

EQB Monitor

Weekly announcements and environmental review notices

Volume 47, Number 16

April 18, 2023

Announcements

Environmental Quality Board meeting

Wednesday, April 19, 1 – 4 p.m.

Join us virtually for the April 2023 Environmental Quality Board meeting. At this meeting, the board will hear a Pollinator Action Framework update. The board will also hear a process update and participate in a discussion regarding the environmental review continuous improvement effort. More information about the meeting, including the meeting packet and Webex link, can be found on the [board meeting webpage](#).

New *EQB Monitor* submission process coming soon

The Environmental Quality Board will launch a new *EQB Monitor* submission service in May. The new submission service replaces the existing submission process and implements a more efficient, automated way for governmental units and their consultants to submit required environmental review and general notices for publication in the *EQB Monitor*. Please check the [EQB Monitor webpage](#) for additional updates and guidance for accessing the updated service. EQB will provide resources and assistance to assist in transitioning to the new service.

REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTICES



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](#).

Midwest Carbon Express Project

Location: Fergus Falls, Otter Tail and Wilkin Counties

Process: Petition

Step: Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) need decision

Responsible governmental unit decision: Negative (no EAW ordered)

Responsible governmental unit decision date: February 6, 2023

Project description: The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, in an order issued on February 6, 2023, authorized preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) under Minn. R. ch. 4110 for the proposed Otter Tail to Wilkin Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Project. Because the EIS process will include the preparation of an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) for scoping, the Commission denied Clean Up the River Environment's (CURE) petition for an EAW.

Link to public documents: [Midwest Carbon Express Project EAW need decision](#)

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, [Bret Eknes](#), 651-201-2236

Cambridge 2 Fuel Conversion

Location: Cambridge, Isanti County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW)

Step: EAW available

End of comment period: May 18, 2023

Project description: The project would replace existing natural gas burners with dual-fuel burners and install associated facilities to allow ULSD fuel oil combustion during periods of natural gas curtailment. The project is expected to protect GRE customers from extremely high energy prices. The project is located within GRE's existing Cambridge Station at 2438 349th Avenue NE; Cambridge, MN.

Link to public documents: [Cambridge 2 Fuel Conversion EAW](#)

Location of public documents: East Central Regional Library, 111 Dellwood St. N., Cambridge, MN 55008

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Public Utilities Commission, [Craig Janezich](#), 651-201-2203

Mile Post 7 West Ridge Railroad Relocation, Dam Extensions, and Stream Mitigation Project

Location: Silver Bay, Lake County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW)

Step: EAW available

End of comment period: May 18, 2023

Project description: Northshore Mining Company proposes to relocate the West Ridge Railroad, extend Dams 1 and 2, construct a Dam 1 rail switchback, and develop a clay borrow site at the Mile Post 7 tailings basin. The project also includes approximately 20,665 linear feet of stream mitigation across six sites. Tailings placement would continue to the final permitted dam elevation of 1,315 feet above mean sea level.

Link to public documents: [Mile Post 7 West Ridge Railroad Relocation, Dam Extensions, and Stream Mitigation Project EAW](#)

Location of public documents: Silver Bay Public Library, 9 Davis Drive, Silver Bay, MN 55614

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Department of Natural Resources, [Bill Johnson](#), 651-259-5126

Otsego Creek

Location: City of Otsego, Otsego County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW)

Step: EAW available

End of comment period: May 18, 2023

Project description: The City of Otsego (City) is planning to restore 1,600 linear feet of Otsego Creek within a city-owned outlot North of 76th St NE and East of Marlowe Ave NE in the City of Otsego. The proposed project will include re-meandering the main channel, creation of oxbows, and establishment of a no mow buffer around the creek.

Link to public documents: [Otsego Creek EAW](#)

Location of public documents: City of Otsego, 13400 90th Street NE, Otsego, MN 55330

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Otsego, [Ronald J Wagner](#), 763-852-0478

Highway 93 Grade Raise Project (SP 7212-21)

Location: Henderson, Sibley County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet

Step: Environmental impact statement (EIS) need decision

Responsible governmental unit decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Responsible governmental unit decision date: April 7, 2023

Link to public documents: [Highway 93 Grade Raise Project \(SP 7212-21\) EIS need decision](#)

Location of public documents: MnDOT District 7, Mankato — Headquarters, 2151 Bassett Drive, Mankato, MN 56001

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Department of Transportation, [Forrest Hasty](#), 507-508-4018

Otter Tail to Wilkin Carbon Dioxide Project

Location: Fergus Falls, Otter Tail and Wilkin Counties

Process: Environmental impact statement (EIS)

Step: EIS scoping environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) and draft scoping decision

End of comment period: May 18, 2023

Project description: The Otter Tail to Wilkin Project consists of approximately 28.1 miles of 4-inch diameter CO2 pipeline and associated facilities in portions of Wilkin and Otter Tail counties. The Project would capture CO2 from the Green Plains Ethanol Plant near Fergus Falls and transport it to the North Dakota and Minnesota border south of Breckenridge. The Project would interconnect to a larger proposed CO2 pipeline network, referred to as the Midwest Carbon Express Project, to transport the CO2 to a sequestration area in North Dakota.

Link to public documents: [Otter Tail to Wilkin Carbon Dioxide Project EIS scoping EAW and draft scoping decision](#)

Location of public documents: Fergus Falls Public Library, 205 East Hampden Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 / Breckenridge Public Library, 205 N 7th Street, Breckenridge, MN 56520

First public meeting date, time, location: May 2, 2023, 6 p.m., Breckenridge High School, 710 13th Street North Breckenridge, MN 56520

Second public meeting date, time, location: May 3, 2023, 1 p.m., Bigwood Event Center, 921 Western Avenue Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Third public meeting date, time, location: May 3, 2023, 6 p.m., Bigwood Event Center, 921 Western Avenue Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Fourth public meeting date, time, location: May 4, 2023, 6-9 p.m., virtual Meeting No: 2490 885 0919, Call-in No: 1-408-418-9388

Password: Commerce1

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

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Public Utilities Commission, [Scott Ek](#), 651-201-2255

CSAH 42/ Akron Avenue Study Area

Location: Rosemount, Dakota County

Process: Alternative urban areawide review (AUAR) update

Step: AUAR update available

End of comment period: May 2, 2023

Project description: The City of Rosemount has updated the AUAR for the CSAH 42/Akron Study Area. This is the third update and approximately 966 acres of the study

area have now received development approval. The Update was updated based on comments received during the initial comment period.

Link to public documents: No link to documents provided. See responsible governmental unit contact information below.

Location of public documents: Rosemount City Hall, 2875 145th Street West, Rosemount, MN 55068

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Rosemount, [Anthony Nemcek](#), 651-322-2090

General notices

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

Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice description: Yield10 BioScience filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 23-NO-15. Notification is for genetically modified CAMELINA, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application AUTH - 0000237210. The counties identified for release include the following: Benton-1 site with XX acres per site. Project categories include Agronomic Performance (AP), Herbicide Resistance (HR), Marker Gene (MG), and Product Quality (PQ).

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651-402-3149

Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 23-NO-16. Notification is for genetically modified SOYBEAN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in related Applications AUTH-0000234163, AUTH-0000234164, AUTH-0000234169, AUTH-0000234170. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-1 site with 195 acres, Rice -1 site with 14 acres. Project categories include AP (Agronomic Performance), FR (Fungal Resistance), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Gene), OO (Other), and PQ (Product Quality).

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651-402-3149

Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice description: Syngenta filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 23-NO-17. Notification is for genetically modified CORN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application AUTH – 0000237208. The counties identified for release include the following: Freeborn-1 site with 5 acres. Project categories include IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Gene), and OO (Other).

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651-402-3149

Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice description: Bayer Crop Science filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 23-NO-18. Notification is for genetically modified CORN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application AUTH - 0000234099. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-1 site with 50 acres, Dakota-1 site with 50 acres, Lincoln-1 site with 10 acres, Swift-1 site with 10 acres, and Waseca-1 site with 50 acres. Project categories include Agronomic Performance (AP), Herbicide Resistance (HR), Insect Resistance (IR), Marker Gene (MG) and Other (OO).

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651-402-3149

Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice description: Syngenta filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 23-NO-19. Notification is for genetically modified CORN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application AUTH – 0000237603. The counties identified for release include the following: Dakota-1 site with 25 acres, Mower-1 site with 25 acres, Rice-1 site with 25 acres, Waseca-1 site with 25 acres. Project categories include Herbicide Tolerance (HR) and IR (Insect Resistance).

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 651-402-3149

Submit a notice to the *EQB Monitor*

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:

[Use the EQB Monitor submission form](#)

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

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](#) or contact us at env.review@state.mn.us.



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