

The *EQB Monitor*

520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 - www.eqb.state.mn.us
EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us - (651)-757-2873

Publication Date: August 28, 2017
Vol. 41, No. 35

Publication Schedule: Mondays at 8:00 AM
Submission Deadline: [View 2017 Schedule](#)
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

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](#).

You can manage your subscription to the *EQB Monitor* [here](#). Be sure to add MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list.

Check the [EQB Calendar](#) for more details on *Monitor* deadlines and Board Meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the [EQB Website](#). You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



In this publication:

- [Environmental Assessment Worksheets](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions](#)
- [Final Environmental Impact Statements](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Termination Notices](#)
- [Notices](#)

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: High Meadows Rum River Re-meander

Comment Deadline: September 27, 2017

Project Description: The Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with the MN DNR are proposing a stream restoration on the Rum River in Isanti County. This project has been designed and considered to be an improvement to wildlife and fish habitat as well as reconnecting 1 mile of wetland and floodplain that has been separated by a stream head cut. MN DNR and the Isanti County SWCD have collaborated on this project to address concerns of sedimentation, channel head cutting, floodplain disconnection and erosion. The final project will restore 6,050 linear feet of abandoned channel and will follow natural channel restoration principles.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Isanti County Zoning Office

RGU Contact Person:

Trina Bergloff
Zoning Administrator
555 18th Ave. SW
Cambridge, MN 55008
763-689-5165
trina.bergloff@co.isanti.mn.us

Project Title: Central Specialties - Kluver Aggregate Mine

Comment Deadline: September 27, 2017

Project Description: Minnerath Investments, LLC is proposing a new 39.9-acre aggregate mining operation in Section 20 of Hudson Township, Douglas County. The three phases of the project propose to extract, process, and stockpile sand and gravel from above and below the watertable. Mining is proposed to occur in three phases. Site preparation will occur only as needed for a particular mining season. No permanent structure or asphalt operations are proposed. Mined materials will be processed and stockpiled on-site, or transported off-site for further processing. Site is proposed to be restored for residential development with open water features. The site is located directly adjacent to the municipal limits of the City of Forada.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Douglas County

RGU Contact Person:

David Rush
Director, Land & Resource Management
305 8th Ave West
Alexandria, MN 56308
320-762-2903
daveru@co.douglas.mn.us

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the Environmental Assessment Worksheet notice was published in the EQB Monitor.

- City of Shakopee, Canterbury Commons EAW, 8-15-17 (6-19-17)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Trunk Highway (TH) 95 Cambridge Urban Reconstruction Project, 8-18-17 (6-19-17)

Final Environmental Impact Statements

Notice of Comment Period on Adequacy of Final EIS for the Proposed Line 3 Replacement Project

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership for a Certificate of Need for the Proposed Line 3 Replacement Project in Minnesota from the North Dakota Border to the Wisconsin Border

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership for a Routing Permit for the Proposed Line 3 Replacement Project in Minnesota from the North Dakota Border to the Wisconsin Border

PUC Docket Numbers: PL-9/CN-14-916 and PL-9/PPL-15-137

OAH Docket Number: 8-2500-34602

Comment Period: Comments on the adequacy of the Final EIS will be accepted through 4:30 p.m., **Monday, October 2, 2017**. Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered.

Topics Open for Comment: The Commission is seeking comments on the adequacy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS). Pursuant to [Minn. R. 4410.2800](#), comments should be focused on the following conditions that must be considered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission when making its adequacy determination:

- Does the Final EIS address the potentially significant issues and alternatives raised in scoping so that all significant issues for which information can be reasonably obtained have been analyzed in conformance with [Minn. R. 4410.2300, items G and H](#)?
- Does the Final EIS provide responses to the substantive comments received during the Draft EIS review concerning issues raised in scoping?
- Was the Final EIS prepared in compliance with the procedures of [Minnesota Statutes Chapter 116D](#) and [Minn. R. 4410.0200 to 4410.6500](#)?

Comments may be submitted via:

Email: publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

eDocuments: Visit mn.gov/puc, select eFiling, and follow the prompts.

U.S. Mail:

Scott Ek
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101
Fax: 651-297-7073

Please include “Line 3 Project Final EIS Adequacy” and the Commission's docket number 14-916 or 15-137 on all comments.

Important: Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's electronic docketing system, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Project Description: The Line 3 Replacement Project proposed by Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership is described as a new 337-mile long, 36-inch diameter pipeline that would replace 282 miles of the existing 34-inch Line 3 pipeline in Minnesota. The pipeline route proposed by Enbridge would parallel the route of the existing Line 3 pipeline from the North Dakota-Minnesota border to Clearbrook, Minnesota, but would require a new right-of-way from Clearbrook to Superior, Wisconsin. The existing Line 3 pipeline is proposed to be permanently deactivated in-place after the new pipeline is installed, tested, and operational. Associated facilities would include eight pumping stations, valves, metering and monitoring equipment, and related electrical facilities. Enbridge's proposed pipeline route would cross portions of Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Clearwater, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, and Carlton counties.

Additional Information: Additional Information on the Line 3 Replacement Project and the Commission's review process can be found by visiting: <https://mn.gov/puc/line3>

Final EIS Availability: The Final EIS and other documents filed in this matter are available at: mn.gov/puc, select eDockets, enter the year (14) and the docket number (916), or the year (15) and the docket number (137), and select Search.

The Final EIS may also be viewed on the Department of Commerce website at: <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/line3>.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's eFiling system. Visit: mn.gov/puc, select eFiling, and follow the prompts.

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter: mn.gov/puc, select Subscribe, and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate in meetings and comment periods. Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number 14-916 or 15-137, your name, mailing address, and email address.

If you have questions about this docket or the Commission's process and procedures, please direct them to Scott Ek of the Commission staff at 651-201-2255 or scott.ek@state.mn.us.

To request this document in alternative formats, such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

Environmental Impact Statement Termination Notices

Notice of Intent to Terminate the State Environmental Impact Statement Process

Project Title: METRO Gold Line, Ramsey and Washington Counties, MN

Comment Deadline: September 8, 2017

Project Description: The proposed action, the METRO Gold Line bus rapid transit, would be located in the Minneapolis/St. Paul region, connecting downtown Saint Paul and its east side neighborhoods to the cities of Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury.

Summary of Project Definition Change Leading to Termination of the EIS Process: The March 3, 2014 Minnesota EQB Monitor included the notification of the Gateway Corridor Scoping Booklet. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Metropolitan Council, and Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA) serving on behalf of the Gateway Corridor Commission (GCC) initiated the environmental review process for the project. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is designated as the lead federal agency for this project and is undertaking environmental review in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on the project definition at the start of Scoping in 2013 the FTA, Metropolitan Council, and WCRRA determined that the Gateway Corridor may have significant impacts. To satisfy both federal and state requirements, an EIS was determined the appropriate level of environmental review. Under the state process, the proposed action was not at a mandatory EIS level, and hence is a discretionary EIS. The October 27, 2014 Minnesota EQB Monitor publication included the Scoping Decision and EIS Preparation Notice for the Gateway Corridor.

Following publication of the Scoping Decision Document in 2014, the Gateway Corridor Commission (GCC) and its advisory bodies recommended dismissal of the defined Build alternatives in the Scoping Decision Document based on additional technical analysis, lack of required local support, and ability for the alternatives to effectively meet the project's purpose and need. Additionally, a new alternative, as seen in Attachment 1, was selected by the GCC and its advisory bodies as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) and the only Build alternative to advance for further environmental evaluation.

Based on the revised project definition and alternative to be evaluated, WCRRA and the Metropolitan Council believe that the reasons for ordering a state EIS no longer apply. A discretionary state Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) will be prepared for the Gateway Corridor project. The FTA, serving as the lead federal agency has rescinded the notice of intent to prepare an EIS under NEPA (Federal Register, March 15, 2017). An Environmental Assessment (EA) will now be prepared for the Gateway Corridor project.

Additional information regarding the Gateway Corridor project can be found on the project website at <https://www.metrotransit.org/gold-line-project>.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Metropolitan Council

RGU Contact Person:

Charles Carlson
Senior Manager, BRT/Small Starts Projects
Metro Transit, Heywood Office 560 N 6th Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612-349-7639
GoldLine@metrotransit.org

Notices

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Project Title: METRO Gold Line, Ramsey and Washington Counties, MN

Project Description: The proposed action, the METRO Gold Line bus rapid transit, would be located in the Minneapolis/St. Paul region, connecting downtown Saint Paul and its east side neighborhoods to the cities of Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury.

Environmental Assessment Worksheet Need Decision: The Metropolitan Council has made a decision to prepare an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the METRO Gold Line.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Metropolitan Council

RGU Contact Person:

Charles Carlson
Senior Manager, BRT/Small Starts Projects
Metro Transit, Heywood Office 560 N 6th Avenue
Minneapolis, MN, 55411
(612) 349-7639
GoldLine@metrotransit.org

Notice of Transfer of Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU)

Project Title: METRO Gold Line, Ramsey and Washington Counties, MN

Project Description: The proposed action, the METRO Gold Line bus rapid transit, would be located in the Minneapolis/St. Paul region, connecting downtown Saint Paul and its east side neighborhoods to the cities of Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury.

Transfer of Responsible Government Unit Status: Effective July 1, 2017, the Metropolitan Council will assume the role of Responsible Government Unit (RGU) for completion of the environmental review process under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Washington County Regional Rail Authority has been acting as RGU for this project and has agreed to transfer RGU status to Metropolitan Council. Washington County Regional Rail Authority has acted as the RGU through June 30, 2017, and the Metropolitan Council will be the RGU beginning on July 1, 2017.

Responsible Governmental Unit: Washington County Regional Railroad Authority
(through June 30, 2017)

Contact Person:

Lyssa Leitner, Senior Planner
Washington County Regional Railroad Authority
11660 Myeron Road North
Stillwater, MN 55082

Responsible Governmental Unit: Metropolitan Council (starting July 1, 2017)

Contact Person:

Charles Carlson
Senior Manager, BRT/Small Starts Projects
Metro Transit, Heywood Office
560 N 6th Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Request for Comments on Possible Amendments to Rules Governing Draft Environmental Impact Statements developed for the Environmental Review Program, MN Rules Chapter, 4410; Revisor's ID Number R-04494

This Request for Comments is the Board's legal notice of its intent to begin rulemaking. This is the first of several opportunities for public comment and input on this rulemaking. At this stage, we do not have a draft rule; we want your feedback to inform us about the ideas described under the Subject of Rules section above. If you have other ideas related to this rulemaking that we need to consider, please submit them in writing. Submitting your ideas and information to us at this early stage in rulemaking allows us more time to address issues that may come up, and helps to ensure informed decision-making on our part. (Published in the State Register August 21, 2017) (https://mn.gov/admin/assets/SR42_8%20-%20Accessible_tcm36-308805.pdf)

Contact Person:

Erik Cedarleaf Dahl
Environmental Quality Board
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
6517572364
erik.dahl@state.mn.us

Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection Meeting

The Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection will meet from 9am-3pm on Thursday, August 31, 2017 at the Minnesota Zoo's Education Event Center- 13000 Zoo Boulevard, Apple Valley, MN 55124. For more information, please visit <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/august-31-2017-governors-committee-pollinator-protection-meeting-agenda>. This meeting is open to the public but does require an RSVP. Please email Claudia Hochstein at claudia.hochstein@state.mn.us if you plan to attend. An audio recording will be available following the meeting.

Contact Person:

Claudia Hochstein
Environmental Quality Board
Pollinator Coordinator
520 Lafayette Rd
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651-757-2881
claudia.hochstein@state.mn.us