

ENVIRONMENT

Clean Power Plan

10-01-16

As the merits of the EPA's Clean Power Plan are argued at an appeals court, recent data is adding more backbone to arguments in favor of the rules to reduce carbon emissions. Separate reports from Georgia Tech and the Alliance for Industrial Efficiency show how implementation of the Clean Power Plan can boost competitiveness for manufacturers in Minnesota and other states. Douglas Jester with clean energy consultant 5 Lakes Energy says it's clear that energy-efficiency strategies reduce energy bills...

... "business as usual." :12

The Clean Power Plan calls for Minnesota to reduce emissions by 34 percent compared with 2012 levels.

According to the Alliance report, industrial energy efficiency can save businesses nearly 300 billion dollars from avoided electricity purchases. And the Georgia Tech analysis also found energy savings for industry under Clean Power Plan compliance - nearly 40 billion dollars annually.

GA

From Becker County District Court

10/03/16

DETROIT LAKES, MN--A Detroit Lakes woman has been sentenced to 20 years probation and must pay over 62-thousand dollars in restitution for stealing from her former employer. Fifty-three year old Twyla Bucholz was sentenced in Becker County Court last week for her theft conviction. Bucholz had been arrested after an investigation by her former employer, Morrison Eye Care in Detroit Lakes, turned up money had been missing beginning in 2011 through March of this year. Bucholz had been employed as a book keeper by the business for over 20 years. She pleaded guilty to theft in August.

Detroit Man Sentenced to Five Years in Prison For Weapon Possession

DETROIT LAKES, MN--A Detroit Lakes man has been sentenced to five years in prison for a felon in possession of a weapon. Thirty-nine year old Ronald Butcher was sentenced last week in Becker County District Court to 60 months at the St. Cloud Corrections facility. Butcher was arrested last October by Detroit Lakes Police after a traffic stop in which he was a passenger in the vehicle. The officer had searched the vehicle and passengers for suspicion of drugs. A gun was found in the car's trunk. DNA from the gun belonged to Butcher. Butcher had been convicted of felony assault in March of 2008, which prohibits him from possessing a gun.

1626
7:30

North Country Scenic Trail Becoming A Reality

10-06-16

The North Country Scenic Trail is being called the longest by far of any of the national trails. The North Country Scenic Trail in Fergus Falls is a nine-mile offshoot trail that connects to the extensive nationwide trail. The route traverses the cities of Pelican Rapids, Fergus Falls, Rothsay, Breckenridge and Wahpeton areas. The route is mostly a long road walk where the hiker will leave the forested lake region, enter the tallgrass prairie, and traverse the flat and agriculturally rich Red River Valley. Lowell Carpenter, with the North Country Trail Association says they are very excited that Fergus Falls is now part of the system...

LOWELL CARPENTER 33 SEC

OUTCUE: "...down into the Prairie Wetlands"

The recently formed Glacial Edge Chapter is responsible for the North Country Scenic Trail in Otter Tail and Wilkin Counties between Frazee and North Dakota. They are focusing initially on developing the trail within the Fergus Falls area.

1625
7:30

PRW
DLM

Otter Tail County Warns Residents About Chemical Disposal

10-10-2016

Otter Tail County Solid Waste and Recycling is asking for the public's help in keeping county employees who process what comes from the recycling bins around Otter Tail County safe. Recently, the fire department was called out for a chemical spill at the Otter Tail County Recycling Center. Public Information and Safety Officer Shannon Terry says what could have been a disastrous event can now be used to educate the public about what is not acceptable to throw in the bins...

Terry OTC Recycling 27 sec

OUTCUE: "...it's not like it goes through machines or anything."

Although It was later identified as muriatic acid, a vapor cloud had formed, forcing the evacuation of 15 employees and a chemical assessment team from the Moorhead and Fargo Fire Departments had to be brought in. Terry says if you are in doubt about how something should be disposed of it's best to check the Otter Tail County website or just call ahead, before you bring in the item in question.

7A
1626
8A

PRW
=OLM

Boat lifts focus of 2 new zebra mussel reports

10-07-16

Two more area lakes have been deemed infested with zebra mussels by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The DNR has confirmed zebra mussels in Sybil Lake in Otter Tail County and Maud Lake in adjacent Becker County. The DNR says in both cases, the zebra mussels were found on boat lifts when they were removed from the water.

The DNR says a property owner on Lake Sybil made the initial report of the invasive mussels. Invasive species staff confirmed live zebra mussels on a boat lift. The DNR says it appreciates the assistance of the property owner as well as the lake service provider business that removed the boat lift from the lake in late September. DNR invasive species staff did not find any other zebra mussels in the lake or on other nearby equipment. They will conduct more extensive follow-up searches.

The DNR says a vigilant lake service provider business reported finding two zebra mussels attached to a boat lift they were removing from Maud Lake. In a follow-up search, DNR invasive species staff found and removed one additional zebra mussel about a half-mile from the area where the boat lift was removed.

According to the DNR, both incidents serve as good reminders for citizens to check equipment as they remove it each season.

DNR Invasive species unit supervisor Heidi Wolf says Minnesota law requires docks and boat lifts to be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them in another body of water. Wolf emphasizes that the requirement is one of the most important tools for preventing the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Lake service provider businesses receive specific training about this law, but it's essential for everyone to follow it, even when the lake a dock or lift comes out of is not listed as infested.

6A
2650
1625
7:30

Zebra Mussels Confirmed In Another Otter Tail County Lake

11-08-2016

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Adley Lake near Parkers Prairie in Otter Tail County. This is one of several confirmations this fall as docks and boat lifts are being checked for invasive species at the end of the season.

DNR staff found and removed a one-inch adult zebra mussel attached to the wheel of the dock at the public water access on Adley Lake. During a follow-up search, DNR invasive species specialists found and removed a one-half-inch zebra mussel attached to a rock in about three inches of water near the access. They found no zebra mussels during a search of nearby docks and other water-related equipment. The DNR will conduct a more extensive search of Adley Lake early next spring.

1628
N6-5-1
7A
1625
7:30
N6-5-2

PRW
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Fergus Falls Loses A Number of Tree To Disease

11-10-16

Dutch Elm Disease is hitting the city of Fergus Falls extremely hard this year. Public Works Director Len Taylor says the number of affected trees is up...

Len Taylor City Of FF Trees cut 1

OUTCUE: "...averaged about a 190 each year.

Taylor said the testing process is very important to inform property owners, so they can decide if they want to have the city contractors remove the trees or arrange their own contractor...

Len Taylor City Of FF Trees cut 2

Taylor says to contact City staff if you find that you have an X marked on any trees on your property, because landowners only have 60 days once the tree is marked.

7A
1626
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1189

1628
Nov 17

Friday Only

Otter Tail Power Company Acquires New Wind Farm In North Dakota

11-18-16

Otter Tail Power Company has signed the purchase agreements for a 150-megawatt wind farm in southeastern North Dakota that EDF Renewable Energy will design and build in 2019. The company expects the project to cost more than \$250 million and the wind farm to generate enough electricity to power more than 65,000 homes by 2019. Cris Oehler Vice President of Public Relations...

CHRIS OEHLER WIND FARM 15 SEC

OUTCUE: "...to about 28 percent."

Before construction can begin, Otter Tail Power Company and EDF Renewable Energy will seek required approvals from state regulatory agencies, and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. will need to authorize interconnection to the transmission system. Upon completion it will be the largest capital project in Otter Tail Power's history.

7A
1425
8A
1189

Pipeline Protesters

11-26-16

Saturday
Audio cuts on newstroom
desktop

Two activists from Seattle who were arrested last fall for trying to shut off the Enbridge pipeline in Minnesota will be back in court next month, but a judge has allowed them to appear via telephone. On October 11th, they attempted to close down the operation near Clearbrook. The Clearwater County Sheriff's department arrested Emily Johnston and Annette Klapstein. Both of the women say they knew they would be arrested and even waited for the sheriff's department to arrive after turning off the valve. Klapstein says she doesn't want to go to prison but that scientists have proved rising temperatures are harming the earth...

... "turn that around." :16 (Klapstein)

Klapstein and Johnston were arraigned this month on four charges each, including damage to public property and trespassing. The Climate Disobedience Action Fund says a total of nine activists and film crew members were arrested on the same day last October in Minnesota, Washington, Montana and North Dakota. Charlie Thayer, with MN-350, was part of a recent protest in St. Paul over the Dakota Access Pipeline. He calls the decision to cross tribal lands "environmental racism..."

... "are expendable." :16 (Thayer)

The Army Corps of Engineers says it will not allow completion of the pipeline until there has been more research into how it would hurt the environment. Thayer calls it a temporary victory, and says they won't stop their efforts to make sure construction doesn't destroy their sacred land.

New State Permits Required For Mowing Right Of Ways

12-02-2016

Landowners and farmers who would like to be able to mow the right of way next to their fields or property can do so now, but a permit will be needed. State Projects Administrator Judy Jacobs with the State Department Of Transportation...

Judy Jacobs MNDOT 32 SEC

OUTCUE: "...owner of the permit listed."

The landowner themselves will mow the right of way. The new permit provides information on when and where mowing and baling can be done and how long baled hay can be left in the right of way. The new permit and addition criteria can be found on MNDOT's website.

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Environmental Action Fund

12-05-16

The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities has started an Environmental Action Fund and the Fergus Falls City Engineer is recommending the city join the effort by making a contribution.

Brian Yavarow (yah-VAR-oh) says the fund will be used to make sure future state regulations on public wastewater treatment, centralized drinking water and stormwater management systems meet three criteria. The regulations must be based on scientifically researched facts, the environmental benefit of the regulations must be observable and obtainable, and the cost to implement the regulations must be reasonable for the regulated entity.

Yavarow says new regulations likely coming down from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency could affect the city's wastewater treatment facility permit, which expires July 31st next year...

..."matter as well." :11

The city's Finance, Personnel and Development Committee recommended paying the \$4,600 cost to join the Action Fund initiative. The full city council will vote on the issue tonight (Monday).

6A
1207
2650
7:30
Woot

Good Year For Tree Growers

12-03-2016

Minnesota Christmas tree growers are gearing up for a season of high-quality Christmas trees, thanks to favorable conditions during the 2016 growing season. Tuud Cupkie with Cupkie Christmas Village near Richville says they had a good year...

TUDD CUPKIE 14 SEC

OUTCUE: "...twenty to fifty trees every year."

After the holiday season, real trees are biodegradable and can be recycled or used as biomass, a renewable form of energy.

1624
7:30

KPRW
KDLN

Recycling Grant

12-20-16

Otter Tail County has been awarded a state grant to help fund single sort recycling in Fergus Falls and Perham.

And Monday night, the Fergus Falls City Council accepted the grant and voted to proceed with the program in 2017.

Public Works Director Len Taylor says the grant was for \$225,000, \$25,000 less than requested. The money will be used to purchase 95 gallon recycling containers...

..."\$31,000." :17

Taylor says if everything falls into place, the single sort recycling program could be implemented mid year.

1625
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1628
1189

DLM
PRW