

EQB Monitor

EQB announcements and environmental review notices

Volume 46, Number 16

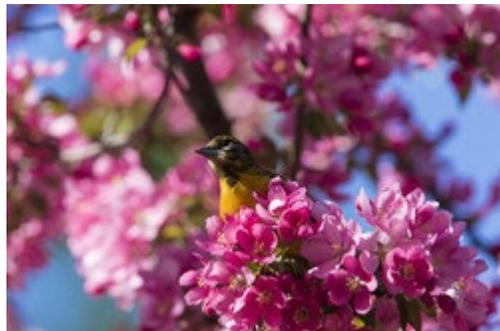
April 19, 2022

EQB announcements

April Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee (ERIS) meeting

**Wednesday, April 20
1 – 4 p.m.**

Join ERIS at their next meeting to hear an update from the Subcommittee for Pilot Program Implementation, hear a presentation on the 2021 Environmental Review Performance Report, discuss a proposed approach to creating an Environmental Review Program continuous improvement process, and close out with an opportunity for the public to give comment.



[Visit the April ERIS meeting page](#) to view the board packet, get the Webex link and more information.

Webinar: Environmental Review from the Community Advocate's Perspective

Climate Change and Environmental Review Speaker Series

**Thursday, April 28
1 – 2 p.m.**

[Join us using Webex](#)

Amelia Vohs, Regulatory Attorney at the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, will discuss common themes around how communities consume and understand environmental review information, and how that may result in a legal challenge.

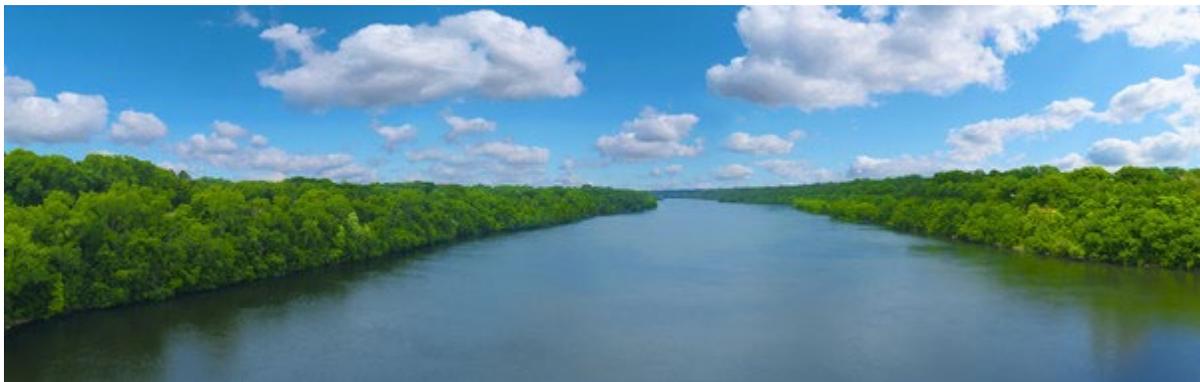
Throughout the [Climate Change and Environmental Review Pilot Program](#), EQB is hosting a monthly speaker series open to anyone that will feature presentations by technical experts about incorporating climate information into environmental assessment worksheets.

Registration open for participation in Climate Change and Environmental Review Pilot Program

EQB is seeking local responsible governmental units (RGUs) and consultants interested in participating in a pilot program that will assess the efficiency and effectiveness of climate information by testing a draft revised environmental assessment worksheet. Participants will benefit from shared learning as well as training provided by technical experts. Registration is open to all RGUs and consultants, regardless of whether you are actively reviewing a project. This cohort-based program will begin in early 2022. [Register now!](#)

If you are not eligible to register, but would like to receive updates about the Pilot Program, please [sign-up here](#).

Environmental review notices



Environmental review project notices

EQB publishes environmental review notices provided by responsible governmental units. For more information on a project undergoing environmental review, click on the individual project links below. You can also find information about active projects in your community on the [Environmental Review Projects Interactive Map](#).

We need your feedback: Some governmental units are completing environmental review using the draft revised environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) form that

includes information about greenhouse gases and climate change. These reviews are noted below with a star (*) in front of the project title. Help us understand the usefulness of the climate change information in these EAWs by completing a [brief survey](#). Your feedback is important to the Environmental Quality Board and will inform decision making on the final EAW form.

Pine Bend Solar Farm

Location: Rosemount, Dakota County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet

Step: Environmental assessment worksheet available

End of comment period: May 19, 2022

Project description: Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend, LLC, (FHR) is proposing the development of a 45-megawatt alternating current (MWac) solar photovoltaic (PV) project west of the FHR Pine Bend Refinery in the city of Rosemount, Dakota County, Minnesota. The project would be located on property owned by FHR and utilize land previously leased for agricultural use.

Link to public documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

Location of public documents: Robert Trail Library, 14395 South Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN 55068

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Rosemount, [Anthony Nemcek](#), 651-322-2090

***Brooklyn Center Opportunity Site #1**

Location: Brooklyn Center, Hennepin County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet

Step: Environmental assessment worksheet available

End of comment period: May 19, 2022

Project description: The proposed project is a mixed-use site redevelopment in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. The site would be developed with the construction of eight commercial and residential buildings; public plazas; park area; and stormwater ponds.

Link to public documents: [Brooklyn Center Opportunity Site #1 EAW](#)

Location of public documents: City of Brooklyn Center, 6301 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center MN 55430

First public meeting date, time, and location: April 26, 2022, 6 p.m., virtual

First public meeting virtual link: <https://clients.bolton-menk.com/brooklyncenter2019/opportunitysite/opportunitysite-2/>

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Brooklyn Center, [Meg Beekman](#), 763-569-3305

I-494 from Trunk Highway 169 to Trunk Highway 5

Location: Bloomington, Edina, and Richfield, Hennepin County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet

Step: Environmental assessment worksheet available

Joint federal and state review: Yes

End of comment period: May 19, 2022

Project description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation, with the Federal Highway Administration, is providing notice of the Hybrid Environmental Assessment for the I-494 corridor between TH 169 and TH 5. The Hybrid Environmental Assessment provides the environmental review for both the corridor vision and also the funded first construction project. The corridor vision is a major construction project that cannot be built all at once due to funding limitations and impacts during construction. The first construction project includes E-ZPass lanes between Highway 100 and I-35W, interchange modifications at I-35W, Nicollet Avenue, Portland Avenue, 12th Avenue South, and a new pedestrian bridge near Chicago Avenue. The social, economic, and environmental impacts were analyzed for the entire length of the I-494 corridor, and then separately for the improvements included in the first construction project scheduled to begin in 2023.

Link to public documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

Location of public documents: MnDOT Metro District Office, 1500 West County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113

First public meeting date, time, location: May 5, 2022, 4:30 p.m., Council Chambers at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN

First public meeting additional details: The public can attend in person at the Council Chambers at Bloomington Civic Plaza (1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington) or virtually. Registration is required for both in-person and virtual meeting options at: <https://dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169/>.

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Department of Transportation, [Andrew Lutaya](mailto:Andrew.Lutaya@dot.state.mn.us), 651-234-7563

Manual Training Building Demolition

Location: Eveleth, St. Louis County

Process: EAW

Step: Environmental impact statement (EIS) need decision

RGU decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Record of decision date: April 5, 2022

Link to public documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

Location of public documents: Eveleth City Hall, 413 Pierce Street, Eveleth, MN 55734

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Eveleth, [Jackie Monahan-Junek](mailto:Jackie.Monahan@cityofeveleth.com), 218-744-7444

Ruddle Property

Location: Lakeville, Dakota County

Process: Alternative urban areawide review (AUAR)

Step: Final order of review

Project description: The AUAR study area encompasses 91.37 acres, including 12 existing tax parcels, located west of County Road 9 (Dodd Boulevard) in Lakeville, Dakota County, Minnesota. Two development scenarios, are proposed to be evaluated in the AUAR. Scenario 1 includes three buildings for a total of 1,130,800 square feet of proposed industrial development. Scenario 2 includes seven buildings for a total of 1,200,000 square feet of proposed industrial development.

Link to public documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

Location of public documents: Lakeville City Hall, 20195 Holyoke Avenue, Lakeville MN 55044

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Lakeville, [David Olson](#), 952-985-4420

Rose Creek Wind Project

Location: Mower County

Process: Alternative review

Notice title: Notice of Public Information Meeting

Notice description: In the Matter of the Application of Rose Creek Wind, LLC for a LWECS Site Permit for the 17.4 MW Rose Creek Wind Project in Mower County, Minnesota. PUC Docket Number: IP-7065/WS-21-643.

Project description: Rose Creek Wind, LLC has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a site permit to decommission the existing Rose Wind facility and construct and operate the new Rose Creek Wind facility in its place. The existing Rose Wind facility is a 17.4-megawatt Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) that was originally permitted by Mower County and consists of 11 turbines ranging in size from 1.5 to 1.65 megawatts. The new Rose Creek Wind facility that would replace the existing facility would consist of up to 7 new larger turbines ranging in size from 2 to 2.82 megawatts. The new turbines would not be built in the same locations as the existing turbines. Associated facilities would include electrical collector lines, gravel turbine access roads, and a temporary construction yard. The facility would continue to have a nameplate capacity of 17.4 megawatts and would use the existing point of interconnection, which is a project substation connected to an existing 69-kilovolt Dairyland-owned transmission line. The project substation would be expanded slightly to accommodate equipment upgrades.

Link to public documents: [Rose Creek Wind Project](#)

Location of public documents: Austin Public Library, 323 4th Ave NE, Austin, MN 55912

First public meeting date, time, location: May 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center, 1701 4th St NW, Austin, Minnesota, 55912

First public meeting additional details: Written comments will be accepted through May 19, 2022, by 4:30 p.m. Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the draft site permit?
- What are the possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?

Comments may be submitted:

Online: <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Email: richard.davis@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Richard Davis, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, St. Paul, MN 55101

Second public meeting date, time, location: May 5, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Virtual

Second public meeting virtual

link: <https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m7020303cc383de97c91e0d3543d94128>

Second public meeting additional details: WebEx Number: 2484 921 2970

WebEx Password: n7tHhADPM35 (67844237 from phones)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free

Access Code: 248 492 12970

If you are joining the meeting by WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press *3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at:

<https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Public Utilities Commission, [Scott Ek](#), 651-201-2255

General notice

Notices published in this section may be required under Minnesota Statute or Rule.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 22-NO-20. Notification is for genetically modified SOYBEAN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in the following ten linked permits identified as AUTH – 206776, 206777, 206778, 206779, 206780, 206782, 206783, 206784, 206785 and 206786. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-1 location with 195 acres. Project categories include AP (Agronomic Performance), FR (Fungal Resistance), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Gene), PQ (Product Quality), OO (Other). For additional information contact Denise Thiede.

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531

Submit an environmental review notice to the *Monitor*

The *EQB Monitor* is published every Tuesday at 12:00 pm. Submissions to the [EQB Monitor](#) are due by 4:00 pm on the Tuesday one week prior to the intended publication date. Please see the [EQB Monitor schedule](#) for more details.

To submit a notice for publication:

[Use the EQB Monitor submission form](#)

Questions? Contact EQB by phone at 651-757-2873 or email us at EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us.

The *EQB Monitor* is a weekly publication announcing environmental review documents, public comment periods and other actions of the Environmental Quality Board. For more information on environmental review, please visit the [EQB website](#) or contact us at env.review@state.mn.us.



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