

EQB Monitor

Weekly announcements and environmental review notices

Volume 48, Number 18

April 30, 2024

Announcements

Apply now for Public Board Member, Congressional District 7

EQB is looking for Public Board Member representing Minnesota's 7th Congressional District, which covers the majority of Western Minnesota. Serving on the Environmental Quality Board is a unique opportunity to shape environmental issues in Minnesota. Public Board Members bring the voices of Minnesotans from around the state into decision making, helping the Board think in new ways about environmental challenges and solutions. To find out more about our Public Board Member positions, [please visit our website](#) for FAQ. To find your district, visit the [Minnesota maps and districts webpage](#).

Applications must be submitted through the [Minnesota Secretary of State](#). Applicants will need to create an account and fill out an online profile. You are also encouraged to submit a cover letter and resume with your application. These documents can be uploaded when you apply online. Applications encouraged by **May 1st**.



Opportunity for public comment on fish kills protocol

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) [released a statewide, multi-agency protocol](#) that clearly shows how agencies work together when investigating fish kills in Minnesota. The new guidance includes investigation process, communications expectations, and strategies for reducing fish kills. The MPCA seeks public comment on this draft protocol. In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed a law mandating the development of a fish kill response protocol. A fish kill is the unexpected, sudden death of large numbers of fish in a certain area. The fish kills addressed in the new protocol include those related to the discharge or runoff of pollutants from the land through incidents like toxic spills; runoff of manure, pesticides, or fertilizers; and high-temperature wastewater or stormwater discharges.

The public comment period begins March 11 and ends May 10. Members of the public are invited to review the draft protocol and submit comments by visiting [the public comment page](#) or by U.S. mail to: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency c/o Justin Watkins, 7381 Airport View Drive, Rochester, MN 55902. Deadline for public comment, **May 10th**.



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](#).

Northland Constructors Borrow Pit Expansion

Location (city/township; county): Saginaw; St. Louis

Process: Petition

Step: Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) need decision

Responsible governmental unit decision: EAW not required

Responsible governmental unit decision date: April 22, 2024

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Saint Louis County Planning and Zoning Department, [Mark Lindhorst](#), 218-471-7633

[Sherco Solar 3 Project](#)

Location: Clear Lake Township, Sherburne

Process: Alternative review

End of comment period: May 22, 2024

Notice title: Sherco Solar 3 Environmental Assessment Availability

Notice description: The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) issued an environmental assessment (EA) for the project on April 22, 2024. The purpose of the EA is to provide information on the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, possible mitigations for identified impacts, and evaluation of any alternatives contained in the scoping decision.

Project description: Xcel Energy has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a site permit, to construct Sherco Solar 3, an up to 250 MW solar energy generating system to be located in Sherburne County, Minnesota. Xcel Energy proposes to locate the project on approximately 1,780 acres between U.S. Highway 10 and the Mississippi River in the city of Clear Lake and Clear Lake Township in Sherburne County, Minnesota.

Link to public documents: [Sherco Solar 3 Project](#)

Location of public documents: Great River Regional Library – Clearwater, 740 Clearwater Center, Clearwater, MN 55320 and Great River Regional Library – Becker, 11500 Sherburne Ave, Becker, MN 55308

First public meeting date, time, location: May 7, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Online meeting

First public meeting virtual link: [Join online meeting](#)

First public meeting additional details: Webinar Number: 2491 662 1824

Webinar Password: shercosolar3 (74372676 from phones)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free Access Code: 2491 662 1824

If you are joining the meeting via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the meeting, use the chat or raised-hand functions 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/>

Second public meeting date, time, location: May 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Becker Community Center, 11500 Sherburne Ave, Becker, MN 55308

Second public meeting additional details: If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these hearings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting. To find out if a hearing is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, [Jacques Harvieux](#), 651-201-2233

Fish kill reports

Minnesota Duty Officer reports pertaining to fish kills are summarized in the following table, in accordance with 103G.216, REPORTING FISH KILLS IN PUBLIC WATERS, Subd. 2 Reporting Requirement. These reports were received via the Minnesota Duty Officer prior to the submission deadline for this edition of the EQB Monitor. They represent the raw data/information provided by callers. For more information regarding fish kills in Minnesota see the [Department of Natural Resources](#). Call the Minnesota Duty Officer at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798 to report fish kills.

No fish kill reports were received since the last publication.

Submit a notice to the *EQB Monitor*

The *EQB Monitor* is a weekly publication announcing environmental review documents, public comment periods and other actions of the Environmental Quality Board. The *EQB Monitor* is published every Tuesday at noon. Submissions to the [EQB Monitor](#) are due by 4:00 p.m. 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:

[Access the EQB monitor submission service](#)

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

For more information on environmental review, please visit the EQB website or contact us at env.review@state.mn.us.



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