Industrial Park Road
Baxter, MN 56425
Phone: (218) 828-5797
Email: james.hallgren@state.mn.us

EA AVAILABLE

Project Title: Aitkin Airport Environmental Assessment for proposed Airport Improvements

Project Need: The Aitkin Airport has completed their Airport Master Plan for the long-term development of the airport which includes land acquisition, obstruction removal, hangar development and a new fuel facility to meet federal safety requirements and development needs at the airport.

Project Description:
- **Land Acquisition**: Aitkin will need to acquire 18.1 acres have fee ownership of Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) areas.
- **Obstruction Removal:** To clear FAR Part 77 airspace areas approximately 18.2 acres of trees will be removed.
- **Hangar Development:** 24 hangars to meet future storage needs are proposed in the EA.
- **Fuel Farm:** A new fuel farm facility to meet demand at the airport is proposed.

Public Comment:
The public and agency comment period is open through November 22, 2010. All comments must be in writing by November 22, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. to the following:

City of Aitkin ATTN: Kathy Brophy 109 1st Avenue NW Aitkin, MN 56431	**or**	Federal Aviation Administration ATTN: Kandice Krull 6020 28th Ave. So. Room 102 Minneapolis, MN 55450

A copy of this report is available on the website at Aitkin City Hall, the Aitkin Airport, the Aitkin Public Library, the Aitkin County Courthouse or by contacting the individual below.

Contact Person:
Alex Conzemius
Planner 1
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
12224 Nicollet Avenue
Burnsville, MN 55337
Phone: 952-890-0509 ext. 2853
Email: AlexCo@bolton-menk.com

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO EIS SCOPING DECISION

Project Title: PolyMet NorthMet Mine and Ore Processing Project
Located Near Cities of Babbitt and Hoyt Lakes, St. Louis County, Minnesota

Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in co-operation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is preparing a joint state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the NorthMet Mine and Ore Processing Facilities Project (NorthMet) proposed by PolyMet Mining Inc. (PolyMet). The DNR's Scoping Decision for this EIS was issued on October 25, 2005, and the DNR's EIS preparation notice published in the April 24, 2006, *EQB Monitor*.

This Notice of Amendment to the EIS Scoping Decision is being published pursuant to Minnesota Rules part 4410.2100, subpart 8, which in part requires a notice be published if "substantial new information arises relating to the proposed project that significantly affects the potential environmental effects of the proposed project or the availability of prudent and feasible alternatives to the project."

The USFS and USACE published a Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Draft EIS in the *Federal Register* on October 13, 2010 (*75 FR 62756*). The Notice of Intent included a description of lands that would come into federal ownership in a proposed land exchange between the USFS and PolyMet. While the need for a land exchange was disclosed in the October 2009 Draft EIS, the EIS-preparing agencies had no information at that time regarding lands to be brought into federal ownership. The information now available is substantial new information that broadens the geographic scope of the EIS. The land exchange is a connected action to the proposed NorthMet Project and will be fully assessed in the EIS in accordance with state and federal law.

Updated EIS Schedule: The Supplemental Draft EIS preparation is expected in the summer of 2011, with Final EIS publication about six to nine months later.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person:
Stuart Arkley, Planner Principal
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025
Phone: 651-259-5089
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EAW NEED DECISIONS

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

- Minnesota Department of Health, crematory at the Ballard-Sunder Funeral Home in Jordan, MN. Denied.

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Proposed Knife River Sand and Gravel Mine, Concrete Ready-mix Plant, and Asphalt Plant. Denied.

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparations 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, MCES-East Bethel Regional Reclamation/Reuse Center, October 22, 2010 (August 9, 2010)

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, East Bethel Collection System Project, October 14, 2010 (August 9, 2010)

- St. Louis County Planning Commission, Independent School District (ISD) 2142 North School Development, October 14, 2020 (June 14,2 020)

PETITION FILED

The following petitions have been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, McGrath sewer project.

- City of Jackson, Jackson Resource Center (High School) demolition

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, a boiler conversion project in New Ulm

NOTICES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

CEDAR ISLAND LAKE RECLAMATION PROJECT PLANNED

CILHA with the Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Division

The CILHA and DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife are planning rotenone treatments on the following water bodies:

Cedar Island Lake-Hennepin County DOW# 27-119P

This project will include the application of Pentox –rotenone fish toxicant powder, a federally and state registered pesticide to control bullheads. The chemical application will occur in sometime between November 15th, 2010 and Dec. 15th 2010, most likely around the Nov. 22nd, weather permitting. Rotenone distribution will be done by boat mounted pump/sub surface injection method. Target treatment concentration will be a 3-5 ppm concentration of powdered rotenone, or a combination of liquid and powder. Smaller adjacent wetlands, ditches or drain tile outlets connected to the above lake maybe treated if necessary.

Endangered or threatened species are not known to be present in any of these lakes or wetlands. This project is not anticipated to have any long-term negative affects on any of endangered or threatened species.
Project goals include treating the undesirable fish species, Bull heads, in order to improve wildlife habitat and water quality in these water bodies. This lake and wetland complex serves as a source of bullheads to downstream lakes. Down-stream lakes should benefit from better water quality including Eagle Lake and Pike. Also, one to three connected city ponds that have the same problem may be treated.

For general information about any of these projects contact the CILHA, Patrick Olek - Contact information: Pat@asgmn.com, Cell 612-226-7795.

Metropolitan Airports Commission/Assessment of Environmental Effects of the 2011-2017 Capital Improvement Program for MSP and Reliever Airports

Minnesota Statutes 1988, Chapter 664, requires the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to prepare an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AOEE) for projects in the Commission's seven-year Capital Improvement Program (2011-2017) for airports included in its system.

An EAW, EA or EIS has been previously prepared and public hearing held for each MSP and reliever airport project in the 2011-2017 CIP that requires an EAW under Chapter 664. An assessment of the cumulative environmental effects of CIP projects at each affected airport in the system is presented in the AOEE.

A copy of the AOEE can be downloaded on the Internet at:
www.macnoise.com/pdfs/MAC-2011-AOEE-10-18-10.pdf

Additionally, a copy of the AOEE can be obtained by contacting Christene Sirois-Kron, Metropolitan Airports Commission, 6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55450;612-725-6455. Comments concerning the AOEE can be given at a Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in room 3048, Mezzanine level, Lindberg Terminal, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, or in writing to Christene Sirois-Kron at 6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55450. Comments on the AOEE must be received by the close of business on Friday, November 19, 2010. Persons planning to attend the public hearing should call Christene Sirois-Kron at 612-725-6455 for security checkpoint information.