

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

1. **Project title:** *Star Lake Casino Development*

2. **Proposer:**

Contact person: *Ms. Liz Foster-Anderson*
Title: *Executive Director*

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3. **RGU**

Contact person: *Bill Kaler*
Title: *Land & Resource Management
Director, Otter Tail County*

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4. **Reason for EAW Preparation:** (check one)

Required:

- EIS Scoping
 Mandatory EAW

Discretionary:

- Citizen petition
 RGU discretion
 Proposer initiated

If EAW or EIS is mandatory give EQB rule category subpart number(s) and name(s):

5. **Project Location:**

County: *Otter Tail*

City/Township: *Star Lake Township*

PLS Location (¼, ¼, Section, Township, Range): *Portions of the NE ¼, NW ¼, and SW ¼, of
Section 15, Township 135, Range 41*

Watershed (81 major watershed scale): *56*

GPS Coordinates:

Tax Parcel Number: *56000150109003, 56000150109000, 56000150106000, 5600150108001,
(Fee Title Land) and 56000150109001(Tribal Trust Land)*

At a minimum attach each of the following to the EAW:

- County map showing the general location of the project; *Attached as Figure 1*
- U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute, 1:24,000 scale map indicating project boundaries (photocopy acceptable); *Attached as Figure 2*
- Site plans showing all significant project and natural features. Pre-construction site plan and post-construction site plan. *Attached as figures 3 - 6*

6. Project Description:

- a. Provide the brief project summary to be published in the *EQB Monitor*, (approximately 50 words).

The proposed project is a resort with a gaming facility, hotel, restaurants, a conference center, supporting offices and storage spaces, RV Park with a support building and associated parking. In addition, there will be potable water treatment and storage facilities, and wastewater treatment ponds with associated Rapid Infiltration Basins.

- b. Give a complete description of the proposed project and related new construction, including infrastructure needs. If the project is an expansion include a description of the existing facility. Emphasize: 1) construction, operation methods and features that will cause physical manipulation of the environment or will produce wastes, 2) modifications to existing equipment or industrial processes, 3) significant demolition, removal or remodeling of existing structures, and 4) timing and duration of construction activities.

The proposed project is a resort with a gaming facility, hotel, restaurants, a conference center, supporting offices and storage spaces (the main facility), RV Park with a support building, and associated parking. In addition, there will be a raw water well(s) potable water treatment and storage facilities and wastewater treatment ponds and associated Rapid Infiltration Basins. The project is located on five adjoining parcels of land. One of these parcels is held in Tribal Trust. Under Federal and State laws, the gaming and supporting operations will be located on the tribal trust land. For operational reasons, the remaining hotel and conference center facilities will be attached to the gaming facilities on the tribal trust land. The parking areas, RV park, and water treatment facilities will be located on fee land. The wastewater treatment ponds will be located on fee title land across Otter Tail County Road 41 from the main facility. Borrow pits for fill to be used during construction on the site will be constructed in the northeastern portion of the site.

1. *The project will include the following actions:*

- *Installation of stormwater best management practices (BMPs)*
- *Clearing and grubbing*
- *Topsoil removal and stockpiling*
- *Installation of perimeter silt fence and berms for construction*
- *Site grading, including stormwater and wastewater pond installations*
- *Construction of haul road(s)*
- *Construction of borrow pits for suitable fill*
- *Construction of buildings, roads, and associated utilities*
- *Construction of wastewater treatment facilities, water treatment and storage facilities, and associated utilities*
- *Construction of well(s)*
- *Construction of landscaped areas around buildings*
- *Restoration of prairie vegetation in area formerly used for farming*

In addition, in association with this project, Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative are proposing to construct a new 8.75 mile 41.6 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (Figure 5) and distribution substation (Figure 6). The primary purpose of the new line and distribution substation is to serve the anticipated electric load for the proposed facility described above. Although not directly related to the proposed project, Lake Region Electric Cooperative also plans to replace 2.0 miles of overhead power line with underground cable north of the new substation. Great River Energy and Lake Region Electric Cooperative conducted separate environmental reviews for this work.

2. *As there are currently no existing equipment or industrial processes located within the proposed project area, no modifications to such equipment or activities will be performed.*
3. *There were previously several buildings associated with two former farmsteads and commercial operations. The buildings and any associated structures were demolished in accordance with State and local regulations.*
4. *The project is anticipated to begin in 2016 and be completed in 2018.*

c. Project magnitude:

Total Project Acreage	227
Linear project length	8.75 miles (transmission line)
Number and type of residential units	0
Commercial building area (in square feet)	277,000
Industrial building area (in square feet)	0
Institutional building area (in square feet)	0
Other uses – specify (in acres)	15.3 acres of parking 3.7 acres of RV Parking 17.4 acres of wastewater treatment 1.04 acre RIBs 6.3 acres of stormwater ponds
Structure height(s)	75 ft

- d. Explain the project purpose; if the project will be carried out by a governmental unit, explain the need for the project and identify its beneficiaries.

The purpose of the project is to provide a resort with a gaming facility, hotel, and conference center within the lakes region. Gaming revenues would be used to address Tribal employment, education, healthcare, housing, self-government, and economic development. Gaming revenues would also be used to fund the restoration and preservation of cultural sites in White Earth such as the Tribe’s museum and historic burial grounds.

- e. Are future stages of this development including development on any other property planned or likely to happen? Yes No
 If yes, briefly describe future stages, relationship to present project, timeline and plans for environmental review.

If the project is successful, future stages may include expansion of hotel and gaming areas, expansion of the RV parking area, addition of rental cabins and/or a golf course, or other amenity improvements. No master plan, construction plans, or timeline has been established for these future stages. As planning for these future stages begins, the need for a new environmental review will be evaluated and appropriate reviews will be conducted.

- f. Is this project a subsequent stage of an earlier project? Yes No
 If yes, briefly describe the past development, timeline and any past environmental review.
 N/A

7. **Cover types:** Estimate the acreage of the site with each of the following cover types before and after development:

	Before	After		Before	After
Wetlands	41.1	34.9	Lawn/landscaping	8.5	3.9
Deep water/streams	0	0	Impervious surface	1.53	18
Wooded/forest	33.9	24.1	Stormwater Pond	0	3.9
Brush/Grassland	19.2	111.6	Other (wastewater pond)	0	17.4
Cropland	123.5	10	Buildings	0.4	2.9
			TOTAL	227	227

8. **Permits and approvals required:** List all known local, state and federal permits, approvals, certifications and financial assistance for the project. Include modifications of any existing permits, governmental review of plans and all direct and indirect forms of public financial assistance including bond guarantees, Tax Increment Financing and infrastructure. *All of these final decisions are prohibited until all appropriate environmental review has been completed. See Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4410.3100.*

Unit of Government	Type of Application	Status
White Earth Nation	Tribal Land Usage	Applied – Resolution Approved

Unit of Government	Type of Application	Status
<i>Otter Tail County</i>	<i>Wetland Mitigation/Replacement Plan</i>	<i>Submitted 5/13/2016</i>
<i>Otter Tail County</i>	<i>State Wetland Permit</i>	<i>Applied – Public Review Stage</i>
<i>Otter Tail County</i>	<i>Lot Alteration Permit</i>	<i>Approved 7/1/2016</i>
<i>Otter Tail County</i>	<i>Conditional Use Permit</i>	<i>Submitted 8/24/2016</i>
<i>Otter Tail County</i>	<i>Utility Permit for Waste Water Treatment System</i>	<i>To be submitted</i>
<i>Otter Tail County</i>	<i>Approach Permit – Road Entrance</i>	<i>To be submitted</i>
<i>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>	<i>Wetland Mitigation/Replacement Plan</i>	<i>Submitted 5/13/2016</i>
<i>Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</i>	<i>Water Appropriation permit</i>	<i>To be submitted</i>
<i>Minnesota Department of Health</i>	<i>Well permit</i>	<i>To be submitted</i>
<i>Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</i>	<i>Construction Stormwater management permit</i>	<i>To be submitted</i>
<i>Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</i>	<i>Hazardous Waste Generator Registration</i>	<i>To be submitted</i>

State, county, and township governments have no jurisdiction over the Tribal Trust lands. The fee title is subject to the usual local regulations and/or zoning.

9. Land use:

a. Describe:

- i. Existing land use of the site as well as areas adjacent to and near the site, including parks, trails, prime or unique farmlands.

The project area consists of farmland, wooded areas, two former farmstead areas, and wetland areas. Both former farmstead areas are located in the central portion of the project area. No parks or trails are located on or adjacent to the project area. Prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance is located on and adjacent to the project area. However, the area is not subject to the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) or the Minnesota State Agricultural Land Preservation and Conservation Policy as no federal or state funds will be used for the project.

The surrounding land use consists of an abandoned golf course, residences, farmsteads, cultivated farmland, and undeveloped wooded and wetland areas.

- ii. Plans. Describe planned land use as identified in comprehensive plan (if available) and any other applicable plan for land use, water, or resources management by a local, regional, state, or federal agency.

The project area is located within and adjacent to the existing Star Lake Improvement District. Under the current land use, the agricultural portion of the project area within the Star Lake Improvement District is not considered part of the district, however that area would become part of the district once the land use is converted from agricultural as part of the proposed project. Otter Tail County is in the process of preparing a Limited Star Lake Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the Limited Star Lake Comprehensive plan is to “better understand and plan for potential changes in transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, housing, and more.” The proposed project, along with other potential future development in the township, is incorporated into the Limited Star Lake Comprehensive Plan (Figure 7).

- iii. Zoning, including special districts or overlays such as shoreland, floodplain, wild and scenic rivers, critical area, agricultural preserves, etc.

The majority of the proposed project, including the area of impact, is located within a shoreland district. Otter Tail County does not have a zoning map. The project area is not located within a mapped floodplain. No wild and scenic rivers, critical area, or agricultural preserves are on or adjacent to the project area.

The Tribal Trust portions of the proposed project area are governed by the Tribal Governance and not subject to local or state regulations.

- b. Discuss the project’s compatibility with nearby land uses, zoning, and plans listed in Item 9a above, concentrating on implications for environmental effects.

As Otter Tail County has no designated land use zoning other than designated shoreland districts, the proposed project presents no conflict with zoning ordinances. Star Lake is designated as a General Use Lake. The proposed action is also believed to be generally compatible with the nearby land uses of agricultural, residential and commercial lodges and resorts. As the proposed project, along with other potential future development in the township, is incorporated into the Limited Star Lake Comprehensive Plan, there are no known incompatibilities with nearby land uses, zoning and plans.

- c. Identify measures incorporated into the proposed project to mitigate any potential incompatibility as discussed in Item 9b above.

In accordance with the Shoreland Management Ordinance for General Use lakes, the proposed project will be set back from the lake at least 75 feet. In addition, the proposed project will be set back from the adjacent roads to provide visual separation from farmland and recreational uses.

10. Geology, soils and topography/land forms:

- a. Geology - Describe the geology underlying the project area and identify and map any susceptible geologic features such as sinkholes, shallow limestone formations, unconfined/shallow aquifers, or karst conditions. Discuss any limitations of these features for the project and any effects the

project could have on these features. Identify any project designs or mitigation measures to address effects to geologic features.

According to published sources (Minnesota Geological Survey Map S21, 2011), the depth to bedrock is approximately 100 feet. The bedrock in the project area is Archean-aged foliated to gneissic tonalite, granodiorite and diorite igneous bedrock. A copy of the bedrock geologic map is attached as Figure 8.

According to geological maps and geotechnical borings placed on the majority of the project area, the glacial sediments overlying the bedrock in the project area are undifferentiated glacial till of the Lower Goose River Group. The undifferentiated till consists of sandy lean clay, and clayey sand. The outwash consists of moderately to poorly sorted, cross-bedded to flat-bedded sand and gravel. A copy of the surficial geology map is attached as Figure 9.

During construction activities, the glacial sediments in areas of the northern portion of the project area (the red boxes on Figure 4) will be evaluated for use as fill to raise the overall grade in the southern portion and/or in areas where geotechnical evaluations indicate the surficial material is not suitable for the planned construction.

There are six domestic water wells within one mile of the project site listed in the Minnesota Geological Survey/Minnesota Department of Health County Well Index database (Appendix A). According to the associated well logs, all wells produce their water from sands and gravels between 70 and 106 feet below the ground surface. Well logs for all show significant thicknesses (46 to 80 feet) of clay between the ground surface and the top of the water-bearing sands and gravels. Static water levels in the wells (ranging from 8 to 29 feet below grade) indicate that they are producing from a confined aquifer, with water levels ranging from 57 to 78 feet above the bottom of the cased interval of the wells.

No sinkholes or karst conditions are known to be in the project area, and no special geologic features were identified in published data for the project area.

The site geology will have no substantial effects on project design.

- b. Soils and topography - Describe the soils on the site, giving NRCS (SCS) classifications and descriptions, including limitations of soils. Describe topography, any special site conditions relating to erosion potential, soil stability or other soils limitations, such as steep slopes, highly permeable soils. Provide estimated volume and acreage of soil excavation and/or grading.. Erosion/sedimentation control related to stormwater runoff should be addressed in response to Item 11.b.ii.

The USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey indicated the project area consisted of:

- *Parnell silty clay loam, occasionally ponded 0 to 1 percent slopes, 1.4%;*
- *Seelyeville-Seelyeville, ponded, complex, 0 to 1 percent slopes, 2.7%;*
- *Cathro muck, occasionally ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes, 0.9%;*
- *Nitche-Kandota-Lida complex, 1 to 6 percent slope, 7.6%;*
- *Nitche-Kandota-Lida complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, 5.4%;*
- *Dent silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes, 0.1%;*
- *Haslie, Seelyeville and Cathro soils, ponded, 4.4%;*

- *Hangaard loamy sand, lake beaches, 0.6%;*
- *Naytahwaush-Mahkonce complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes, 27.1%;*
- *Naytahwaush clay loam 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded, 2.5%;*
- *Mahkonce clay loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes, 19.7%;*
- *Snellman-Lida complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes, 4.9%;*
- *Snellman-Lida complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, 6.0%;*
- *Haslie and Nidaros soils, ponded, 13.7%;*
- *Lakepark-Parnell, occasionally ponded, complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, 2.7%; water 0.3%.*

The following of these soil types are considered poorly or very poorly drained: Hangaard loamy sand; Lakepark-Parnell; Parnell silty clay loam; Seelyeville-Seelyeville, ponded; Cathro muck; Haslie, Seelyeville, and Cathro soils; and Haslie and Nidaros soils.

The following soil types are considered moderately well drained to well drained: Dent silt loam, Nitche-Kandota-Lida complex, Naytahwaush-Mahkonce complex, Naytahwaush clay loam, and Snellman-Lida complex.

The USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey Map for the project area is attached as Figure 10.

Based upon the soils map and associated soils data, the erosion potential is categorized as high (erosion factor of greater than 0.40) for 1.5% of the project area, medium (erosion factor of 0.21 to 0.40) for 86.5% of the project area, and low (erosion factor of 0.20 or less) for 9% of the project area.

Similarly, soil permeabilities are categorized as rapid (greater than 2.0 inches/hour) for 37.7% of the project areas and moderate (0.2 to 2.0 inches/hour) for 62.3% of the project area. No mapped soils in the project area are believed to have permeability rates categorized as slow (less than 0.2 inches/hour). The topography of much of the site is generally level, with a slope from 1365 in the northeast to 1330 in the south and east. No steep slopes are present currently or will be present after construction is complete. The higher elevation areas are in a low ridge located in the northeastern portion of the project area and running to the west. Portions of this low ridge area may be excavated and used as fill in lower elevation areas to bring them to their finished grades.

It is anticipated that approximately 96 acres of the total site will be excavated or graded as a part of construction activities. Soil corrections to native soils will be made in areas where proposed structures or parking areas need structural support. As slopes in the project area are quite gradual, cut and fill activities during construction related to site topography will be relatively limited.

Soils will be stabilized during construction by development and implementation of a Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required by MPCA and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Other soil stabilization measures after the completion of construction include native planting restoration plans in the southwestern portion of the project.

11. Water resources:

- a. Describe surface water and groundwater features on or near the site in a.i and a.ii below.
 - i. Surface water - lakes, streams, wetlands, intermittent channels, and county/judicial ditches. Include any special designations such as public waters, trout stream/lake, wildlife lakes, migratory waterfowl feeding/resting lake, and outstanding resource value water. Include water quality impairments or special designations listed on the current MPCA 303d Impaired Waters List that are within 1 mile of the project. Include DNR Public Waters Inventory number(s), if any.

Star Lake is located adjacent to the south of the main project area and an unnamed lake is located adjacent to the south of the western portion of the subject property. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, these are not listed as migratory waterfowl feeding/resting lakes, trout stream/lakes, wildlife lakes, or outstanding resource value water (Figure 11). Star Lake is listed as an impaired water due to mercury in fish tissue (Lake ID number 56-0385-00). No other impaired lakes are within 1 mile of the project.

- ii. Groundwater – aquifers, springs, seeps. Include: 1) depth to groundwater; 2) if project is within a MDH wellhead protection area; 3) identification of any onsite and/or nearby wells, including unique numbers and well logs if available. If there are no wells known on site or nearby, explain the methodology used to determine this.

1) Static water levels in the former wells on site and in the area (ranging from 8 to 29 feet below grade) indicate that they are producing from a confined aquifer, with water levels ranging from 57 to 78 feet above the bottom of the cased interval of the wells. During the geotechnical investigation, groundwater was measured or estimated to be approximately 3 to 30 feet below grade. These depths correspond to elevations of 1300 to 1331 feet. In general, based on the proximity of Star Lake, the site groundwater will likely fluctuate seasonally or annually in response to changes in the water in Star Lake.

2) The project is not within or near a known Minnesota Department of Health Drinking Water Supply Management Area of a wellhead protection area as mapped in the Minnesota Geological Survey/Minnesota Department of Health County Well Index.

3) There are two wells which were previously located on the site: well #515836 and well #579322. Well logs for these wells are attached as Appendix A. The wells were 80 and 87 feet deep, respectively, and producing from a confined sand aquifer, as static water levels were 16.5 and 20 feet below grade, respectively.

- b. Describe effects from project activities on water resources and measures to minimize or mitigate the effects in Item b.i. through Item b.iv. below.
 - i. Wastewater - For each of the following, describe the sources, quantities and composition of all sanitary, municipal/domestic and industrial wastewater produced or treated at the site.
 - 1) If the wastewater discharge is to a publicly owned treatment facility, identify any pretreatment measures and the ability of the facility to handle the added water and waste loadings, including any effects on, or required expansion of, municipal wastewater infrastructure.

- 2) If the wastewater discharge is to a subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS), describe the system used, the design flow, and suitability of site conditions for such a system.
- 3) If the wastewater discharge is to surface water, identify the wastewater treatment methods and identify discharge points and proposed effluent limitations to mitigate impacts. Discuss any effects to surface or groundwater from wastewater discharges.

As there are no nearby municipal wastewater systems to connect with, wastewater will be discharged to a system designed to MPCA requirements and constructed at the project site to handle sanitary wastewaters generated from the proposed project. The wastewater system is designed to accommodate maximum wet-weather flows of 70,000 gallons per day. Wastewater from the occupied buildings (estimated at 53,000 gallons per day) will be conveyed through an underground centralized conveyance system to a wastewater pond treatment system located on the west side of Otter Tail County Road 41. An additional treatment capacity of 17,000 gallons per day may be used in the future to receive nearby residential wastewaters if so desired. The location of the wastewater treatment ponds is shown on Figure 4. The conveyed wastewater will be treated by running it in series through two primary wastewater ponds and a secondary wastewater pond. Treated wastewater effluent discharged from the secondary pond will be conveyed by underground pipe to a series of three Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs) planned to be located near the north-central portion of the project area, where it will be infiltrated into the ground (rather than discharged to nearby surface waters). Discharges to the RIBs will occur as needed and in accordance with MPCA rules. RIB sizes are currently estimated as 150 feet by 30 feet (each) and preliminary RIB locations are shown on Figure 4. Final design of the RIBs is not yet complete, but preliminary subsurface investigation site work has identified permeable subsurface soils that appear readily amenable to disposal of treated wastewater.

- ii. Stormwater - Describe the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff at the site prior to and post construction. Include the routes and receiving water bodies for runoff from the site (major downstream water bodies as well as the immediate receiving waters). Discuss any environmental effects from stormwater discharges. Describe stormwater pollution prevention plans including temporary and permanent runoff controls and potential BMP site locations to manage or treat stormwater runoff. Identify specific erosion control, sedimentation control or stabilization measures to address soil limitations during and after project construction.

Prior to construction, the stormwater infiltrates into the ground or enters wetlands and waters through overland flow. A construction SWPPP will be prepared for use during the construction of the proposed project. The construction SWPPP will detail the measures to be taken to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff during construction.

Post construction, all stormwater runoff from the site will flow through stormwater retention ponds. The minimum standards for a permanent stormwater pond is to have a dead storage of 1,800 cubic feet per acre of land draining to the pond and to retain with rate control the runoff of a 1" rain event over all new impervious surface created with the project. These minimum standards will be met or exceeded as it is the intent that the stormwater ponds are going to be designed to retain with rate control up to a 100-year

rain event. Discharges from the stormwater ponds will be directed to Star Lake or abutting wetlands. Best practices will be used to prevent sediment from leaving the project area.

- iii. Water appropriation - Describe if the project proposes to appropriate surface or groundwater (including dewatering). Describe the source, quantity, duration, use and purpose of the water use and if a DNR water appropriation permit is required. Describe any well abandonment. If connecting to an existing municipal water supply, identify the wells to be used as a water source and any effects on, or required expansion of, municipal water infrastructure. Discuss environmental effects from water appropriation, including an assessment of the water resources available for appropriation. Identify any measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental effects from the water appropriation.

Construction dewatering, if necessary, will be addressed in the Construction SWPPP. No permanent dewatering is planned at this time.

Due to the silty nature of the soils, deep wells or well point systems for dewatering during construction will not be an effective method of construction dewatering. Therefore, rock sumps with electric pumps will be used. Clean washed rock will be used to create the collection points for the pump. The water will pass through the pump and into an earthen sediment basin to allow sediment to settle. Once the sediment has settled, the water will be released to an area with natural vegetation before it flows to existing waters.

The two wells previously on site were abandoned in accordance with State regulations. Water will be provided by new potable supply wells located on the project area. The source of the water will likely be the sand and gravel aquifer at a depth of approximately 80 – 100 feet below grade. It is not anticipated that groundwater appropriation from this aquifer will have any adverse environmental effects.

Based on estimates, the wells will be capable of providing a minimum of 54,590 gallons per day. A potable water treatment facility and water storage facility is included in the project design, which will treat the water to be used for domestic needs, landscape irrigation, and fire protection.

The project does not anticipate appropriating surface water. Municipal or rural water is not available in the project area.

iv. Surface Waters

- a) Wetlands - Describe any anticipated physical effects or alterations to wetland features such as draining, filling, permanent inundation, dredging and vegetative removal. Discuss direct and indirect environmental effects from physical modification of wetlands, including the anticipated effects that any proposed wetland alterations may have to the host watershed. Identify measures to avoid (e.g., available alternatives that were considered), minimize, or mitigate environmental effects to wetlands. Discuss whether any required compensatory wetland mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts will occur in the same minor or major watershed, and identify those probable locations.

The White Earth Nation Governing Authority granted the use of this Trust Parcel for Socio/Economic Purpose with understanding that the proposed project would minimize the impact of the development of the trust parcel on the wetlands and that the development plans would include maintaining and sustaining the undisturbed wetland and ricing vegetation. In addition, the White Earth National Governing Authority sought a team with construction experience in maintaining and sustaining wetland attributes during construction. No impacts are expected within 75 feet of the shoreline of Star Lake.

Copies of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps for the project area are attached as Figure 12. In addition, a wetland delineation was completed on October 15, 2015. A copy of the maps indicating the locations of the identified wetland areas is attached as Appendix B. A total of 7.4 acres of wetlands will be permanently filled. An additional 1.01 acres of wetlands has been designated for potential disturbance for 220 days during construction. No fill is intended to be placed in areas designated for temporary disturbance. The table below provides the information regarding the wetland impacts.

Aquatic Resource ID	Aquatic Resource Type	Type of Impact Permanent (P) or Temporary (T)	Duration of Impact	Size of Impact	Existing Plant Community Type	County, Major Watershed #, and Bank Service Area #
Basin 3 (Fee)	Wetland	Fill	P	0.26	Fr Wt Meadow	Ottertail, 56, 4
Basin 5 (Fee)	Wetland	Fill	P	1.64	Fr Wt Meadow	Ottertail, 56, 4
Basin 6 (Fee)	Wetland	Fill	P	0.29	Fr Wt Meadow	Ottertail, 56, 4
Basin 19 (Fee)	Wetland	Fill	P	0.05	Seas Flood Bsn	Ottertail, 56, 4
Basin 5 (Trust)	Wetland	Fill	P	5.16	Seas Flood Bsn	Ottertail, 56, 4
Basin 5 (Trust)	Wetland	Fill	T (220 days)	1.01	Fr Wt Meadow	Ottertail, 56, 4

The project will use a 2:1 replacement ratio. The table below presents the replacement/compensatory mitigation.

Wetland Bank Account #	County	Major Watershed #	Bank Service Area	Number of Credits
1321 and 1440	Becker	58 Buffalo R	4	4.48
1147	Roseau	70 Two	3	10.32

Under Federal and State laws, the gaming and supporting operations will be located on the tribal trust land. The remaining hotel and conference center facilities will be attached to the gaming facilities on tribal trust land. The design has gone through multiple generations, including going from a horizontal configuration to a more vertical configuration, in order to shrink the overall footprint so that impacts to wetlands are minimized. The final design plan minimizes the wetland impacts by placing the building in the northwest corner of the tribal trust land. The roadways and parking areas were reduced and concentrated to the area near the building which eliminated impacts to some of the wetland areas. These avoidance and minimization actions reduced the impacts to wetlands by 1.34 acres.

During the design phase, the project team evaluated ways to minimize impacts to the wetland areas. If the parking areas were reconfigured, it might be theoretically possible to avoid some wetland areas on the project, but it would be very difficult to keep the remnant portions sustainable as they would be surrounded by parking and roadways and the stormwater from those areas would be directed to stormwater ponds and not to the wetland areas. In addition, some of the proposed impacted wetlands are in the interface between the constructed building and the roadways and parking areas. This would mean that any organic material would need to be removed and compactable soil would need to be put in this area during construction, thus altering any remnant wetlands. Thirdly, in order to match the building with the attached roadway and parking lots and still maintain some of the wetlands, the elevation of the roadway would be much higher than the existing elevation of those wetland areas, leaving too steep of a backslope between the wetland areas and the elevation of the roadway. Avoiding or leaving portions of Basin 5, Basin 6, or Basin 19 would make the footprint of the buildings and parking much larger and more visible from the lakes and roadways.

Any wetland disturbance and replacement/mitigation will be performed in accordance with the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) permits as required under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

- b) Other surface waters- Describe any anticipated physical effects or alterations to surface water features (lakes, streams, ponds, intermittent channels, county/judicial ditches) such as draining, filling, permanent inundation, dredging, diking, stream diversion, impoundment, aquatic plant removal and riparian alteration. Discuss direct and indirect environmental effects from physical modification of water features. Identify measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental effects to surface water features, including in-water Best Management Practices that are proposed to avoid or minimize turbidity/sedimentation while physically altering the water features. Discuss how the project will change the number or type of watercraft on any water body, including current and projected watercraft usage.

No anticipated physical effects, modifications, or alterations to surface water features, other than wetlands discussed above, are planned or expected. Star Lake (Lake ID number 56-0385-00) is located adjacent to the south and is identified as an impaired water due to mercury. This lake has an EPA-approved total maximum daily load (TMDL) plan for mercury in fish tissue. Impacts to surface water from

construction stormwater will be mitigated using the MPCA Construction Stormwater permit requirements.

Construction of docks or decking is not planned along the water edge. Therefore, watercraft will not be provided at the facility and there will not be locations for watercraft to be moored near the facility. No change in the number or type of watercraft on Star Lake is expected due to the proposed project.

12. Contamination/Hazardous Materials/Wastes:

- a. Pre-project site conditions - Describe existing contamination or potential environmental hazards on or in close proximity to the project site such as soil or ground water contamination, abandoned dumps, closed landfills, existing or abandoned storage tanks, and hazardous liquid or gas pipelines. Discuss any potential environmental effects from pre-project site conditions that would be caused or exacerbated by project construction and operation. Identify measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects from existing contamination or potential environmental hazards. Include development of a Contingency Plan or Response Action Plan.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted for the central portion of the project area in 2016. The Phase I ESA identified recognized environmental conditions (RECs) including the past use of the project area as a cabinet shop, potential burn pits/mounds, outdoor solid waste disposal areas and a drum disposal area. A Phase II ESA was conducted to determine if these RECs have impacted soil or groundwater at the project area. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, and diesel range organics (DRO) were not detected at concentrations greater than or equal to the laboratory method reporting limits in the soil samples analyzed. Varying concentrations of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) metals were detected in the soil samples analyzed, but at concentrations below their respective regulatory limits. VOCs, DRO, PAHs, and some metals were detected in some of the groundwater samples but at concentrations below the Minnesota Department of Health Drinking Water Criteria.

Additional soil samples were collected from beneath the burn pits, debris areas, and drum disposal area. Soil impacts were identified in one area. The contamination will be addressed in accordance with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regulations and guidelines. The contamination was reported to the MPCA, who responded that they would not require any additional action.

- b. Project related generation/storage of solid wastes - Describe solid wastes generated/stored during construction and/or operation of the project. Indicate method of disposal. Discuss potential environmental effects from solid waste handling, storage and disposal. Identify measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects from the generation/storage of solid waste including source reduction and recycling.

A hazardous materials survey was performed in June 2016 for the existing structures, and which identified hazardous building materials associated with the structures. These hazardous materials were removed prior to demolition and disposed of according to Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency rules.

Solid wastes from the debris piles noted during previous surveys were removed, sorted, and disposed off-site in an appropriate landfill. Metals were recovered and recycled where possible.

Typical construction wastes, such as drywall, wood, metal, and plastic sheeting, etc., will result from construction of the building and associated facilities. The construction contractor will have a waste minimization and recycling program to reduce the volume of solid waste. Wastes produced during construction will be disposed of by a licensed waste hauler at an appropriate facility.

Operation of the proposed project will generate mixed municipal wastes typical of hotel/casinos of a similar size. The wastes will be disposed in accordance with applicable regulations and will be stored in dumpsters until removal by a licensed waste hauler and disposal at an appropriate facility. Maintenance operations at the proposed facility will generate small amounts of hazardous materials which will be collected, stored, and disposed of off-site at permitted facilities according to applicable state and federal rules.

A long-term sustainability program will be prepared for this proposed project. The sustainability program will likely include a recycling program, waste minimization projects, and a housekeeping-recycling program. In addition, low-flow fixtures such as faucets and toilets, biodegradable cleaning products, food scrap recovery policy, and a paper recycling program will be utilized as applicable for the proposed project.

- c. Project related use/storage of hazardous materials - Describe chemicals/hazardous materials used/stored during construction and/or operation of the project including method of storage. Indicate the number, location and size of any above or below ground tanks to store petroleum or other materials. Discuss potential environmental effects from accidental spill or release of hazardous materials. Identify measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects from the use/storage of chemicals/hazardous materials including source reduction and recycling. Include development of a spill prevention plan.

Construction equipment will use petroleum fuels, and there will likely be on-site above ground storage of spare fuel during construction. Cleaning solutions and synthetic oils/lubricants may be used during project construction and as part of hotel and casino operations and will be stored in marked containers in accordance with all applicable laws. Any hazardous materials generated by the contractor during construction will be disposed of by the contractor at facilities licensed to dispose of such wastes. The proposed project is not anticipated to generate hazardous wastes but will likely generate universal wastes such as lamps and bulbs. These materials will be labeled, stored, and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations.

The buildings on the proposed project will be heated by propane, which will be stored in an aboveground storage tank near the building in accordance with applicable regulations. A backup power generator will be located near the building and fueled by diesel fuel. Spill reporting procedures and spill prevention planning will be conducted in accordance with applicable regulations.

- d. Project related generation/storage of hazardous wastes - Describe hazardous wastes generated/stored during construction and/or operation of the project. Indicate method of disposal. Discuss potential environmental effects from hazardous waste handling, storage, and disposal. Identify measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects from the generation/storage of hazardous waste including source reduction and recycling.

The proposed project is anticipated to produce less than 100 kilograms (kg) of hazardous waste per month and therefore will be a “Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator” of hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Any hazardous waste generated will be stored in marked containers, in accordance with all applicable laws, and disposed of at facilities licensed to accept such wastes.

13. Fish, wildlife, plant communities, and sensitive ecological resources (rare features):

- a. Describe fish and wildlife resources as well as habitats and vegetation on or in near the site.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Recreation Compass, the Staff Waterfowl Protection Area (WPA) is located approximately 1.5 miles to the northwest, and the Mondt WPA is located approximately 4 miles to the northeast. The Dead Lake Aquatic Management Area (AMA) is located approximately 4 miles to the southeast, as is the Dead Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Maplewood State Park is located approximately 3.5 miles to the west. No other WPA, AMA, WMA, or State Parks are located within 4 miles of the proposed project area. The DNR Recreation Compass did not identify other specifically designated areas such as national park, state forest, national forest, national wildlife refuge, scientific & natural area, state water trail, or state trail within 4 miles of the proposed project area. A copy of the Recreation Compass map is attached as Figure 11.

Star Lake is historically a wild rice harvesting area for the White Earth Nation. The White Earth Nation Governing Authority granted the use of this Trust Parcel for socio/economic purpose with the requirement that the proposed project would minimize the impact on the rice trust area and would maintain and sustain the ricing vegetation. No impacts to the shoreline or below the ordinary high water are planned. In addition, by purchasing the surrounding properties, this would allow greater access to the ricing vegetation for harvesting.

Land cover at the project area includes cultivated and formerly cultivated farmland, wooded/forested areas, brush/grassland, and wetlands. The proposed project area likely provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including deer, small mammals, song birds and other common birds, reptiles, and amphibians. No substantial fish habitats are known within the project boundaries.

- b. Describe rare features such as state-listed (endangered, threatened or special concern) species, native plant communities, Minnesota County Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance, and other sensitive ecological resources on or within close proximity to the site. Provide the license agreement number (LA-_) and/or correspondence number (ERDB) from which the data were obtained and attach the Natural Heritage letter from the DNR. Indicate if any additional habitat or species survey work has been conducted within the site and describe the results.

Correspondence from the Minnesota DNR on July 19, 2016 (Correspondence # ERDB 20170001) indicates rare features which are in the area and could potentially be adversely affected by the proposed project. These features include a colonial waterbird nesting area for red-necked grebes on Star Lake that was reported in 2003. State and federal laws protect the birds, their nests, and their eggs by prohibitions against disturbance. The DNR letter indicated the DNR Regional Nongame Specialist should be contacted for additional information. Discussion with the DNR Regional Nongame Specialist indicated the red-necked grebes have been documented in the area and are likely breeding along the shoreline. In order to reduce the impact to these species, the proposed project will maintain a natural shoreline. It is possible these birds will be disturbed during the construction, but any impacts are expected to be temporary.

The DNR letter indicated long-stalked chickweed and creeping juniper, both plant species of special concern, were documented on the shore of Star Lake in 1949. These species are found in sandy areas such as sand dunes and sandy shores. Based on review of aerial photographs, these types of areas do not appear to be present within the proposed project area. In addition, the proposed project is not expected to impact the shoreline area.

The DNR letter indicated that bald eagles may nest in the project area. The DNR letter indicated that if trees are to be removed in association with the proposed project, that the trees should be inspected for nests prior to being cut down. As part of the proposed project, tree removal will be necessary in some areas. Prior to disturbing the trees, a survey for bald eagle nests will be conducted in accordance with DNR guidelines by a White Earth Conservation Officer or designated representative.

The northern long-eared bat was also identified as a threatened and special species of concern and is present throughout Minnesota. The DNR indicated no known occurrences of northern long-eared bat roosts or hibernacula within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project.

A copy of the DNR response is attached as C.

*The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) Trust Resources Report indicates two threatened species, the gray wolf (*Canis lupis*), and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), may occur within the proposed project area. However, no critical habitats or wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries were identified for the proposed project area by the IPaC report. The IPaC report identified several species of migratory birds which would be potentially affected by activities in the proposed project area. A copy of the IPaC Trust Resource Report is attached as Appendix D. According to information from the Minnesota DNR and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service, no roost trees or hibernacula for the northern long-eared bat are known to occur in the project area. Based on this information, the proposed project is not expected to impact the northern long eared bat.*

According to the Minnesota DNR Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) Breeding Pair Accessibility Maps, approximately 21 – 30 pairs per square mile are present in the project area. A copy of the map is attached as Appendix E.

- c. Discuss how the identified fish, wildlife, plant communities, rare features and ecosystems may be affected by the project. Include a discussion on introduction and spread of invasive species from the project construction and operation. Separately discuss effects to known threatened and endangered species.

In general, terrestrial wildlife resources in the proposed project area will be disturbed by the conversion of the project construction area to the proposed project. The wildlife located in these areas will be displaced to areas with similar habitat availability adjacent to the proposed project construction area on the Site or nearby. As the proposed facility does not plan to construct any amenities that will induce or support boat traffic, the potential for introduction of aquatic invasive species is believed to be minimal. The introduction of terrestrial invasive species (such as invasive insects or invasive plants) is not anticipated to be significant as these are most commonly associated with outdoor activities which are anticipated to be generally associated only with the small RV park. Turf maintenance surrounding the RV park is anticipated to mitigate to potential spread of invasive weeds and plants, and use of locally-sourced firewood is anticipated to mitigate the spread of invasive insects.

Discussion with the DNR Regional Nongame Specialist indicated this area likely has an assemblage of wetlands species typical of Otter Tail County including wetland birds, frogs, turtles, etc. Common Loons have been monitored on Star Lake as part of the Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program with data back to 2004. While volunteers do not locate nests during this survey, it is likely that loons would be using the bay. In order to reduce the impact to these species, the proposed project will maintain a natural shoreline. It is possible these birds will be disturbed during the construction, but any impacts are expected to be temporary.

- d. Identify measures that will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to fish, wildlife, plant communities, and sensitive ecological resources.

Some areas of the property will be preserved as wooded/forested areas, and some areas which were formerly cultivated farmland will be restored as natural prairie, which will provide habitat to wildlife displaced during construction and operations, and created new areas for native species to live.

Best management practices (BMPs) will be prepared through the SWPPP to prevent untreated stormwater runoff from the project from reaching the adjacent lakes and wetlands.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency require live storage in retention ponds associated with new construction to be designed to treat a minimum of a 1” rainfall runoff from any new impervious surface being created.

14. Historic properties:

Describe any historic structures, archeological sites, and/or traditional cultural properties on or in close proximity to the site. Include: 1) historic designations, 2) known artifact areas, and 3)

architectural features. Attach letter received from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Discuss any anticipated effects to historic properties during project construction and operation. Identify measures that will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties.

- 1) *A Phase I and Phase II Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey completed in August of 2016. As part of the survey, a records search was completed at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) to identify previously recorded and reported archaeological and architectural sites. A one-mile radius was addressed during this search. The background search concluded in the finding of no previously recorded archaeological sites within the proposed project area and one previously recorded archaeological site within a one-mile radius. No historic properties were identified within the proposed project area or within a one-mile radius.*
- 2) *In 2016, a Cultural Resources Survey was completed on the proposed project area which included a pedestrian survey and extensive shovel testing in the area of a previously unidentified archaeological site 21OT0205 as well as a single artifact find located in the northeast portion of the proposed project area. The single artifact find will be submitted to receive a site number. The Survey concluded that there exists a high probability for archaeological remains within the project area. Therefore, a monitor will be present when ground-disturbing activities take place. If buried artifacts, human remains, cultural sites, or ground features are unexpectedly unearthed during ground disturbing activities, all construction will immediately cease and the resources be examined by a professional archaeologist. Additionally, appropriate authorities, including the pertinent tribal entities and the State Historic Preservation Office and the Office of the State Archaeologist, will be notified.*
- 3) *Two former house sites are located within the proposed project area. According to the Phase I and Phase II Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey, neither site retains integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*

15. Visual:

Describe any scenic views or vistas on or near the project site. Describe any project related visual effects such as vapor plumes or glare from intense lights. Discuss the potential visual effects from the project. Identify any measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate visual effects.

Relatively minor changes in elevation and dense tree cover in the surrounding area results in a limited viewshed in the project area vicinity, and no known scenic views or vistas are located in the surrounding area.

The building will be visible from Star Lake but building shoreline setbacks will be maintained in accordance with applicable regulations. Visual impacts from the lighting will be minimized by utilizing best practices, including Dark Sky Lighting practices, down lightings, shorter light poles, color of light, and ground surface reflectivity. No visual effects from vapor plumes are expected.

16. Air:

- a. Stationary source emissions - Describe the type, sources, quantities and compositions of any emissions from stationary sources such as boilers or exhaust stacks. Include any hazardous air pollutants, criteria pollutants, and any greenhouse gases. Discuss effects to air quality including any sensitive receptors, human health or applicable regulatory criteria. Include a discussion of any methods used to assess the project's effect on air quality and the results of that assessment. Identify pollution control equipment and other measures that will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects from stationary source emissions.

The hotel and casino portion of the project will produce stationary source emissions from furnaces for heating the building and boilers for hot water heating. The primary source of heating the furnaces and boilers will be on-site propane. A diesel-powered emergency generator will also be on-site, but is not expected to operate except for testing and emergency power generation and therefore diesel emissions during facility operations are anticipated to be negligible. Guest rooms are planned to have individual heating/AC units, which will not cause onsite emissions since they use electricity rather than on-site fuel. Emissions from the room specific units will be produced at the power plant supplying the electricity.

As the location of the facility is within a low population density area, no significant effects to nearby air quality or human health are anticipated. While there are residential receptors approximately 125 feet to the north of the project boundary across 360th Street and 250 feet to the west of the property boundary across Otter Tail County Highway 41, currently there are no known sensitive receptors. Applicable and relevant air quality standards will be adhered to by facility operations.

- b. Vehicle emissions - Describe the effect of the project's traffic generation on air emissions. Discuss the project's vehicle-related emissions effect on air quality. Identify measures (e.g. traffic operational improvements, diesel idling minimization plan) that will be taken to minimize or mitigate vehicle-related emissions.

The proposed project would create a small amount of fugitive emissions from construction equipment exhausts during the construction phase. However, these emissions are expected to be small and intermittent and are not expected to be a significant threat to air quality in the project area.

Over the long-term, the operation of the proposed facility will generate primarily indirect air pollutant emissions associated with mobile sources (automobiles, recreational vehicles, buses, trucks and maintenance equipment) used to access the project site. The significance of project-related operational impacts will vary depending on the frequency with which events occur and the types of conventions or meetings held on-site. The long-term operational impact of the proposed project on regional emissions of criteria pollutants including ozone precursors have not been modelled but are not believed to be significant. The project area is not in any non-attainment area for any air quality standards.

Measures to mitigate vehicle emissions will include traffic improvements related to access off of Otter Tail County Highway 41 (e.g., dedicated turning lanes).

- c. Dust and odors - Describe sources, characteristics, duration, quantities, and intensity of dust and odors generated during project construction and operation. (Fugitive dust may be discussed under item 16a). Discuss the effect of dust and odors in the vicinity of the project including nearby sensitive receptors and quality of life. Identify measures that will be taken to minimize or mitigate the effects of dust and odors.

During construction

The proposed project will generate temporary dust and odors during construction. Construction equipment will have gasoline and diesel engine emissions and will create temporary fugitive dust emissions, especially in the areas where soils will be excavated, transported, and placed. The fugitive dust emissions will be controlled by watering, sprinkling, and/or calcium products as necessary and appropriate.

Dust mitigation measures will include preparing and implementing a dust control plan. Odors may be generated from operation of facility equipment engines and truck traffic and possibly from excavation and stockpiling of organic soils. Odor mitigation measures will include minimizing equipment used on-site, minimize idling, keep engines in good repair, minimize idling truck traffic through scheduling, and covering of organic soils if needed.

During facility operation

The proposed project is not anticipated to produce any ongoing significant odors or dust once in operation. Minor amounts of dust generated during facility operation are anticipated to be more than offset by the cessation of agricultural operations at the site. Twice per year (spring and fall) it is anticipated that there may be brief periods where odors from the wastewater ponds are noticed when the water in the ponds turns over due to temperature changes. These periods are expected to be brief, and may be noticed by persons based on distance from the ponds and wind speed and direction. The proposed project wastewater treatment facility will be staffed with a Class C Operator who will monitor for odors and minimize impacts.

17. Noise

Describe sources, characteristics, duration, quantities, and intensity of noise generated during project construction and operation. Discuss the effect of noise in the vicinity of the project including 1) existing noise levels/sources in the area, 2) nearby sensitive receptors, 3) conformance to state noise standards, and 4) quality of life. Identify measures that will be taken to minimize or mitigate the effects of noise.

- 1) *Residences are present to the north and east along the shores of Star Lake. Typical existing noise currently is from automotive and boating traffic on the roads and lakes.*
- 2) *No sensitive receptors are located nearby.*

- 3) *The proposed project is expected to generate noise during the construction phase. Daily hours of construction will follow regulatory and construction permit regulated times. Noise will primarily be produced by the construction machinery on-site and placement of piling during construction. All machinery is equipped with back-up alarms for safety purposes, which would likely be the producers of the loudest noise on the construction site (97-112 decibels), outside of the pile driving. During the pile driving, up to two or three cranes may be in operation at a time. Noise levels for the pile driving is 189 decibels at 10 meters. Noise from a point source, such as a crane, will drop 6 decibels for each doubling of distance. Ongoing operations will conform to state and local noise standards.*
- 4) *Excessive noise is not expected once the construction phase is complete. Noise generated once the project is complete will be primarily traffic noise from cars entering and leaving the facility, and noise from use of outdoor facilities such as the swimming pool and community theater.*

18. Transportation

- a. Describe traffic-related aspects of project construction and operation. Include: 1) existing and proposed additional parking spaces, 2) estimated total average daily traffic generated, 3) estimated maximum peak hour traffic generated and time of occurrence, 4) indicate source of trip generation rates used in the estimates, and 5) availability of transit and/or other alternative transportation modes.
 - 1) *There are no existing parking spaces. A total of 979 parking spaces is planned for the hotel/casino, and 25 parking spaces at the RV park.*
 - 2) *According to a transportation study conducted by Otter Tail County, the existing average daily traffic (ADT) volume for Otter Tail County Road 41, which is the access road for the proposed project, is 435 from the south and 730 from the north (Figure 13). The transportation study estimates (using historical growth patterns) as the Year 2020 traffic volume to be 540 from the south and 800 from the north and 650 from the south and 870 from the north (see Figure 14). Average daily trips projected upon completion of the proposed project for 2020 are 1780 from the south and 1830 from the north, 2160 from the south and 2140 from the north for year 2030 and 2300 from the south and 2260 from the north for year 2040 (figure 15).*
 - 3) *The estimated peak hour turning movements at key intersections are shown in Figure 16.*
 - 4) *The information was obtained from the transportation study conducted on behalf of Otter Tail County as part of the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan.*
 - 5) *No transit or other alternative transportation modes are available in the project area.*

- b. Discuss the effect on traffic congestion on affected roads and describe any traffic improvements necessary. The analysis must discuss the project's impact on the regional transportation system. If the peak hour traffic generated exceeds 250 vehicles or the total daily trips exceeds 2,500, a traffic impact study must be prepared as part of the EAW. Use the format and procedures described in the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Access Management Manual, Chapter 5 (available at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/accessmanagement/resources.html>) or a similar local guidance.

Based upon the traffic study done by Otter Tail County, the existing road network near the proposed project is currently used at 3% to 5% of its rated capacity. The proposed project is expected to increase traffic to 13% (2020), 15% (2030) and 16% (2040). While traffic increases will likely be noticeable to local residents due the very light current traffic levels, traffic increases are not anticipated to significantly impact the local or regional transportation system.

- c. Identify measures that will be taken to minimize or mitigate project related transportation effects.

Otter Tail County has previously identified the need for and recommended rumble strips and wet reflective pavement markings to help reduce crash rates.

As part of the Limited Star Lake Comprehensive Plan effort, and to accommodate longer-term increase in traffic in the area, the following traffic improvements will be incorporated into the project design at each of the two project entrances:

- *Construct a dedicated left turn lane for southbound Highway 41 traffic*
- *Construct right-turn lane for northbound Otter Tail County Highway 41 traffic, and*
- *Install illuminated entrances at project entrances.*

Longer-term regional traffic improvements are also being considered by Otter Tail County for nearby intersections with Highway 108, 380th Street, Highway 24 and Highway 35. Decisions on these improvements are anticipated within the next two years, with implementation to follow as funding mechanisms are identified and funding is secured.

19. Cumulative potential effects: (Preparers can leave this item blank if cumulative potential effects are addressed under the applicable EAW Items)

- a. Describe the geographic scales and timeframes of the project related environmental effects that could combine with other environmental effects resulting in cumulative potential effects.

There are no predicted project environmental effects that will combine with any other known projects within the environmentally-relevant area that will result in cumulative potential effects.

- b. Describe any reasonably foreseeable future projects (for which a basis of expectation has been laid) that may interact with environmental effects of the proposed project within the geographic scales and timeframes identified above.

There are up to 70 homes in the area that are serviced by private septic systems. The wastewater treatment facility that is proposed has been sized to accommodate the wastewater flows from these homes. This would require utility connections from the homes to the proposed system on the

project area. While the proposed system has been sized to accommodate these flows, the exact number of homes, locations, scale, and timeframe for connecting these homes has not been determined. It is expected that these utility connections would follow existing utilities and roads.

There are no other known future projects in the vicinity of the proposed project area for which a basis of expectation has been laid that would interact with the environmental effects of the proposed project.

- c. Discuss the nature of the cumulative potential effects and summarize any other available information relevant to determining whether there is potential for significant environmental effects due to these cumulative effects.

There are no other known anticipated cumulative potential effects that would create potential for significant environmental effects.

20. Other potential environmental effects: If the project may cause any additional environmental effects not addressed by items 1 to 19, describe the effects here, discuss the how the environment will be affected, and identify measures that will be taken to minimize and mitigate these effects.

No additional potential environmental effects from this project other than those discussed above are anticipated.

RGU CERTIFICATION. *(The Environmental Quality Board will only accept **SIGNED** Environmental Assessment Worksheets for public notice in the EQB Monitor.)*

I hereby certify that:

- The information contained in this document is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- The EAW describes the complete project; there are no other projects, stages or components other than those described in this document, which are related to the project as connected actions or phased actions, as defined at Minnesota Rules, parts 4410.0200, subparts 9c and 60, respectively.
- Copies of this EAW are being sent to the entire EQB distribution list.

Signature _____

Date _____

Title _____