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Submittal Deadline: December 17, 2012
Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

The *EQB Monitor* Publication Calendar for 2013 is included in this edition.

Subscribe to receive the EQB Monitor. If you would like to receive the Monitor regularly, please subscribe at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/monitor.html>.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: January 9, 2013

Project Title: Carlton County Business Park/Housing Development

Description: Carlton County proposes to develop a 212-acre site to provide access roads, internal roads, and utility infrastructure for a future mixed-use development near Interstate Highway 35 (I-35) and Minnesota State Trunk Highway 210 (TH 210). The project would provide lots for future development of industrial and residential uses.

RGU: Carlton County

Contact Person: Heather Cunningham
Zoning & Environmental Services Administrator
P.O. Box 220
Carlton, MN 55718
218-384-9174
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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>

EAW NEED DECISIONS

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an EAW in response to a citizen petition.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Reichmann Land & Cattle LLP- Blair West Site Feedlot Expansion, Pope County, EAW granted
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Curtis Blair Farm Expansion, Pope County, EAW granted

EA/EAW NOTICE

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has prepared a Draft Federal Environmental Assessment (EA)/State Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) to evaluate the environmental effects of proposed improvements at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Improvements to terminal, landside facilities and roadway facilities are proposed to meet the forecasted needs of the metropolitan area through the year 2020. Environmental impact analyses in the Draft EA/EAW were conducted in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) National Environmental Policy Act requirements, Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) requirements, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The public comment period on the Draft EA/EAW closed on October 11, 2012.

As allowed under MEPA, the Draft EA/EAW follows the format of a federal EA, addresses each of the environmental effects identified in an EAW form, and is being circulated in place of an EAW form. The FAA and FHWA have not yet completed consideration of comments received on the Draft EA/EAW. The purpose of this Notice is to announce that the MAC is continuing to coordinate with the FAA and the FHWA on the Draft EA/EAW and will issue a decision under MEPA upon completion of coordination with federal agencies.

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does 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*.

- Goodhue County, County State Aid Highway 24 Southeast South Project, November 20, 2012 (August 6, 2012).
- Hennepin County, County State Aid Highway 61 (Shady Oak Road), November 19, 2012 (October 1, 2012).
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Becker Ash Landfill Expansion project, Sherburne County, December 3, 2012 (August 20, 2012).

SCOPING DECISION AND EIS PREPARATION NOTICE

Project Title: The People's Stadium

Description: As the RGU, the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (MSFA) prepared the Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)/Draft Scoping Decision Document. Further, the MSFA will prepare the EIS in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Environmental Quality Board Rules.

On October 1, 2012, a Draft Scoping Decision Document was published and circulated with a Scoping EAW to all agencies/organizations on the Minnesota EQB distribution list. Copies of the documents were also available for review at the Hennepin County Public Library and on the project website: www.msfa.com. Comments on both documents were accepted through October 31, 2012. This public comment period included an open house held on October 23, 2012. Comments received during the public comment period and at the open house are included as an Appendix to the Scoping Decision Document, and are reflected in the Final Scoping Decision Document where appropriate.

Since the close of the comment period on October 31, 2012, the MSFA has been reviewing the technical analysis completed and comments received on the Scoping EAW/Draft Scoping Decision Document. On November 16, 2012 the MSFA, serving as both the project proposer and the RGU for the proposed action passed a scoping decision resolution. The Scoping Resolution is attached, included in the Scoping Decision Document, and summarized below:

The following alternatives will be evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

No Build Alternative - An analysis will be conducted of the No-Build Alternative. The No Build Alternative assumes continued use of the existing Metrodome facility by the Minnesota Vikings.

The **Build Alternative** (also referred to as the “Proposed Project” or the “new Stadium”) – This Alternative is defined as the construction of a multi-purpose stadium and related infrastructure to be used as a venue for the National Football League (NFL) and a broad range of other civic, community, athletic, educational, cultural, and commercial activities in Downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Build Alternative will include:

- Demolition of the Existing Metrodome Stadium (900,000 square feet [sf])
- At Least 1,500,000 sf
- 65,000 Seats, Expandable up to 73,000
- 150 Suites and 7,500 Club Seats
- Concessions and Restaurants, NFL Team Museum, Hall of Fame, Administrative and Ticket Offices and Team Meeting Space, Lockers, and Training Rooms
- 2,000 Parking Spaces Within One Block of Stadium, Connected by Skyway or Tunnel
- 500 Spaces Within Two Blocks of the Stadium, With Dedicated Walkway on Game Days
- Stadium Infrastructure (Plazas, Parking Structures, Rights of Way, Connectors, Skyways and Tunnels)

The potential closure of 5th Street from Chicago to 11th Avenues will also be evaluated in the EIS as part of the Proposed Project.

The issues to be addressed in the EIS include (specific Scoping EAW question noted in parenthesis for reference):

- Land Use (#9)
- Water Use (#13)
- Erosion and Sedimentation (#16)
- Water Quality: Surface Water Runoff (#17)
- Water Quality: Wastewaters (#18)
- Soil Conditions/Contamination (#19b)
- Solid Wastes, Hazardous Wastes, Storage Tanks (#20)
- Transportation (referenced as Traffic in EAW - #21)
- Vehicle Related Air Emissions (#22)
- Stationary Source Air Emissions (#23)
- Odors, Noise and Dust (#24)

- Nearby Resources: Archaeological, Historical or Architectural Resources and Designated Park,
- Recreation Areas or Trails (#25a and c)
- Visual Impacts (#26)
- Impact on Infrastructure and Public Services (#28)
- Cumulative Potential Effects (#29)
- Other Potential Environmental Impacts (#30)

The new Stadium and supporting facilities (parking, sidewalks, etc.) will be designed to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Two design options will be moved forward as a part of the Build Alternative. These two options include a fixed roof and a design with retractable elements, such as a roof or wall. If additional study reveals that one of the two design options is not prudent and feasible, the MSFA may determine that the EIS will analyze only the prudent and feasible design option as the Build Alternative.

Construction of the new Stadium could take up to 35 months, requiring one to two NFL football seasons to be played off-site at the existing TCF Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota campus. The EIS will address the temporary impacts of the use of TCF Bank Stadium.

In addition to the identification of alternatives and issue areas advanced for further evaluation in the EIS, The People's Stadium Scoping Decision Document includes information in compliance with Minnesota Rule 4410.2100, Subp. 6.

The Scoping Decision Document and EIS Preparation Notice will be distributed to the EQB Distribution list and will be posted on the MSFA website, www.msfa.com. A press release will also be provided to at least one newspaper of general circulation within Hennepin County.

RGU: Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority

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

Written materials, project updates, and materials presented at the public open house will be available on the MSFA website noted above.

DRAFT EIS AVAILABLE

Project Title: Perham Resource Recovery Facility Expansion – Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Description: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposal to expand the Perham Resource Recovery Facility (PRRF) in Perham Minnesota. The Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority proposes to expand the existing PRRF by adding

a second waste heat boiler, a second air pollution control system train, and associated equipment, as well as adding a Materials Recovery Facility. This would increase the facility's municipal solid waste processing capacity from 116 tons per day (tpd) to 200 tpd.

The Draft EIS contains an air quality and human health risk assessment that was conducted to evaluate impacts from the proposed expansion of the PRRF, an evaluation of noise and traffic impacts, and an evaluation of economic and social impacts.

The public comment period on the Draft EIS will end January 16, 2013. The MPCA will host a public information meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 3, 2013, to discuss the Draft EIS for the PRRF. The meeting will be held in the Perham City Council Chambers, 125 2nd Avenue NE, Perham, Minnesota.

Timely comments on the Draft EIS will be responded to in a written response document that will, along with any needed revision, be incorporated into the Final EIS. The Final EIS will be publicly distributed, and then brought to the MPCA Citizens' Board (Board) for a decision on the adequacy of the EIS. All persons on the project mailing list will be notified in advance of the Board adequacy decision meeting.

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person: Kevin Kain, Planner Principal
Environmental Review Unit – 4th Floor
Resource Management and Assistance Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
651-757-2482
kevin.kain@state.mn.us

NOTICE OF EIS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION

Project Title: Southwest Transitway

Description: The Southwest Transitway project proposes construction of a light rail system between Minneapolis and Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

On October 12, 2012, The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published a notice of availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Southwest Transitway Project (EIS No. 20120320) for public review and comment. That notice stated that the public review and comment period would conclude on December 11, 2012. On October 15, 2012, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority published a notice of availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwest Transitway Project in the EQB Monitor. The FTA has decided to extend the public comment period until Monday, December 31, 2012 upon request from a Federal cooperating agency.

The public comment period is extended from December 11, 2012 through December 31, 2012. No additional public hearings will be held.

RGU: Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority

The DEIS, including all appendices and supporting information, is available online at:
www.southwesttransitway.org.

For those wishing to review a hard copy version of the document, it is available at the following area libraries and resource centers.

Hennepin County
Housing Community Works & Transit
701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Southwest LRT Project Office
6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Linden Hills Library
2900 West 43rd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Minneapolis Central Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Sumner Library
611 Van White Memorial Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Edina Library
5280 Grandview Square
Edina, MN 55436

St. Louis Park Library
3240 Library Lane
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Hopkins Library
22 11th Avenue North
Hopkins, MN 55343

Minnetonka Library
17524 Excelsior Boulevard
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Eden Prairie Library
565 Prairie Center Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Franklin Library
1314 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Minneapolis City Hall
250 S 4th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Edina City Hall
4801 West 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

St. Louis Park City Hall
5005 Minnetonka Blvd
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Hopkins City Hall
1010 1st Street South
Hopkins, MN 55343

Minnetonka City Hall
14600 Minnetonka Blvd
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Eden Prairie City Hall
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

The address to which written comments should be sent is:

Hennepin County Housing, Community Works & Transit
Attention: Southwest Transitway
701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55415
swcorridor@co.hennepin.mn.us

NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF THE POWER PLANT SITING AND TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTING PROGRAM ANNUAL HEARING

Notice is Hereby Given that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will hold the annual public hearing on the Power Plant Siting and Transmission Line Routing Program on:

Friday, December 21, 2012
1:00 PM at the Public Utilities Commission – Large Hearing Room
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

The annual hearing is required by Minnesota Statute § 216E.07, which provides that:

The commission shall hold an annual public hearing at a time and place prescribed by rule in order to afford interested persons an opportunity to be heard regarding any matters relating to the siting of large electric generating power plants and routing of high-voltage transmission lines. At the meeting, the commission shall advise the public of the permits issued by the commission in the past year.

The Agenda for the Hearing is available on the Commission's website at www.puc.state.mn.us. Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly will preside. The Judge will take oral or written statements from any person at the Annual Hearing. In addition, written comments may be submitted until **4:30 PM on Friday, February 1, 2013**. Please refer to PUC Docket No. E-999/M-12-360 and OAH Docket No. 65-2500-30183 in the subject line of all correspondence.

Comments should be submitted directly to Judge O'Reilly at:

The Honorable Ann O'Reilly
Office of Administrative Hearings
PO Box 64620
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620
E-mail: routecomments@oah@state.mn.us or Fax: 651-361-7936

At the close of the comment period, Judge O'Reilly will provide the Commission with a written summary of the hearing testimony and the written comments received during the comment period.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Commission staff at 651-296-0406, Option 1 or via e-mail at consumer.puc@state.mn.us.

Please be advised any comments made in this proceeding will not be part of the record in any other Commission docket. Accordingly, comments on a specific project currently under review should be submitted during the comment period for that specific docket.

The Commission hearing rooms have wheelchair access. If other reasonable accommodations are needed to enable you to fully participate in a Commission meeting (i.e., sign language or large print materials), please call 651-296-0406 (voice) or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting. Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.

***EQB Monitor* Publication Calendar for 2013**

Volume Number	Deadline for Submission	Publication Date	EAW Comment Deadline
37-1	December 31	January 7	February 6
37-2	January 14	January 21	February 20
37-3	January 28	February 4	March 6
37-4	February 11	February 18	March 20
37-5	February 25	March 4	April 3
37-6	March 11	March 18	April 17
37-7	March 25	April 1	May 1
37-8	April 8	April 15	May 15
37-9	April 22	April 29	May 29
37-10	May 6	May 13	June 12
37-11	May 20	May 27	June 26
37-12	June 3	June 10	July 10
37-13	June 17	June 24	July 24
37-14	July 1	July 8	August 7
37-15	July 15	July 22	August 21
37-16	July 29	August 5	September 4
37-17	August 12	August 19	September 18
37-18	August 26	September 2	October 2
37-19	September 9	September 16	October 16
37-20	September 23	September 30	October 30
37-21	October 7	October 14	November 13
37-22	October 21	October 28	November 27
37-23	November 4	November 11	December 11
37-24	November 18	November 25	December 25
37-25	December 2	December 9	January 8, 2013
37-26	December 16	December 23	January 22, 2013