

The *EQB Monitor*

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Submission Deadline: [View 2018 Schedule](#)
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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](#).

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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](#).

EQB Announcements

Apply to serve on Governor Mark Dayton's Wild Rice Taskforce

On Wednesday, May 30, Governor Dayton [issued Executive Order 18-08](#) to establish the Governor's Wild Rice Task Force, to review the scientific literature concerning wild rice and sulfates, recommend a list of wild rice waters, and produce a report including recommendations for best practices. To read Governor Dayton's Executive Order, [CLICK HERE](#). To apply for the Task Force, visit the [open positions listings](#) at the Minnesota Secretary of State's website. **Apply by June 22** to make sure your application is considered.

Apply to be a member of the Environmental Quality Board

Applications are open for Board Members from the **3rd Congressional District**. You can find more details about being a board member and information on how to apply at the [Minnesota Secretary of State's website](#). To find out what Congressional District you are located in, view the Secretary of State's [Congressional Maps](#). EQB's mission is to enhance Minnesota's environmental quality for current and future generations by leading interagency work to advance meaningful public engagement and facilitate informed decision-making on critical environmental issues.

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Tioga Recreation Area Mountain Bike Trail Project

Comment Deadline: July 18, 2018

Project Description: Tioga Recreation Area Mountain Bike Trail Project The City of Cohasset proposes construction of 30 miles of single-track mountain bike trail within the 500-acre Tioga Recreation Area. Facilities include trailhead, parking, signage, restroom facilities, picnic shelters, changing shelters, and bike repair station. Additional outdoor recreational opportunities are available, including hiking and snowshoeing. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to: Bill Johnson, EAW Project Manager; EWR Environmental Policy and Review Unit; Department of Natural Resources; 500 Lafayette Road; St. Paul, MN 55155-4025. Electronic or email comments may be sent to Environmentalreview.dnr@state.mn.us with "Tioga Recreation Area" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, include name and mailing address. Written comments may also be sent by fax to (651) 296-1811. Written comments must be faxed, emailed, or postmarked no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18, 2018. Names and addresses will be published as part of the EAW record.

A copy of the EAW is available for public review at: • DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155 • DNR Northeast Regional Office, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 • Hennepin County – Minneapolis Central Library, Government Documents, Second Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992 • Duluth Public Library, Regional Development Commission, 520 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802 • Grand Rapids Area Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 The EAW is also posted on DNR's website at: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tioga/index.html>. Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-5126.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact Person:

Bill Johnson
Planning Director
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5126
bill.johnson@state.mn.us

Project Title: CJ Swine, LLC Swine Facility

Comment Deadline: July 18, 2018

Project Description: CJ Swine, LLC is proposing to construct a swine feedlot facility and house 7,200 swine (2,160 animal units in Section 20, Sweet Township, Pipestone County. CJ Swine proposes to build three total confinement swine finishing barns, each with 8-foot deep concrete liquid manure storage areas below the barn, three stormwater detention ponds, one animal mortality structure, and use existing rural water system lines and a drilled livestock well for livestock water use. CJ Swine will first construct two barns and liquid manure storage areas, and stock up to 4,800 swine, but must apply for and receive a variance from Pipestone County in order to construct the third barn and stock up to 7,200 swine. A copy of the Notice of Availability and the EAW can be found on the MPCA website at the following address:

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/eaw> Minn. R. 4410.4300 Subpart 29 (A) Animal Feedlots

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

RGU Contact Person:

Nancy Drach
520 Lafayette Rd N
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651-757-2317
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Project Title: North Ottawa Dairy

Comment Deadline: July 18, 2018

Project Description: Riverview, LLP proposes to build an 11,000 animal unit Jersey feedlot in Section 6, North Ottawa Township, in Grant County. Riverview, LLP will house the cows in a cross-ventilated, total confinement, free-stall barn and will use earthen basins with impermeable covers to collect and store the manure and wastewater. Annually, in the fall, Riverview, LLP will transfer liquid manure to area farmers for use as fertilizer on cropland following crop harvest. A copy of the Notice of Availability and the EAW can be found on the MPCA website at the following address: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/eaw> Minn. R. 4410.4300 Subpart 29 (A) Animal Feedlots

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

RGU Contact Person:

Patrice Jensen
520 Lafayette Rd N
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-757-2465
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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.

- Salem Township, DeCook Pit, 6-6-18 (3-26-18)
- MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources, Lower Mound Lake Basin Restoration, Blue Mounds State Park EAW- EIS Need Decision, 6-7-18 (3-26-18)

- Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Board, Lower Riley Creek Stabilization Project: Reach E and Site D3, 6-6-18 (4-16-18)

Notices

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABILITY – BITTER ROOT WIND PROJECT

Date: June 28, 2018

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Canby Elementary School, 601 4th Street W, Canby, MN

On October 19 and November 9, 2017 Flying Cow Wind, LLC (Applicant) submitted applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to construct and operate a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Yellow Medicine County. In order to construct the Bitter Root Wind Project, the applicant must be granted a certificate of need and a site permit from the Commission. The proposed project would entail construction of 44 wind turbines for a combined nameplate capacity of up to 152 megawatts (MW) in Florida, Fortier, and Norman townships in Yellow Medicine County. Facilities associated with the project include underground electrical collection and communication lines, a project substation and interconnection switchyard, an operations and maintenance building, and permanent meteorological towers and gravel access roads. The Commission must approve a certificate of need and a site permit before the project can be built. Flying Cow submitted the certificate of need application in October 2017 and the site permit application was accepted in January 2018. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff have issued an environmental report on the project. EERA reviewed public comments received and recommended the Commission issue a draft site permit for the project. A draft site permit is a document prepared for public review and does not permit construction of the project. The Commission issued the draft site permit for the project on May 25, 2018. The public hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions and submit recommendations for the Commission's consideration in reaching its decision. After the public hearing and comment period, Administrative Law Judge James E. LaFave will prepare a report for the Commission. The Commission will review all the information in the record and anticipates final decisions on the certificate of need and site permit applications in October of 2018.

The Public Comment Period for the project will remain open until Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 4:30 PM. Visit mn.gov/puc, select Speak Up!, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion. See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (17) and the docket number (676 for the certificate of need, 749 for the site permit application), select "Search."

The certificate of need, site permit application, and environmental report are available at these locations:

- Canby Public Library, 110 Oscar Ave N, Canby, MN 56220
- Siverson Public Library, 100 West Garfield Street, Hendricks, MN 56136
- Ivanhoe Public Library, 401 N Harold St, Ivanhoe, MN 56142

For questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure, contact Commission staff analyst Cezar Panait, at Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207 or the public advisor Charley Bruce, at publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251.

Contact Person:

Cezar Panait
Regulatory Engineer
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

651-201-2207

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABILITY FOR THE BLAZING STAR WIND FARM 2 PROJECT IN LINCOLN COUNTY

Public Utilities Commission (Commission) – Notice of Public Hearing and Draft Site Permit availability on the site permit application for the Blazing Star Wind Farm 2, LLC (Blazing Star 2) wind farm project in Lincoln County, Commission Docket No. IP-6985/TL-17-700. The Commission is providing notice that it will hold Public Hearing on the proposed Blazing Star 2 Wind Farm project at 6 PM on June 28, 2018 at the Hendricks Public School Gymnasium, 200 Lincoln Street, Hendricks, MN 56136.

Blazing Star 2 filed a site permit application with the Commission for an up to 200 megawatt large wind energy conversion system (LWECS). The site permit application was accepted as complete by the Commission in January 2018. The Commission issued a draft site permit on May 11, 2018. The proposed LWECS would be comprised of 57 to 100 wind turbines ranging from 2 to 3.5 megawatts in size and associated facilities that include a project substation, an operation and maintenance building, access roads, meteorological towers, light range or sonic range detecting units, collection and feeder lines, and a temporary laydown area. Associated with this facility, but not part of the wind site permit application, is an approximately 7.5-mile 115-kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL). The 115-kV HVTL is independently undergoing a review in Commission Docket No. TL-17-701.

Comments on the Blazing Star 2 Draft Site Permit and the project will be received by various methods until July 9, 2018, as noticed. Documents related to this docket can be obtained for the project at the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select search eDockets, enter year (17) and the docket number (700), select search. Following the hearing and comment period, an Administrative Law Judge will issue a report and recommendations to the Commission and the Commission will issue a final decision in the late summer or fall 2018.

Contact Person:

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