

## The *EQB Monitor*

520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 - [www.eqb.state.mn.us](http://www.eqb.state.mn.us)  
[EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us](mailto:EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us) - (651)-757-2873

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**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](mailto:MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com) to your address book or safe sender list.

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## 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](mailto: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.

# Environmental Assessment Worksheet Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) in response to a citizen's petition.

**Petition Title:** Border to Border Touring Route

**Decision:** Negative (no EAW ordered), April 15, 2021

**Link to Document:** No link to electronic copies of the documents was provided by the RGU. For copies of the documents, see RGU contact information below.

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** Department of Natural Resources

**RGU Contact:** Jill Townley, 651-259-5168, [jill.townley@state.mn.us](mailto:jill.townley@state.mn.us)

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# Environmental Assessment Worksheet

## Ryan Property Warehouse and Light Industrial Development

**Comment Deadline:** May 20, 2021

**Project Description:** Scannell Properties proposes to develop a new warehousing/light industrial project on a 79.1-acre site within the City of Lakeville. The project site is located along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 70. The development would include up to six new buildings totaling up to 894,000 square feet of office space, warehouse, and light industrial space.

**Link to Document:** <https://www.lakevillemn.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=398>

**RGU:** City of Lakeville

**RGU Contact:** David Olson, 952-985-4421, [dolson@lakevillemn.gov](mailto:dolson@lakevillemn.gov)

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# Joint Environmental Assessment / Environmental Assessment Worksheet

## Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery - Redwood Falls

**Comment Deadline:** May 20, 2021

**Project Description:** The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) announces the preparation and availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)/ Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the partial development of a 77.23-acre property be transferred to the State of Minnesota for a new State Veterans Cemetery in Paxton Township, Redwood County, Minnesota. The first phase of construction is anticipated to be completed in 2024. The Draft EA/EAW has been prepared in compliance with federal and state environmental review regulations. The MDVA intends to issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) and "Record of Decision" (ROD) following a 30-day comment period ending on May 20, 2021, providing there are no substantive comments which warrant further evaluation.

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

**RGU:** Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

**RGU Contact:** David Swantek, 651-332-0946, [RedwoodEAReview@stantec.com](mailto:RedwoodEAReview@stantec.com)

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## Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental units have determined the following projects do not require preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).

### Silver Lake Dredging and Dam Modification Project

**Decision:** Negative, April 5, 2021

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

**RGU:** City of Rochester

**RGU Contact:** Wendy Turri, 507-328-2400, [wturri@rochestermn.gov](mailto:wturri@rochestermn.gov)

### Cragun's Legacy Golf Course Expansion and Residential Development

**Decision:** Negative, March 23, 2021

**Link to Document:** <http://www.crowwing.us/environmental>

**RGU:** Crow Wing County

**RGU Contact:** Jacob Frie, 218-824-1124, [Jacob.Frie@crowwing.us](mailto:Jacob.Frie@crowwing.us)

# Draft Environmental Impact Statement

## North Quarry Reduction & Rainbow Quarry Expansion

**Project Description:** Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. (Martin Marietta) and the City of Waite Park have prepared this voluntary DEIS for the proposed expansion of the current Rainbow Quarry being mined for aggregates at their active mining operation with address of 1450 Division Street, Waite Park, Minnesota. Martin Marietta plans to use its entire property for mining operations, with contraction of the North Quarry pit footprint from 129 acres approved in the applicable CUP to 120 acres; and expansion of the Rainbow Quarry pit footprint from 52.25 acres approved in the current CUP to approximately 95 acres.

**Link to Document:** <https://www.ci.waitepark.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/2791/Combined-DEIS-for-Rainbow-and-North-Quarry-04132021>

**Public Meeting Date:** May 6, 2021

**Public Meeting Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Public Meeting Location Name and Address:** Online meeting, see link below.

**Link to Public Meeting Online:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/518344253>

**RGU:** City of Waite Park

**RGU Contact:** Jon Halter, 320-252-6822, [jhalter@sehinc.com](mailto:jhalter@sehinc.com)

# Final Environmental Impact Statement

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ISSUED: APRIL 12, 2021

**In the Matter of Plum Creek Wind, LLC's Certificate of Need, LWECS Site Permit, and HVTL Route Permit Applications for the Plum Creek Wind Project and associated facilities in Cottonwood, Murray, and Redwood counties in Minnesota**

Docket Numbers: IP6997/CN-18-699, WS-18-700, TL-18-701

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has released the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Plum Creek Wind Project.

### Final EIS Availability

The final EIS can be viewed on the Department's website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>. Select "Wind Turbines" and then select "Plum Creek Wind Project"

It can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: <http://mn.gov/puc>. Select "eDockets," enter the year ("18") and the docket number ("699," "700," or "701"), and then select "Search."

Print copies of the final EIS will only be available upon request; electronic copies of the final EIS will also be available. The Plum Creek Wind Project EIS was issued in draft form on January 11, 2021. Comments on the draft EIS were accepted through February 1, 2021.

All comments received on the draft EIS and responses to these comments are included in the final EIS in Appendix G (Comment Response Document). Changes to the EIS text as a result of comments received are indicated by underlined passages (additions) or strikeouts (deletions). In addition, errors, and omissions in the draft EIS identified by Department staff have been corrected. No changes to the Figures or Appendices (with the exception of adding Appendix G) within the draft EIS were made, please refer to the draft version to view those items.

### **Project Description**

Plum Creek, an affiliate of National Grid Renewables (formerly Geronimo Energy, LLC), is proposing to construct a 414 MW large wind energy conversion system consisting of 67 to 74 wind turbines ranging from 5.6 to 6.2 MW in size and an associated 31-mile 345 kV transmission line. The proposed wind facility would also include: above- or below-ground electric collection and communications lines; an above- ground electric feeder line; two collector substations; four permanent meteorological towers; a sonic or light detection and ranging unit; two aircraft detection lighting system radars; an operation and maintenance building, and new gravel access roads. The associated 345 kV transmission line would be constructed on single-circuit monopole structures within a 150-foot right-of-way and would connect the wind facility to the existing Brookings-to-Hampton 345 kV transmission line via a new switching station. The proposed project would be located in portions of Cottonwood, Murray, and Redwood counties.

### **Process Information**

The Commission must approve a certificate of need, a site permit, and a route permit before the proposed Plum Creek Wind Project can be built. The permitting process provides for extensive citizen participation and includes several opportunities for public input such as public meetings, public comment periods, and public hearings. The information gathered throughout the permitting process informs the Commission's final decision on a certificate of need and permit.

The applications are being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849 (certificate of need); Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854 (site permit); Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850 (route permit). The rules and statutes are available for review at: [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov).

### **Project Contacts**

- **Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor**

Charley Bruce – [publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us), 651-201-2251 or 1-800-657-3782

- **Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner**

Scott Ek – [ek@state.mn.us](mailto:ek@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2255

- **Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**

William Storm – [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us), 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

- **Plum Creek, LLC Permitting Specialist**

Jenny Monson-Miller – [jenny@nationalgridrenewables.com](mailto:jenny@nationalgridrenewables.com) or 952-358-5687

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# General Notices

## Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

**Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.** filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-22**. Notification is for genetically modified **CORN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-004-101rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 12 acres; Faribault-2 locations with 7 and 15 acres, respectively; Fillmore-4 locations with 35, 20, 15, and 25 acres, respectively; Goodhue-1 location with 15 acres.** Project categories include **AP(Agronomic Performance), HT(Herbicide Tolerance), IR(Insect Resistance), MG(Marker Gene), OO(Other), and PQ(Product Quality).**

**Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.** filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-23**. Notification is for genetically modified **CORN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-004-102rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 12 acres; Faribault-2 locations with 7 and 15 acres, respectively; Fillmore-4 locations with 35, 20, 15, and 25 acres, respectively; Goodhue-1 location with 15 acres.** Project categories include **HT(Herbicide Tolerance), IR(Insect Resistance), MG(Marker Gene), and OO(Other).**

**Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.** filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-24**. Notification is for genetically modified **CORN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-004-103rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 12 acres; Faribault-2 locations with 7 and 15 acres, respectively; Fillmore-4 locations with 35, 20, 15, and 25 acres, respectively; Goodhue-1 location with 15 acres.** Project categories include **FR (Fungal Resistance), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), MG (Marker Gene), OO(Other), PQ (Product Quality), and VR (Viral Resistance).**

**Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.** filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-25**. Notification is for genetically modified **CORN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-004-105rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 12 acres; Faribault-2 locations with 7 and 15 acres, respectively; Fillmore-4 locations with 35, 20, 15, and 25 acres, respectively; Goodhue-1 location with 15 acres.** Project categories include **AP(Agronomic Performance), FR (Fungal Resistance), HT(Herbicide Tolerance), MG(Marker Gene), OO(Other), and PQ(Product Quality).**

**For additional information contact** Denise Thiede, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-402-3149, [denise.thiede@state.mn.us](mailto:denise.thiede@state.mn.us).

\*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](mailto:Env.Review@state.mn.us), call 651.757.2873, or visit our [website](#).\*

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