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Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

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EQB Meetings are regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month. There may be additional special meetings as well. The calendar with scheduled meetings is located at http://server.admin.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/month.php?cat_id=3&date=20120801. All meeting packets and agendas can be viewed at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/agendas.html>.

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EQB MONITOR

MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Draft Report Available: “Evaluation and Recommendations for Improving Environmental Review”

Governor Dayton’s Executive Order 11-32 directed the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to evaluate the state’s environmental review program and make recommendations for improving it. The recommendation must be completed by November 15, 2012. The EQB has prepared a draft report that now is available for public review and comment. The evaluation process that led to the preparation of this report was designed to be open and transparent to allow interested parties to understand the analysis and how the recommendations were developed. The draft report includes: summaries of other efforts to improve environmental review; a comparison of environmental review and permits; focused stakeholder input collected specifically for this project; and an extensive analysis of preliminary recommendations that resulted from these sources of information.

The draft report can be found at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=32868>. The EQB encourages members of the public to review the report and provide comments that will assist the EQB in developing final recommendations to be forwarded to Governor Dayton. Public comment will be taken at the October 17 EQB Board Meeting. Comments must be received by **October 19, 2012**, in order to ensure enough time for full consideration in the preparation of the final report and recommendations.

The *EQB Monitor* is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The *EQB Monitor* is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>.

Upon request, the *EQB Monitor* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Department of Administration. For information on the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
520 Lafayette Road – 4th Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2873
Fax: 651-297-2343
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

Comments may be provided electronically at: Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us. Please include "Environmental Review Improvement" in the subject line of the e-mail.

Hard copy comments can be sent to: Randall Doneen, Environmental Review Planning Director
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

You may also contact Randall Doneen at 651-259-5156.

Draft Report Available: "Analysis of Alternatives for Environmental Governance and Coordination and the Role of the MPCA Citizens' Board"

Governor Dayton's Executive Order 11-32 directed the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to evaluate and make recommendations for improved environmental governance and coordination. The recommendation must be completed by November 15, 2012. With Minnesota Laws Chapter 272, the Legislature required that the evaluation also include a review of the role of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Citizens' Board in MPCA permits and environmental reviews.

The EQB has prepared a draft report that now is available for public review and comment. The draft report includes evaluations of five alternatives for the design of the EQB based on the prioritization of the EQB's two major roles: interagency strategic planning and coordinating for state government on environmental issues; and Minnesota's environmental review program.

The report also includes evaluations of four alternatives that address the role of the MPCA Citizens' Board in decisions on MPCA permits and environmental reviews.

The report does not yet include recommendations. Recommendations will derive from public comments and Board discussion.

The draft report can be found at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=32868>. The EQB invites members of the public to review the report and provide comments that will assist the EQB in developing final recommendations to be forwarded to Governor Dayton. Public comment will be taken at the October 30, 2012, EQB Meeting. Comments must be received by **October 30, 2012**, in order to ensure enough time for full consideration in the preparation of the final report and recommendations.

Comments may be submitted to Jeff Smyser electronically at: jeff.smyser@state.mn.us. Please include "Governance and Coordination" in the subject line of the e-mail.

Hard copy comments can be sent to: Jeff Smyser
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, 4th Floor
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

You May also reach Jeff Smyser at 651-757-2279.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: October 31, 2012

Project Title: CSAH 61 Reconstruction

Description: Hennepin County proposes to improve County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 61 from CSAH 3 (Excelsior Boulevard) to 1,100 feet north of Trunk Highway (TH) 7. The roadway will be converted from a two-lane generally urban section roadway to a four-lane divided urban section with center median, sidewalk and trail.

Project Proposer: Hennepin County

RGU: Hennepin County

Contact: Jennifer Lowry
Senior Design Engineer
1600 Prairie Drive
Medina, MN 55340
612-596-0353
jennifer.lowry@co.hennepin.mn.us

Project Title: Cambria Facility Expansion

Description: Cambria manufactures natural quartz surface material. The project consists of expanding the existing 323,175 square foot manufacturing facility by approximately 325,000 square feet and increasing production capacity to twice the current output.

The EAW is available for review at the Le Sueur Public Library located 118 East Ferry Street, Le Sueur, MN 56058 and the Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main, Mankato, MN 56002.

Project Proposer: Cambria USA

RGU: City of Le Sueur

Contact: Richard Almich
Administrator, City of Le Sueur
203 South Second Street
Le Sueur, MN 56058

SCOPING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Comment Deadline: October 31, 2012

Project Title: The People's Stadium

Description: The proposed project is the construction of a new Stadium on the current Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome (Metrodome) site. Construction of the new Stadium includes demolition of the existing Metrodome stadium and construction of a new stadium facility and ancillary parking and access facilities. The new 65,000-seat stadium (with expansion up to 73,000 seats) will include suites, club seats, shops, restaurants, a National Football League (NFL) team museum, and Hall of Fame. Copies of the Scoping EAW are available for public review beginning October 1, 2012, at the following locations:

- **Project website** - <http://www.msfa.com/>
- **Hennepin County Public Library** - 300 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to be informed about the details of the People's Stadium project, one public open house is scheduled for the following date and location:

Public Open House

Tuesday October 23, 2012

5:00-7:00 pm

Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome- Halsey Hall Room

900 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN

The public meeting location is accessible for persons with disabilities.

Written materials, project updates, and materials presented at the public open house will be available on the MSFA website noted above. Copies of the Scoping EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota EQB list. Comments will be accepted through **October 31, 2012**.

Project Proposer: Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority

RGU: Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority

Contact: Steve Maki, Project Manager
Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (MSFA)
900 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Phone: 612-335-3313
Fax: 612-332-8334
steve.maki@msfa.com

PETITION FILED

The following petitions have been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Stearns County, Huls Brothers Trucking Inc. Proposed Manure Storage Expansion

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparation of an EIS. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the EAW notice was published in the *EQB Monitor*.

- City of St. Louis Park, Minnehaha Creek Reach 20 Restoration, Hennepin County, September 4, 2012 (June 11, 2012)
- Morris City Council, Morris Elementary School Demolition Project, Stevens County, September 11, 2012 (July 23, 2012)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Baers Poultry Company (Old Barn) 2013 Retrofit, Clay County, September 20, 2012 (August 6, 2012)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Randy's Sanitation Transfer Facility Proposed Capacity Expansion, Wright County, September 20, 2012 (August 6, 2012).
- City of Plymouth, Peony Lane/Lawndale Lane Extension, Hennepin County, September 18, 2012 (July 23, 2012)

EA FONSI

Project Title: St. Louis County State Aid Highway 91 State Project: 69-691-020

Description: The US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the reconstruction of CSAH 91, Haines Road. The proposed project consists primarily of reconstructing Haines Road, addition of a multi-use lane, and replacement of County Bridge 13 spanning Merritt Creek. The Finding concludes that the project will not significantly impact the human or natural environment. The FONSI is based upon the EA which has been independently evaluated by FHWA and determined to adequately discuss the need, environmental issues, and impacts of the proposed project and appropriate mitigation measures.

Project Title: U.S. Customs and Border Protection Pembina Area of Responsibility (AOR) Border Patrol Station, Grand Forks Sector, North Dakota

Description: U.S. Customs and Border Protections (CBP) is pleased to inform you that the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a Border Patrol Station in the Pembina AOR, Grand Forks Sector, North Dakota, have been finalized. The Proposed Action for the Final EA and FONSI is to construct, operate, and maintain a new Border Patrol Station in the Pembina AOR. CBP released the Draft EA and Draft FONSI for a public comment period that began on March 15, 2012 and closed on April 13, 2012. Comments received on the draft EA and FONSI have been addressed. While all three alternatives considered were found to have no significant impact, alternative 1 remains the preferred alternative based on state site-selection criteria.

Copies of the Final EA and FONSI have been provided to the North Border School-Community Library in Pembina, North Dakota; Cavalier City Library in Cavalier, North Dakota; and Hallock Community Library in Hallock, Minnesota, and the documents can be downloaded at <http://ecso.swf.usace.army.mil/Pages/Publicreview.cfm>.