

EQB Monitor

Weekly announcements and environmental review notices

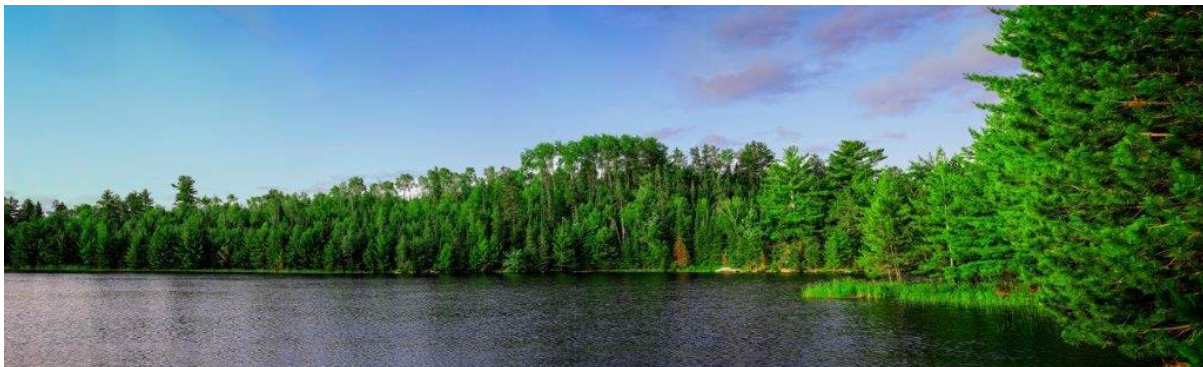
Volume 48, Number 26

June 25, 2024

Announcements

Updated climate guidance

We recently updated the Climate Guidance which helps users answer climate mitigation and climate adaptation questions on the environmental assessment worksheet (EAW). This is a technical update that reflects the newest tools and instructions for their use. This guidance provides steps to assemble a carbon footprint, assess mitigation options, and identify adaptation measures. This update includes references to the new version of Minnesota CliMAT – Climate Mapping and Analysis Tool (CMIP6). Please make sure you are using this updated [2024 Climate Guidance](#) which can also be found on the [Climate Assessments webpage](#). EQB plans on making additional guidance updates after the creation of a climate calculator tool next summer.



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](#).

Little Cormorant RV Park

Location (city/township; county): Audubon, Becker

Process: Petition

Step: Responsible governmental unit assigned

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Becker County, [Kyle Vareberg](#), 218-846-7314

[METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit \(BLRT\) Extension](#)

Location (city/township; county): Crystal, Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Brooklyn Park; Hennepin

Process: SEIS

Step: Draft SEIS

End of comment period: August 6, 2024

Project description: The BLRT Extension is a light rail transit project (project) located in the cities of Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, & Brooklyn Park. A Supplemental EIS (SEIS) is needed because it was necessary to move the project forward without using freight rail property & the modified route has potential for significant impacts. Based on technical considerations and community input, a modified route was recommended to advance by the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County on June 22, 2022. The SEIS will study the following route: W. Broadway Ave in Brooklyn Park to Bottineau Blvd (County Road 81), CR 81 in Crystal & Robbinsdale to W. Broadway Ave in North Minneapolis, and multiple potential routes (W. Broadway Ave or 21st Ave; Lyndale or a route east of I-94) to Target Field Station.

[METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit \(BLRT\) Extension project link provided by RGU](#)

Location of public documents: Blue Line Extension Project Office (BPO), 6465 Wayzata Blvd, St Louis Park, MN 55426

First public meeting date, time, location: July 16, 2024, 5:00 p.m., NorthPoint Conference Center, 5th Floor Suite 5200, 1256 Penn Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

First Public meeting additional details: Visit the Project's website for additional commenting opportunities at <https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension.aspx>. Technical reports, supporting documentation, technical memorandum, and technical appendices are also available on the Project website, as well as past and future Project community meetings and events. To request special accommodations, contact Kaja Vang, Engagement Coordinator, by phone at 612-373-3918 or by email at Kaja.Vang@metrotransit.org at least ten days prior to the end of the comment period.

Second public meeting date, time, location: July 23, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Brooklyn Park Library, 8500 Brooklyn Boulevard, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

Second public meeting additional details: Visit the Project's website for additional commenting opportunities at <https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension.aspx>. To request special accommodations, contact Kaja Vang, Engagement Coordinator, by phone at 612-373-3918 or email kaja.vang@metrotransit.org (at least 10 days prior to the end of the public comment period).

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Metropolitan Council, [Neha Damle](#), 651-602-1000

Farmington West Industrial

Location (city/township; county): Farmington; Dakota

Process: Large AUAR

Step: Final order for review

Project description: The AUAR study area encompasses an area totaling approximately 329 acres on six parcels in the City of Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota. Project Bengal, LLC is proposing to develop the study area from existing farmland to a technology park or industrial uses.

Location of public documents: Farmington City Hall, 430 3rd St, Farmington, MN 55024

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Farmington, [Tony Wippler](#), 651-280-6822

Mankato – Mississippi River 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Location: Kenyon, Blue Earth, Dodge, Goodhue, Le Sueur, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha, Waseca, Winona

Process: Alternative review

End of comment period: August 1, 2024

Notice title: NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING MEETINGS

Notice description: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold public information and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping meetings on the application of Xcel Energy for a certificate of need and a route permit for the Mankato – Mississippi River Transmission Line Project. The proposed Project is a new approximately 130-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the existing Wilmarth Substation in Mankato to the Mississippi River near Kellogg and a new 20-mile 161 kV transmission line between the existing North Rochester Substation near Pine Island and an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester. The Project may cross portions of Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Waseca, Rice, Dodge, Olmstead, Goodhue, Winona, and Wabasha counties.

Project description: On April 2, 2024, Xcel Energy (Applicant) submitted applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Certificate of Need and a High-Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) Route Permit for their proposed Mankato - Mississippi River 345 kV Transmission Line Project (Project) in southeast Minnesota. Xcel Energy indicated that the Project is needed to address loading and congestion issues on the existing 345 kV transmission system across southern Minnesota and Wisconsin and to provide reliable, resilient, and cost-effective delivery of energy as the generation resource mix continues to evolve over the coming years.

[Mankato – Mississippi River 345 kV Transmission Line Project project link provided by RGU](#)

Location of public documents:

Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main Street, Mankato, MN 56001

Buckham Memorial Library, 11 Division Street E., Faribault, MN 55021

Zumbrota Public Library, 100 West Avenue, Zumbrota, MN 55992

Rochester Public Library, 101 2nd St. SE, Rochester, MN 55904

Plainview Public Library, 345 1st Avenue NW, Plainview, MN 55964

Details for all public meetings: The purpose of the meetings is to: (1) provide information about the proposed project and the state's permitting process; and (2) provide an opportunity to participate in developing the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, including alternative route segments. For the pre-meeting portion of the event, doors will open one hour prior to each meeting to provide attendees an opportunity to review the application, maps, and other materials for the proposed project and ask questions of state staff and the applicant. During this time, comments made by attendees will become a part of the record for Commission consideration only if the attendee submits the comment in writing. Forms will be available for this purpose. During the meeting, state staff and the applicant will both make presentations. State staff will explain the permitting and environmental review processes, and the applicant will provide an overview of the proposed project. Following the presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to offer oral and written comments for the record. The meetings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or the scheduled end time of the meeting,

whichever occurs first. The information presented will be the same at all in-person and online meetings.

First public meeting date, time, location: July 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Country Inn and Suites, 1900 Premier Dr., Mankato, MN 56001

Second public meeting date, time, location: July 8, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Waterville-Elysian-Morristown High School, 500 Paquin St. E., Waterville, MN, 56096

Third public meeting date, time, location: July 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m., American Legion - Faribault, 112 5th St NE, Faribault, MN, 55021

Fourth public meeting date, time, location: July 9, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Pine Island Public School, High School Commons, 223 1st Ave SE, Pine Island, MN, 55963

Fifth public meeting date, time, location: July 10, 2024, 5:00 p.m., St. Agnes Church Hall, 115 W. Belvidere Ave., Kellogg, MN, 55945

Sixth public meeting date, time, location: July 11, 2024, 12:00 p.m., Online meeting

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

Sixth public meeting additional details:

Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link: <https://minnesota.webex.com>

Webinar Number: 2496 636 2882

Webinar Password: MNPUC (66782 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free Access Code: 2496 636 2882

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/>

Seventh public meeting date, time, location: July 11, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Online meeting

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

Seventh public meeting additional details:

Join by WebEx (Webinar)

Link: <https://minnesota.webex.com>

Webinar Number: 2495 522 4864

Webinar Password: MNPUC (66782 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free Access Code: 2495 522 4864

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/>

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, [Cezar Panait](#), 651-201-2207

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.

Date	Location	County	Waterbody	Species	Count
6/13/2024	Thomson	Carlton	Chub Lake	Panfish, Bluegill	Unknown
6/13/2024	Brainerd	Crow Wing	Ruth Lake	Catfish, Sunfish	100+
6/13/2024	Saint Patrick	Scott	Cedar Lake	Carp	50+
6/14/2024	Kingston Township	Meeker	Lake Betsy	Crappie, Sunfish, Shiner, Minnow	50-60
6/14/2024	Kingston Township	Meeker	Lake Betsy	Crappie	300
6/15/2024	New Prague	Scott	Cedar Lake	Bullhead, Carp	185+
6/17/2024	Maple Lake	Wright	Indian Lake	Bass, Sunfish	20-30

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.



Environmental Quality Board | eqb.state.mn.us

Email: Env.review@state.mn.us | Phone: 651-757-2873



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