



Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

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Next Publication (8:00 AM): Dec. 12, 2016
Submittal Deadline (4:00 PM): Dec. 5, 2016
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)
View the [2016 EQB Monitor Schedule](#)



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Check the [EQB Calendar](#) for more details on *Monitor* deadlines and Board Meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the [EQB Website](#).

The EQB is now on social media! You can find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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EQB News

Please contact EQB staff at 651-757-2873 or Env.Review@state.mn.us with any questions regarding the information provided below.

Changes are coming to the *Monitor* in 2017!

Starting January 1, 2017, EQB staff will begin strictly adhering to the 4:00 pm deadline for submissions to the EQB *Monitor*. EQB staff have made a number of changes to streamline the submission and publication process, and this deadline will help ensure that submissions are adequately reviewed before publication. The [2017 EQB Monitor Schedule](#) is now available on the EQB website.

Additionally, EQB staff **strongly encourage** the use of the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#) to submit notices for publication. The Submission Form helps standardize notices for publication and allows EQB to collect data on the environmental review process.

EQB Environmental Review Survey Updates

2016 Environmental Review Survey – Thank You!

In July 2016, EQB staff launched two pilot surveys for Responsible Governmental Units (RGU) that completed the environmental review process, and citizens that submitted petitions to the EQB. The surveys have provided valuable feedback on the timeliness, effectiveness, and outcomes of the environmental review process. EQB staff will present a summary of the results, along with other

environmental review data collected in 2016, to the Board in early 2017.

Thank you to all that have completed the survey! We have received responses from about 50% of RGUs and 60% of citizens invited to complete the survey. We would like to get these percentages higher as **participation in the survey is critical to guiding future improvements to the EQB Environmental Review Program.**

It's not too late to participate if you have not yet completed the survey. EQB staff will be sending a final survey reminder via email. Keep an eye out for the email and contact EQB staff with any questions.

2017 Environmental Review Survey for Proposers

Starting in January 2017, EQB staff will begin distributing an environmental review survey to project proposers upon completion of the environmental review process. This is an opportunity for proposers to give feedback on their experience with the environmental review process. Please contact EQB staff with any questions.

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

The following EAWs have a comment deadline of January 4, 2017

Project Title: Louriston Dairy

Project Description: Riverview, LLP (Proposer) proposes to build a 9,500 animal unit Jersey dairy farm (8,674 head of cows, 1,180 head of heifers) in section 14, Louriston Township, Chippewa County (Project). The cows will be housed in a cross ventilated confinement free stall barn with the manure and wastewater collected and stored in earthen basins with impermeable covers.

A copy of the Notice of Availability and the EAW can be found on the MPCA website at the following address: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/environmental-review/environmental-assessment-worksheets-and-environmental-impact-statements.html>

Mandatory Category Rule Citation: Minn. R. 4410.4300, Subp. 29 (A), Animal feedlots

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

RGU Contact Person:

Charles Peterson
520 Lafayette Rd N
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
651-757-2856
charles.peterson@state.mn.us

Project Title: The Village, LLC Redevelopment EAW

Project Description: The proposed project will involve the redevelopment of an existing 15-acre manufactured home/RV park community, which holds 98 manufactured homes and 95 R.V. sites, into a combination of multi-family residential units (townhomes and apartments). The project is proposed to construct approximately 837 units.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Saint Anthony Village

RGU Contact Person:

Breanne Rothstein

City Planner
3301 Silver Lake Road
St. Anthony, MN, Minnesota 55418
763-231-4863
planner@ci.saint-anthony.mn.us

Project Title: Lab USA's Ash Processing Project – Red Wing

Project Description: Lab USA plans to construct a transfer and ash processing facility consisting of a 30,000 square foot building (Process Building) to process 100,000 to 150,000 of combustor ash annually to recover ferrous and non-ferrous metals. This waste combustor ash is currently generated and landfilled in the Red Wing area. The two sources of waste combustor ash are the Xcel Energy Generating Plant and Xcel Energy Ash Landfill. The Proposer will locate the Process Building approximately 1.5 miles south of U.S. Highway 61 on Goodhue County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 1 (1540 Bench Street) (Project Site). The Project Site is adjacent to Xcel Energy's Red Wing Ash Disposal Landfill, and the Goodhue County/ Red Wing Land Disposal Landfill.

A copy of the Notice of Availability and the EAW can be found on the MPCA website at the following address: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/environmental-review/environmental-assessment-worksheets-and-environmental-impact-statements.html>

Discretionary EAW Rule Citation: Minn. R. 4410.1000, Subp. 3 (D)

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

RGU Contact Person:

Kevin Kain
520 Lafayette Rd N
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
651-757-2482
kevin.kain@state.mn.us

Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice

Project Title: Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Enbridge Energy's proposed Line 3 pipeline replacement project. Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership (Enbridge) has applied for a certificate of need and a route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to construct and operate the proposed project. The Commission has authorized the Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis unit (EERA) to prepare an EIS for the proposed project in consultation with the Commission's executive secretary. Commerce EERA is preparing the EIS in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Enbridge's proposed 337-mile long route for the project would cross Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin and Carlton counties in Minnesota. The proposed project also includes upgrades to existing pump stations at Clearbrook, Donaldson, Plummer and Viking; and construction of new pump stations at Backus, Cromwell, Palisade and Two Inlets. Upon completion of the project, Enbridge proposes to permanently deactivate the existing Line 3 pipeline and leave it in place.

The Commission approved the Final Scoping Decision Document (FSDD) for the EIS on November 30,

2016. The FSDD and other relevant documents are available at:
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34079>.

In accordance with the FSDD, the EIS will analyze the following general topics:

- Pipeline deactivation or abandonment
- Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change
- Potential impacts of oil spills and leaks on area lakes, rivers, groundwater, and other natural resources such as wildlife, wild rice, and human settlements
- Unique tribal concerns (e.g., cultural resources, treaty rights, wild rice areas)
- Potential impacts to humans settlements and local economies
- Natural resource impacts (e.g. water, wetlands, wildlife, and natural communities)
- Cumulative potential effects
- Development of a new pipeline corridor

The EIS will analyze a variety of project alternatives including:

- Enbridge's proposed route
- Alternative technologies (including oil transport by truck and rail)
- Modified designs or layouts (including one system alternative, four route alternatives, and 24 route segment alternatives; see attached maps)
- Alternatives incorporating reasonable mitigation measures
- No action alternative

A history of actions to date and a tentative EIS schedule are included in the table below:

EIS Tentative Schedule	
Task	Date
Scoping EAW and DSDD Issued	April 11, 2016
2016 EIS Public Scoping Meetings	April–May 2016
Close of 2016 EIS Public Comment Period	May 26, 2016
Scoping Summary Report, FSDD, Alternatives Screening Report, and Comments and Recommendations to Commission	September 21, 2016
Commission Meeting to Approve Final Scope	October 28, 2016
Commission Decision on Final Scope	November 30, 2016
EIS Preparation Notice (Start of 280-day EIS process)	December 05, 2016
Draft EIS Issued for Public Review and Comment	April 3, 2017
Draft EIS Public Meetings	April-May 2017
Final EIS Issued	July 10, 2017

How to Learn More

Project Mailing List

Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.). Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us, 651-201-2204, or 1-800-657-3782 with the project's docket numbers, your name, mailing address, and email address. The Line 3 project has two docket numbers. The docket number for Enbridge's certificate of need application is 14-916. The docket number for Enbridge's route permit application is 15-137.

Department of Commerce Project Website

Line 3: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34079>

E-Dockets (Full Case Record)

To review all documents filed with the Commission regarding the Line 3 project, go to: <http://www.mn.gov/puc/>, click on "Search Documents, eDockets," and enter the docket number. The Line 3 project has two docket numbers. The docket number for Enbridge's certificate of need application is 14-916. The docket number for Enbridge's route permit application is 15-137.

E-Dockets Subscription

To receive an email every time a document is filed with the Commission regarding the Line 3 project, create a subscription with the Commission's electronic docketing system (e-Dockets). Go to: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/subscription/createSubscription.do?method=subscribeNew> and follow the instructions.

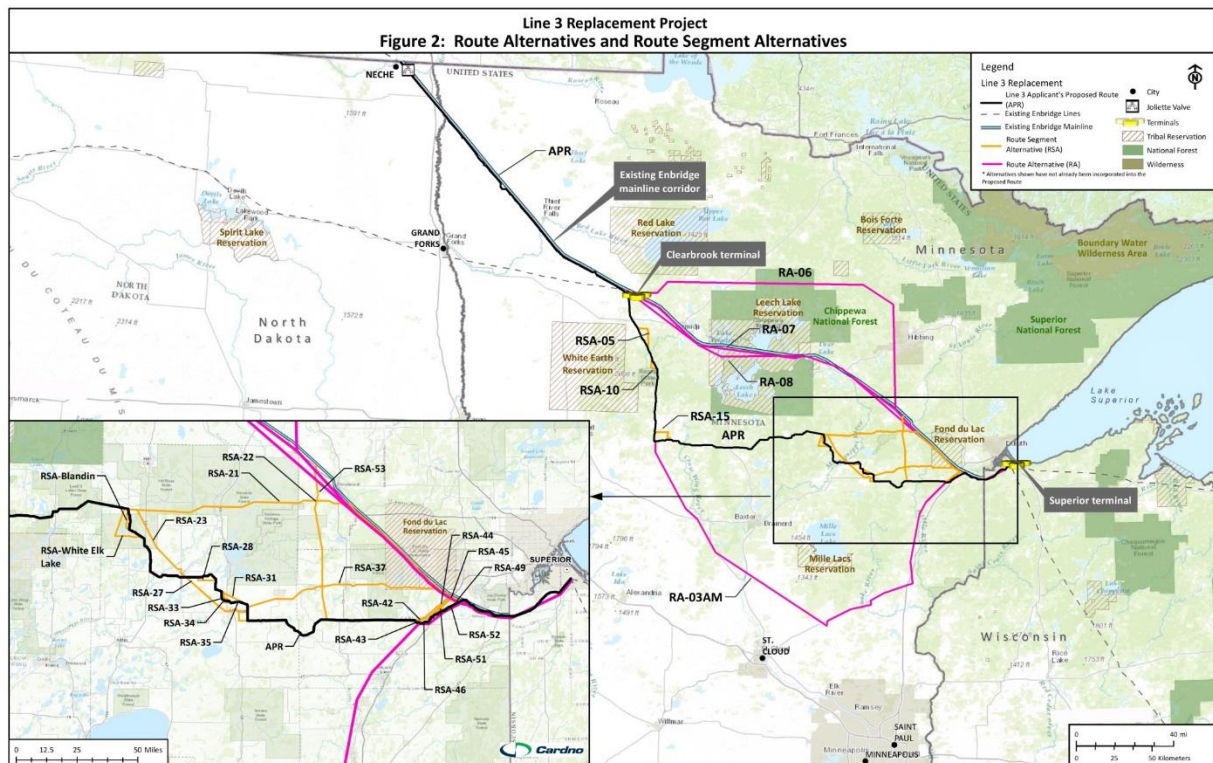
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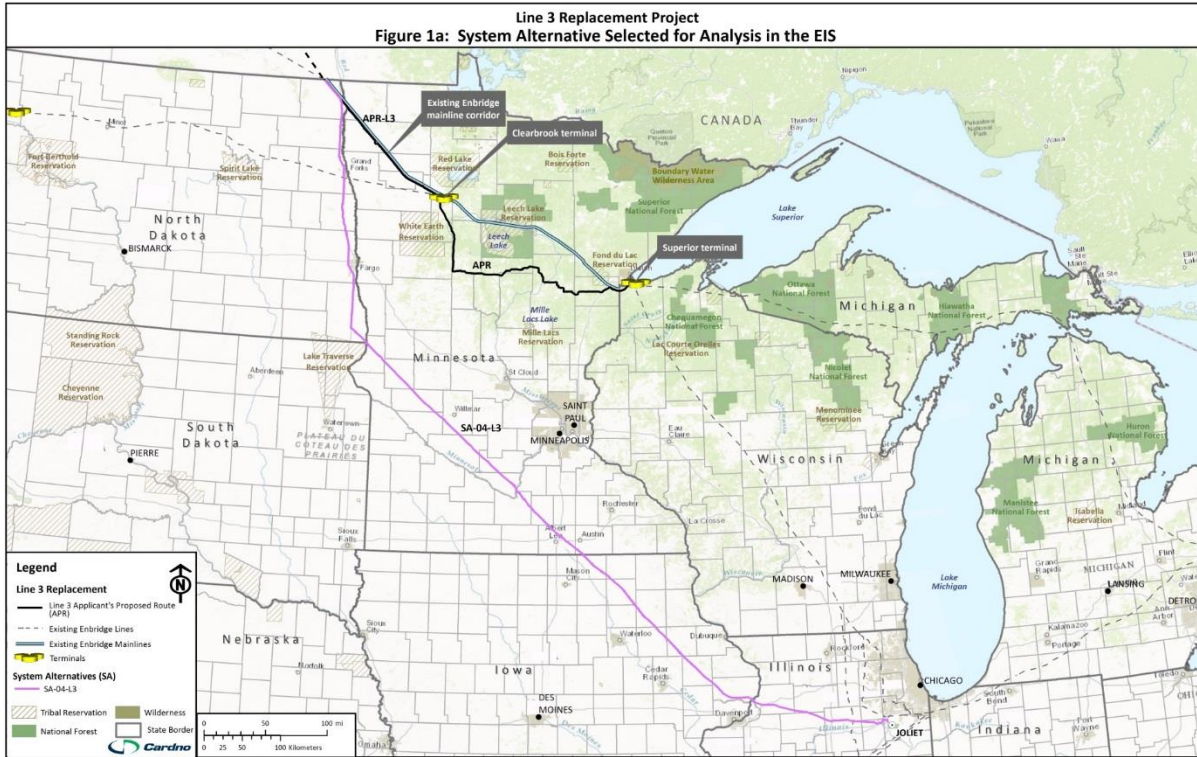
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Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETING

Issued: November 21, 2016

In the Matter of the Application of Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit for the up to 200 Megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County

PUC Docket Number: IP-6961/CN-16-215 (Certificate of Need)
 IP-6961/WS-16-686 (Site Permit)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold a public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the certificate of need and site permit applications by Blazing Star Wind, LLC, for its proposed 200 megawatt Blazing Star Wind Project in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Hendricks Public School, 200 Lincoln Street, Hendricks, Minnesota 56136

To find out if a meeting has been cancelled due to bad weather call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/puc.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the proposed project and the state's review process, and to accept verbal or written comments on potential issues for the environmental report and draft site permit that will be prepared.

Project Description

Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC, has filed a site permit application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for an up to 200 megawatt large wind energy conversion system. The proposed large wind energy conversion system would be comprised of 57 to 100 wind turbines ranging from 2 to 3.5 megawatts in size. Associated facilities include a project substation, an operation and maintenance building, access roads, meteorological towers, light range or sonic range detecting units, underground communication and electrical collection lines, transformers, and an approximately 1,000-foot long 345 kilovolt transmission line. The proposed project footprint would occupy approximately 37,200 acres of land located in Hansonville, Hendricks, and Marble townships in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Written Comment Period

Comment Period: Written comments will be accepted through **Tuesday, December 27, 2016**. Please include the Commission's Docket Numbers (16-215 and 16-686) in all communications.

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

- What **potential human and environmental impacts** of the proposed project should be considered in the environmental document and the draft site permit?
- What are the **possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts** of the proposed project?
- Are there any **unique characteristics** of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
- Are there **any items missing or mischaracterized** in the certificate of need or site permit Applications?

Comments may be submitted via:

U.S. Mail: Richard Davis, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: richard.davis@state.mn.us

Online: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

eFiling: Visit mn.gov/puc, select eFiling and follow the prompts.

Important: Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered. Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Process Information

The Commission must approve a certificate of need and a site permit before the project can be built. The certificate of need and site permit applications are being processed jointly. This meeting satisfies the public meeting requirement for both the certificate of need application (Minnesota Rules 7849.1400) and site permit application (Minnesota Rules 7854.0900).

The Department of Commerce will issue an environmental report scoping decision, followed by an environmental report and a draft site permit. Upon completion of the environmental report and Commission approval of a draft site permit, a public hearing will be held. The public hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed project.

For all process information, see Minnesota Rules, parts 7849 (certificate of need) and 7854 (site permit).

Learn More

Full Case Record: The **certificate of need and site permit applications** and other documents filed in this matter are available at: mn.gov/puc, select eDockets, enter the year (16) and the docket number (215

or 686), select Search.

Department of Commerce Website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=34561>.

Subscribe to the Docket: To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: mn.gov/puc, select Subscribe, and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate in meetings and comment periods. Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (16-215 or 16-686), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Community Locations: Copies of the certificate of need and site permit applications are available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Hendricks Public Library, 100 West Garfield Street, Hendricks, Minnesota 56136

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes chapters 216B and 216F and Minnesota Rules chapters 7829, 7849, and 7854, available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Contacts

Public Utilities Commission

Kevin George, Public Advisor: kevin.george@state.mn.us; 651-201-2251 or 1-800-657-3782

Scott Ek, Energy Facilities Planner: scott.ek@state.mn.us; 651-201-2255

Department of Commerce

Richard Davis, Environmental Review Manager: richard.davis@state.mn.us; 651-539-1846 or 1-800-657-3794

Blazing Star Wind Farm, LLC

Patrick Smith, Project Manager: patrick@geronimo.com; 952-988-9000

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service. Individuals with a disability who need reasonable accommodations to participate in these meetings please also contact the Public Utilities Commission at 651-296-0406 at least one week in advance of the meeting.