

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: April 13, 2021
Volume 45, Number 15

Publication Schedule: Tuesdays at 12:00 PM
Submission Deadline: [View 2021 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 find active projects in your community on the [Environmental Review Projects Interactive Map](#).



Check the [EQB Monitor Schedule](#) and [EQB calendar](#) for more details on *Monitor* deadlines and Board Meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the [EQB Website](#).

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

In this publication:

- [EQB Announcements](#)
- [Citizen Petition](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Need Decision](#)
- [General Notice](#)

EQB Announcements

Environmental Quality Board Meeting: April 21, 2021

We invite you to join the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) at their next Board meeting on April 21, 2021 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EQB will convene its April Board meeting virtually through the WebEx platform. Instructions for connecting to WebEx are included on page five of the Board packet.

Access link to April 21, 2021 Board Meeting:

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/onstage/g.php?MTID=e838315036f4acba7756cb894f55644ab>

The meeting will address four informational objectives:

- Review the 2020 Quadrennial Energy Report for Minnesota
- Hear a project overview for the 2021 Mandatory Category Report
- Discuss preliminary results from the pollinator survey and next steps for the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team
- Review and discuss findings from the 2020 Environmental Review Performance Report

Accessibility: This material can be provided in different forms, like large print, braille, or on a recording. Please contact EQB staff at least one week prior to the event at info.EQB@state.mn.us to arrange an accommodation.

Bee Lucky for Pollinators

The EQB collaborated with the Minnesota Lottery to create the Bee Lucky scratch ticket that features the endangered rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), Minnesota's state bee. The Interagency Pollinator Protection Team and Dr. Elaine Evans from the UMN Bee Lab worked together to provide the technical and scientific information that populates the Bee Lucky ticket landing page, and the Bee Informed box included in each ticket. This ticket will raise awareness about Minnesota's imperiled pollinators and ways to help them. Additionally, Bee Lucky ticket sales will generate lottery proceeds that support environmental projects, including improving pollinator habitat.



For more information please go the Bee Lucky Media Kit through this link: [MN Lottery - Minnesota Lottery](#)



Apply now to be an Environmental Quality Board member

The application is open for a Public Board Member position representing Minnesota's Congressional District 6. This district spans parts of Benton, Carver, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright, Anoka and Washington counties, including cities such as Saint Cloud, Big Lake, Hugo, and Waconia.

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 learn more, visit the Environmental Quality Board's [Join the Board](#) page. The position is open until filled, and begins in January 2022.

Citizen Petition

The following petition has been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

Petition Title: Condor Estates

Responsible Governmental Unit: Rochester Township

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

319-333 E Superior St, Duluth MN

Decision: Negative, March 30, 2021

Link to Document: No link provided. See RGU contact information below.

RGU: City of Duluth

RGU Contact: Adam Fulton, 218-730-5580, planning@duluthmn.gov

General Notice

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARINGS, DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS – WALLEYE WIND PROJECT

Date: May 4, 2021

Time: 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Location: Hearings will be conducted remotely.

On July 9, 2020, Walleye Wind LLC (Applicant) submitted applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to construct and operate a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) in Rock County. In order to construct the Walleye 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 40 wind turbines for a combined nameplate capacity of up to 109.2 megawatts (MW) in Martin, Luverne, Beaver Creek and Springwater townships in Rock County.

In addition to the wind turbines, the proposed project would consist of underground electrical collection and communication lines, a project substation, an operations and maintenance building, one permanent meteorological tower, gravel access roads, and a generation tie line of less than 500 feet connecting the project substation to Northern States Power's existing Rock County Substation. The Commission accepted the certificate of need and site permit applications in October 2020. This means the Applicant submitted all the information required to begin the review process. Minnesota Department

of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis have issued an environmental report on the project on March 31, 2021.

The Commission issued a draft site permit for the project on March 24, 2021. A draft site permit is a document prepared for public review and does not permit construction of the project. 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 Mortenson will prepare a report including findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations 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 late summer or early autumn of 2021.

The Public Comment Period for the project will remain open until Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 4:30 PM. Comments may be submitted via:

Online: Visit mn.gov/puc, select Submit Comment and follow the prompts.
Email: publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us
U.S. Mail: Public Advisor, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Information on the application review process and documents related to the proposed project including materials from the public hearings; the certificate of need and site permit applications; and the environmental report are available on the Department of Commerce website at <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13893/> or the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select eDockets, enter the year (20) and the docket number (269 for the certificate of need or 384 for the site permit), and select Search.

The certificate of need, site permit application, and environmental report are available at the Rock County Community Library, 201 West Main Street, Luverne, MN 55156.

For questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure, contact Commission staff analyst Michael Kaluzniak at mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257 or the public advisor Charley Bruce, at publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251.

Contact Person:
Michael Kaluzniak
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Links to environmental review documents were provided by the RGU. In the event that the link does not work, you may contact the RGU directly to request either a paper or electronic copy of the documents. If you are not able to connect with the RGU, please email EQB staff at Env.Review@state.mn.us, call 651.757.2873, or visit our [website](#).

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board | [Contact us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
[Manage Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)