

EQB Monitor

EQB announcements and Environmental review notices

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EQB announcements

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!](#)



2021 Minnesota State Agency Pollinator Report now available!

The 2021 Minnesota State Agency Pollinator Report is now available. Visit the EQB website and [read the report](#) to learn more about the status of pollinators in Minnesota, and the progress we are making to protect them.

Apply now to be a Board member at EQB!

The application is open for four EQB Public Board Member positions – one each representing Minnesota’s 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th congressional districts. 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 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](#).

Shorewood/Excelsior Lift Station L20

Location: Shorewood and Excelsior, Hennepin County
Process: Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)
Step: EAW Available
End of Comment Period: January 13, 2022

Project Description: Metropolitan Council Environmental Services proposes to remove the wastewater lift station L20 and the associated force main from service, reroute wastewater from the lift station L20 area along a new route to the existing lift station L19 using a new gravity sewer pipe, and make minor improvements to lift station L19.

Link to Public Documents: [Shorewood/Excelsior Lift Station L20 EAW](#)

Location of Public Documents: Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) and Contact: Pollution Control Agency, [Kim Grosenheider](#), 651-757-2170

Upper Buffalo River Restoration Project

Location: Riceville and Callaway Townships, Becker County

Process: EAW

Step: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Need Decision

RGU Decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Record of Decision Date: November 22, 2021

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

Location of Public Documents: Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, 1303 4th Ave NE, Barnesville, MN 56514

RGU and Contact: Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, [Kristine Altrichter](#), 218-789-3100

Southern Shakopee Draft AUAR

Location: Shakopee, Scott County

Process: Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR)

Step: Draft AUAR

End of Comment Period: January 13, 2022

Project Description: The City of Shakopee is conducting an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) for a portion of the city to be served with municipal infrastructure and is expected to develop rapidly. The AUAR area is approximately 435 acres south of Valley View Road and west of Mystic Lake Drive. Both development scenarios are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan designation of Suburban Residential. Comments can be sent to beth.elliott@stantec.com.

Link to Public Documents: [Southern Shakopee Draft AUAR](#)

Location of Public Documents: City of Shakopee, 485 Gorman Street, Shakopee, MN, 55379

RGU and Contact: City of Shakopee, [Michael Kerski](#), 952-233-9346

Proposed Change in Spent Fuel Storage Technology at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

Location: Red Wing, Goodhue County

Process: Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

Step: SEIS Preparation Notice

End of Comment Period: January 3, 2022

Project Description: The Minnesota Department of Commerce is preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for Xcel's Energy's proposed change in spent fuel storage technology at the Prairie Island nuclear generating plant (PINGP). The SEIS will supplement the July 31, 2009, Prairie Island final environmental impact statement for Xcel Energy's proposed power uprate and request for additional draft cask storage at the PINGP (2009 Prairie Island EIS).

On April 30, 2021, Xcel Energy requested that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) authorize a change in spent fuel storage technology at the PINGP. Xcel Energy requested that it be authorized to use any spent fuel storage technology approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), rather than being limited solely to the TN-40HT cask that was approved by the Commission in 2009.

Summary of Preparation Notice: The Department of Commerce (Department) concluded that Xcel Energy's request represents substantial new information that affects the potential environmental effects at the PINGP such that the 2009 Prairie Island EIS must be supplemented. The Department found that the request affected potential radiological and non-radiological impacts. Further, the Department found that potential impacts raised environmental justice concerns with respect to the Prairie Island Indian Community.

The SEIS will be prepared in accordance with the Department's scoping decision. A draft SEIS is anticipated to be completed and available in February 2022. Public meetings and a comment period on the draft SEIS will follow. Timely and substantive comments on the draft SEIS will be responded to in a final SEIS. The final SEIS is anticipated to be available in April 2022. The Commission will use the final SEIS in making a decision on Xcel Energy's request.

Link to Public Documents: [Xcel Energy's Proposed Change in Spent Fuel Storage Technology at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plan](#)

RGU and Contact: Department of Commerce, [Ray Kirsch](#), 651-539-1841

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.



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