

EQB Monitor

EQB announcements and environmental review notices

Volume 46, Number 14

April 5, 2022

EQB announcement

Climate Change and Environmental Review Speaker Series

Throughout the Climate Change and Environmental Review Pilot Program, EQB will host a monthly Speaker Series open to anyone that will feature presentations by technical experts about incorporating [climate information](#) into Environmental Assessment Worksheets.

Environmental Review from the Community Advocate's Perspective

April 28th, 2022

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Amelia Vohs, Regulatory Attorney at the Minnesota center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) will discuss common themes around how communities consume and understand environmental review information, and how that may result in a legal challenge.

[Join Us Using Webex](#)

Registration open for participation in Climate Change and Environmental Review Pilot Program

EQB is seeking local responsible governmental units (RGUs) and consultants interested in participating in a pilot program that will assess the efficiency and effectiveness of climate information by testing a draft revised Environmental Assessment Worksheet. Participants will benefit from shared learning as well as training provided by technical experts.

Registration is open to all RGUs and consultants, regardless of whether you are actively reviewing a project. This cohort-based program will begin in early 2022. [Register now!](#)

If you are not eligible to register, but would like to receive updates about the Pilot Program, please [sign-up here](#).

Environmental review 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](#).

We need your feedback: Some governmental units are completing environmental review using the draft revised Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) form that includes information about greenhouse gases and climate change. These reviews are noted below with a star (*) in front of the project title. Help us understand the usefulness of the climate change information in these EAWs by completing a [brief survey](#). Your feedback is important to the Environmental Quality Board and will inform decision making on the final EAW form.

***Perch Lake Habitat Restoration**

Location: Duluth, St. Louis County

Process: Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: May 5, 2022

Project Description: The Perch Lake Habitat Restoration Project would accomplish habitat objectives and address loss of fish and wildlife habitat within the St. Louis River Area of

Concern. The Project would address existing habitat impairments by improving hydrologic connectivity and water quality to enhance habitat conditions for fish and wildlife.

Link to Public Documents: [Perch Lake Habitat Restoration EAW](#)

Location of Public Documents: Duluth Public Library, 221 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) and Contact: Department of Natural Resources, [Sara Mielke](#), 651-259-5723

Pioneer Trail Industrial Park

Location: Corcoran, Hennepin County

Process: EAW

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: May 5, 2022

Project Description: The Pioneer Trail Business Park is a proposed five lot industrial/business park with 10 buildings and a new public road located on 56.54 acres at the northeast corner of Highway 55 and Pioneer Trail.

Link to Public Documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

Location of Public Documents: Corcoran City Hall, 8200 County Road 116, Corcoran, MN 55340

Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: May 26th, 2022, 7:00 p.m., Corcoran City Hall Council Chambers, 8200 County Road 116, Corcoran, MN 55340

RGU and Contact: City of Corcoran, [Kendra Lindahl](#), 612-638-0225

Rush Hollow

Location: Maple Grove, Hennepin County

Process: EAW

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: May 5, 2022

Project Description: The Project is a new neighborhood in Maple Grove that is planned for a mix of market rate single-family attached and detached homes, senior living opportunities, parks and open space. Located adjacent and west of the Elm Creek Park Reserve on the northern border of the City, the neighborhood will provide up to 243 new detached single-family homes, 230 attached townhomes, and a 110-unit Senior Living building. There will be a network of private open space areas and parks within the neighborhood along with a trail along Rush Creek that is planned as part of the future Rush Creek Regional Trail.

Link to Public Documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

Location of Public Documents: City of Maple Grove, 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway North,

Maple Grove, MN

RGU and Contact: City of Maple Grove, [Joe Hogeboom](#), 763-494-6040

Marx Property Residential Development

Location: St. Michael, Wright County

Process: EAW

Step: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Need Decision

RGU Decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Record of Decision Date: March 22, 2022

Link to Public Documents: [Marx Property Residential Development EIS Need Decision](#)

Location of Public Documents: St. Michael City Hall, 11800 Town Center Drive NE, St. Michael, MN

RGU and Contact: City of St. Michael, [Marc Weigle](#), 763-416-7932

Prairie Meadows 3rd Addition Development Project

Location: Big Lake, Sherburne County

Process: EAW

Step: EIS Need Decision

RGU Decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Record of Decision Date: March 23, 2022

Link to Public Documents: [Prairie Meadows 3rd Addition Development Project EIS Need Decision](#)

Location of Public Documents: Great River Regional Library, 1300 W. St. Germain Street, St. Cloud, MN 56301-3667

RGU and Contact: City of Big Lake, [Lucinda Spanier](#), 763-251-2977

Parkwood Knolls Residential Development

Location: Big Lake, Sherburne County

Process: Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR)

Step: Draft order of review

End of Comment Period: May 5, 2022

Project Description: The scope of the AUAR will include the 46.93-acre AUAR area. The AUAR area is located in the City of Big Lake, south of 205th Ave NW, north of U.S. Highway 10, and east of County Road 43. Scenario 1 is the project proponent's plan for the area and it is partly consistent with the City of Big Lake Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Scenario 1 includes 32 detached single-family units and 158 attached multi-family units (190 total units). Scenario 2 would allocate 50% of the shoreland area to open space and extend Prairie Drive through the southern part of the site.

Link to Public Documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

Location of Public Documents: Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN 55309

First Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: May 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN

Second Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: July 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN

Third Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: August 3, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN

Fourth Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: November 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN

RGU and Contact: City of Big Lake, [Lucinda Spanier](#), 763-251-2977

Gonz Lake West

Location: St. Michael, Wright County

Process: AUAR

Step: Final order of review

Project Description: The City of St. Michael adopted a resolution ordering preparation of the Gonz Lake West AUAR on March 22, 2022.

Link to Public Documents: [Gonz Lake West Final Order of Review](#)

Location of Public Documents: St. Michael City Hall, 11800 Town Center Drive NE, St. Michael, MN

RGU and Contact: City of St. Michael, [Marc Weigle](#), 763-416-7932

Gonz Lake West

Location: St. Michael, Wright County

Process: AUAR

Step: Draft AUAR

End of Comment Period: May 5, 2022

Project Description: The Gonz Lake West AUAR reviews two development scenarios considered for 202.21 acres of land that adjoins Gonz Lake in the City of St. Michael. Scenario 1 includes up to 262 detached and 168 attached residential units. Scenario 2 includes up to 352 detached residential units. Both scenarios include installation of municipal utilities and best management practices to protect water resources.

Link to Public Documents: [Gonz Lake West Draft AUAR](#)

Location of Public Documents: St. Michael City Hall, 11800 Town Center Drive NE, St. Michael, MN

RGU and Contact: City of St. Michael, [Marc Weigle](#), 763-416-7932

Lake Mary 115 kV Transmission Substation and Line Project

Location: Hudson Township, Douglas County

Process: Alternative Review

Notice Title: Lake Mary 115 kV Transmission Substation and Line Project

Project Description: Great River Energy and Runestone Electric Association are proposing to construct a new overhead 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation to increase capacity and improve reliability of the electrical system in the Alexandria area. The proposed one-mile line will serve the proposed substation located southwest of the intersection of County Road 87 and Bullseye Drive SW in Alexandria.

Link to Public Documents: [Lake Mary 115kV Transmission Substation and Line Project](#)

Location of Public Documents: Douglas County Land & Resource Management Office, 305 8th Ave W, Alexandria, MN 56308

Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: April 12, 2022, 6:10 p.m., Douglas County Public Works Public Meeting Room, 526 Willow Drive, Alexandria, MN 56308

Public Meeting Additional Details: Public hearing will be held by the Douglas County Planning Advisory Commission, as the project is subject to a conditional use permit as required by the Douglas County Zoning Ordinance, Section I, subpart E.

RGU and Contact: Douglas County, [Dave Rush](#), 320-762-3863

Louise Solar Project

Location: Adams and Lodi Townships, Mower County

Process: Alternative Review

Notice Title: Notice of Permit Decision

Notice Description: Notice of Permit Decision in the Matter of the Application of Louise Solar Project, LLC for a Site Permit for the 50 MW Louise Solar Project in Mower County, Minnesota. Docket No. IP-7039/GS-20-647. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in an order issued March 18, 2022, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission: (i) found that the environmental assessment prepared by the Department of Commerce and the record created at the public hearing addressed the issues identified in the scoping decision; and (ii) issued a site permit to Louise Solar Project, LLC for its 50 MW Louise Solar Project in Mower County, Minnesota. Questions about this project may be directed to Cezar Panait at Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207.

Link to Public Documents: [Louise Solar Permit Decision](#)

Location of Public Documents: Grand Meadow Public Library, 125 Grand Ave East, Grand Meadow, MN 55936

RGU and Contact: Public Utilities Commission, [Cezar Panait](#), 651-201-2207

Sherco Solar Project

Location: Sherburne County

Process: Alternative Review

Notice Title: Notice of Public Hearings and Availability of Environmental Assessment

Notice Description: In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Site Permit and Two Route Permits for the up to 460 Megawatt Sherco Solar Energy Generating System and Associated 345 Kilovolt Transmission Lines in Sherburne County, Minnesota. PUC Docket Numbers: E-002/GS-21-191, E-002/TL-21-190, E-002/TL-21-189; OAH Docket Number: 21-2500-37959.

Project Description: Xcel Energy is proposing to construct an up to 460-megawatt solar energy generating system and two 345-kilovolt transmission lines. As proposed, the solar project area would consist of an East Block and a West Block located on approximately 3,479 acres of land adjacent to the Xcel Energy Sherburne County Generating Plant in Sherburne County, Minnesota. Primary components of the solar facility would include bifacial photovoltaic panels, solar inverters, an electrical collection system, access roads, security fencing, two substations, an operation and maintenance facility, stormwater drainage basins, and weather stations. The solar facility would connect to the electrical grid at the existing Sherburn County Substation by a new 1.7-mile single circuit 345 kilovolt transmission line for the East Block and a new 3.2-mile single circuit 345 kilovolt transmission line for the West Block.

Link to Public Documents: [Sherco Solar Project](#)

Location of Public Documents: Great River Regional Library – Becker, 11500 Sherburne Avenue, Becker, MN 55308

First Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: April 20, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Becker High School – Performing Arts Center – Entrance Door #3, 12000 Hancock Street, Becker, Minnesota 55308

First Public Meeting Additional Details: Written comments will be accepted through May 5, 2022, by 4:30 p.m. Please include the docket number (21-191, 21-190, or 21-189) in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- Should the Commission grant a site permit and two route permits for the proposed solar facility?
- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in the respective permits?

Comments may be submitted:

Online: <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments/>

eDockets: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>

Email: publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Public Advisor – Minnesota Public Utilities Commission,

121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

Second Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: April 21, 2022, 1:00 p.m., Remote-Access
Second Public Meeting Virtual

Link: <https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m756de19db4f51101501700426f2477f8>

Second Public Meeting Additional Details: WebEx Link:

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m756de19db4f51101501700426f2477f8>

WebEx Number: 2492 291 0088

WebEx Password: dTawc4Np3V4 (38292467 from phones)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free

Access Code: 249 229 10088

If you are joining the hearing by WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the hearing, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator. If you are joining the hearing by phone, press *3 on your phone. Your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask your question or make a comment. Additional information and instructions are available at:

<https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

RGU and Contact: Public Utilities Commission, [Scott Ek](#), 651-201-2255

General Notices

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

In the Matter of Water Appropriation Permit Application of Wesley DeKam

Notice Description: A contested case hearing will be held by the Office of Administrative Hearings, 600 N. Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101, In the Matter of Water Appropriation Permit Application of Wesley DeKam (OAH 8-2002-38214). This action was initiated to determine whether Respondent has met his burden of proving that his application for a Water Appropriation Permit filed on April 24, 2015, is reasonable, practical, and will adequately protect public safety and promote the public welfare as required by Minn. Stat. § 103G.315. The prehearing will begin on April 10, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., before Administrative Law Judge Barbara J. Case and may be continued from time to time, and additional hearings may be held. Anyone wishing to attend should call 1-888-742-5095, conference code 752 390 7175#. Any questions concerning this notice may be directed to Colin O'Donovan, Assistant Attorney General, at 651-757-1026 and colin.odonovan@ag.state.mn.us.

Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: 10:30 a.m., April 11, 2022, phone

Public Meeting Additional Details: 1-888-742-5095, conference code 752-390-7175#

Contact: [Colin O'Donovan](#), Minnesota Attorney General's Office, 651-757-1026

Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 22-NO-16. Notification is for genetically modified CORN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application AUTH - 0000206722. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-2 sites with 12 and 50 acres, Faribault-2 sites with 7 and 15 acres, Fillmore-4 sites with 15, 20, 25, and 35 acres, Goodhue-1 site with 15 acres, Sibley-1 site with 25 acres, and Waseca-1 site with 50 acres. Project categories include FR (Fungal Resistance), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Genes), and OO (Other). For additional information contact Denise Thiede.

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531

Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 22-NO-17. Notification is for genetically modified CORN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application AUTH - 0000206717. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-2 sites with 12 and 50 acres, Faribault-2 sites with 7 and 15 acres, Fillmore-4 sites with 15, 20, 25, and 35 acres, Goodhue-1 site with 15 acres, Sibley-1 site with 25 acres, and Waseca-1 site with 50 acres. Project categories include HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Genes), and OO (Other). For additional information contact Denise Thiede.

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531

Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 22-NO-18. Notification is for genetically modified CORN, pending USDA-

APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application AUTH - 0000206724. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-2 sites with 12 and 50 acres, Faribault-2 sites with 7 and 15 acres, Fillmore-4 sites with 15, 20, 25, and 35 acres, Goodhue-1 site with 15 acres, Sibley-1 site with 25 acres, and Waseca-1 site with 50 acres. Project categories include FR (Fungal Resistance), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Genes), and OO (Other). For additional information contact Denise Thiede.

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531

Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Notice Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 22-NO-19. Notification is for genetically modified SOYBEAN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application AUTH - 0000212309. The counties identified for release include the following: Freeborn-1 site with 10 acres and Swift-3 sites with 10 acres/site. Project categories include HT (Herbicide Tolerance) and IR (Insect Resistance). For additional information contact Denise Thiede.

Contact: [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531

Submit an environmental review notice to the *Monitor*

The *EQB Monitor* is published every Tuesday at 12:00 pm. Submissions to the [EQB Monitor](#) are due by 4:00 pm 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.



Environmental Quality Board | eqb.state.mn.us

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



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)



This email was sent to Email Address using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Minnesota Environmental Quality Board · 520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155

