

# EQB Monitor

**Weekly announcements and environmental review notices**

Volume 48, Number 43

October 22, 2024



## 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](#).

### Waconia Falk-Saltire Site

**Location (city/township; county):** Waconia; Carver

**Process:** EAW

**Step:** EAW available

**End of comment period:** November 21, 2024

**Project description:** The Proposed Project is a multi-phase residential and mixed-use development in Waconia, Minnesota. The development will be built on approximately 241 acres and the initial phase will be developed with 339 residential lots with detached units, curvilinear roads, and open spaces. Future phases of the project include an apartment Outlot and mixed-use Outlots that will include residential and commercial uses. Subsequent phases are expected to be developed with approximately 216 multi-family units and approximately 45,600 SF of retail/commercial space.

**Location of public documents:** City of Waconia, 201 South Vine St, Waconia, MN 55387

**Responsible governmental unit and contact:** City of Waconia, [Lane Braaten](#), 952-442-2184

### Sofidel America - Duluth Facility Expansion

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

**Process:** EAW

**Step:** EIS need decision

**Responsible governmental unit decision:** Negative (no EIS ordered)

**Responsible governmental unit record of decision date:** October 8, 2024

**Project description:** Sofidel America Corporation's Duluth facility (Site) is intending to expand their existing facility operations to include a new process for conversion of parent tissue rolls and materials into various commercial products. Four building additions are proposed to support expanded manufacturing, packaging, warehousing, and shipping

capabilities. This redevelopment project will result in approximately 588,759 square feet.  
[Sofidel America - Duluth Facility Expansion project link provided by RGU](#)

**Location of public documents:** City Hall, 411 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802

**Responsible governmental unit and contact:** City of Duluth, [Jason Mozol](#), 218-730-5331

## **[North Mankato Industrial AUAR](#)**

**Location (city/township; county):** North Mankato; Nicollet

**Process:** Large AUAR

**Step:** Draft order for review

**End of comment period:** November 21, 2024

**Project description:** The North Mankato Industrial AUAR study area encompasses an area of approximately 678 acres on 16 parcels within Nicollet County, Minnesota. Project Deacon, LLC is proposing to develop the study area from existing farmland to technology park or office/warehouse use. Two scenarios, Scenarios 1 and 2, are proposed for evaluation in the AUAR. Scenario 1 includes multiple buildings for a total of 4 million square feet of proposed technology park development. Scenario 2 includes multiple buildings for a total of 4 million square feet of proposed office/warehouse development. The proposed development within the AUAR study area is anticipated to begin in 2025.

[North Mankato Industrial AUAR project link provided by RGU](#)

**Location of public documents:** North Mankato City Hall, 1001 Belgrade Ave, Mankato, MN 56003

**Responsible governmental unit and contact:** City of North Mankato, [Mike Fischer](#), 507-625-4141

## **General notices**

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

### **Notice of Public Information and EA Scoping Meetings - Gopher State Solar**

**Notice description:** The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold two public information and environmental assessment scoping meetings for the Gopher State Solar Project in Renville County, MN. The first

meeting will be held virtually starting at 6:00 PM on Monday, October 28, 2024. Details on how to join the virtual meeting can be found in the notice. The second meeting will be held in-person starting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at the Sheep Shedde Inn / Max's Grill in Olivia, Minnesota. Written public comments on the environmental assessment will be accepted through November 15, 2024.

**First public meeting date, time, location:** October 28, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Online meeting

**Public meeting virtual link:** [Join online meeting](#)

**Public meeting additional details:** Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link:

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m56e91d1e724cb3519323163e3b9d8e54>

Webinar Number: 2493 818 3222

Webinar Password: MnPUC! (667820 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free Access Code: 2493 818 3222

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:** October 29, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Max's Grill and The Sheep Shedde Inn, 2425 W. Lincoln Avenue, Olivia, MN 56277

**Second public meeting additional details:** The purpose of the meeting 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 assessment. State staff and the applicant will both make presentations during the meeting. 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 both meetings. If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings, 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 meeting is canceled due to bad weather or other reasons call 1-855-731-6208 or visit [mn.gov/puc](https://mn.gov/puc).

**Link to additional information:** [Gopher State Solar additional information](#)

**Contacts:**

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, [Craig Janezich](#), 651-201-2203

Minnesota Department of Commerce EERA, [Jessica Livingston](#), 651-539-1823

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:env.review@state.mn.us).



Environmental Quality Board | [egb.state.mn.us](http://egb.state.mn.us)

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