

STATE OF MINNESOTA

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

In the Matter of Great River Energy's application for a site permit for a large electric power generating plant relating to the proposed upgrade of the St. Bonifacius peaking station.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SCOPING DECISION
Docket #02-34-PPS-GRE
April 22, 2002**

The above-entitled matter came before the Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for a decision on the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared on the proposed project. The MEQB staff has administrated a public meeting and comment period, received and reviewed comments, and assembled their findings and recommendations into a memorandum to the Chair. Having reviewed this information, the Chair makes the following determination with regard to scoping of the EA.

ALTERNATIVES

The only site to be considered in the EA shall be the site proposed by the applicant. No additional sites will be evaluated. No alternatives to the project, such as burning natural gas or implementing a co-generation option, shall be included.

IMPACTS TO BE EVALUATED

The following impacts will be evaluated within the EA for the proposed upgrade:

1. Air Quality Impacts
2. Noise
3. Visual Impacts
4. Site Drainage

SCHEDULE

The EA shall be completed by June 1, 2002. If the EQB staff or any other person should determine that compliance with this deadline is unlikely, any person may inform the Chair of such determination. The Chair may adjust the schedule or take other action to expedite completion of the EA.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2002

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Gene Hugoson
Chair