

The *EQB Monitor*

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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](#).



You can manage your subscription to the *EQB Monitor* [here](#). Be sure to add MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list.

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](#).

EQB Board Meeting – May 1, 2019

We invite you to join the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) at their next Board meeting on May 1 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the MPCA in St. Paul. The focus of the meeting is Minnesota's Environmental Review Program.

Several panels of speakers will discuss the program, a historical perspective, and opportunities for the future of the Environmental Review Program. The panels will be followed by time for a dialogue among members of the public and the Board.

You can view our [full agenda on the EQB website](#).

Public Hearings for EQB Mandatory Categories

The Environmental Quality Board is proposing amendments to rules relating to environmental review. This rulemaking will amend rules governing mandatory categories for environmental assessment worksheets (EAW) and environmental impact statements (EIS), definitions to support those categories, responsible governmental unit (RGU) determinations, and categories of exemptions from environmental review. (Revisor's ID Number R-04157)

May 31, 2019 1:30 pm: Public rulemaking hearing at MPCA, St Paul, Room 100. The hearing (via a two-way-video-conference connection—anyone wishing to give testimony to the Judge can do so via the two-way-video-conference connection) will also be available at:

1. Brainerd MPCA Office, [7678 College Road, Suite 105, Baxter, MN 56425](#)
2. Detroit Lakes MPCA Office, [714 Lake Ave., Suite 220, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501](#)
3. Duluth MPCA Office, [525 Lake Ave. S., Suite 400, Duluth, MN 55802](#)
4. Marshall MPCA Office, [504 Fairgrounds Rd., Suite 200, Marshall, MN 56258](#)
5. Rochester MPCA Office, [18 Wood Lake Drive SE, Rochester, MN 55904](#)

Additional rule timeline updates are available at the EQB rulemaking webpage:

<https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/eqb-mandatory-categories-rulemaking>

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Trail Development

Comment Deadline: May 22, 2019

Project Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is proposing to expand recreational opportunities within the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area, in Crow Wing County, by developing up to 50 miles of new trails in the Yawkey, Mahnomen and Portsmouth Units, and adding a trailhead and an outdoor event space in the Sagamore Unit.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact Person:

Kathy Metzker
EAW Project Manager
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St. Paul, MN 55155
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Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Crystal Airport Airfield and Associated Improvements

Comment Deadline: June 10, 2019

Project Description: The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has prepared a draft federal Environmental Assessment /state Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) for proposed airfield improvements at the Crystal Airport (FAA identifier MIC). The proposed project falls within a mandatory EAW category under Minnesota Statutes section 473.614, which declares that a State EAW is required for MAC reliever airport projects with an expenditure of more than \$2,000,000 and involve “(i) the construction of a new or expanded structure for handling passengers, cargo, vehicles, or aircraft; or (ii) the construction of a new or the extension of an existing runway or taxiway.”

The EA/EAW has been prepared under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), which requires the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and other state agencies to consider the environmental effects of its actions. Because the project will utilize federal funding, it also requires a federal EA under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). According to Minnesota Rule 4410.1300, the project proposer may circulate a federal EA in place of the state EAW form, provided the EA addresses each of the environmental effects identified in the EAW form. The draft EA/EAW fulfills the informational requirements of the EAW and contains the Minnesota EAW content, as provided in Minnesota Rule 4410.1200. The draft EA/EAW identifies a preferred alternative and evaluates the effects of this alternative on the surrounding natural, social, and economic environments. The proposed action consists of the following components:

- Decommission Runway 14R/32L and convert it to a full parallel taxiway for primary Runway 14/32, extended to the new runway ends.
- Convert portions of primary Runway 14/32 blast pads to usable runway for a total published length of 3,750 feet with declared distances and change the runway designation to Utility.
- Shift primary Runway 14/32 approximately 115 feet to the northwest along its centerline.
- Reduce the length of existing Runway 06R/24L (turf) to 1,669 feet to clear Taxiways D and F from its RSAs.
- Revise the existing Runway 14 instrument approach procedure and establish a non-precision GPS-based instrument approach procedure (LNAV) to the Runway 32 end.
- Replace the Runway 32 visual approach slope indicator (VASI) with a precision approach path indicator (PAPI).
- Relocate the runway end identifier lights (REILS) to correspond with relocated thresholds on both ends of Runway 14/32.
- Adjust and extend the medium intensity runway and taxiway edge lighting (MIRL/MITL) systems to correspond with the proposed primary runway length.
- Convert Taxiway E into an apron edge taxilane between Taxiways A and E1.
- Remove the section of Taxiway E that crosses Runways 06L/24R and 06R/24L between Taxiway A and Taxiway B.

- Remove Taxiways E2 and E3 between Taxiway E and the future parallel taxiway and replace them with a single new connector located between the removed taxiway sections.
- Add a connector taxiway between Taxiway E and the future parallel taxiway offset from existing Taxiway B by approximately 100 feet to the northwest.
- Remove existing runway end connector Taxiways E1 and E4 and replace with connectors from the future parallel taxiway to the new Runway 14/32 ends.
- Add new engine-run up pads on either end of Runway 14/32 on its northeast side.
- Construct on-Airport perimeter roads around runway ends on the north, west, and south sides of the airfield to allow ground vehicles to circulate without crossing runways.
- Expand the FBO apron to increase available tie-down spaces for aircraft and remove tie-downs from the Runway 06R RPZ.
- Release certain Airport property for non-aeronautical use along 63rd Avenue North, in the area west of the Twin Creek wetland complex and on both sides of the 63rd Avenue North entrance road.

Agencies listed on the current Minnesota EQB distribution list have been notified regarding availability of electronic EA/EAW documents on the project website. The electronic EA/EAW documents are available on the project website at <https://www.metroairports.org/General-Aviation/Crystal-Airport-Environmental-Assessment/Documents-and-Links.aspx>. Hard copies are available for review at the Crystal City Hall, Brooklyn Park City Hall, and Brooklyn Center City hall. Hard copies are available upon request.

The MAC will hold the public hearing on:

Wednesday, May 29, 2019 5:30

Open House 6:00 p.m.

Staff Presentation 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing Crystal City Hall, 4141 Douglas Drive North, Crystal, MN 55422

Written comments will be accepted until June 10, 2019.

Written comments can be submitted via email to ContactCrystalAirportEA@mspmac.org, submitted in-person at the Public Hearing, or mailed to: Crystal Airport EA/EAW Comments c/o MAC Planning & Development Department 6040 28th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55450

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Metropolitan Airports Commission

RGU Contact Person:

Bridget Rief, Vice President

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Notice

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

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, **MDA notification number 19-NO-36**. Notification is for genetically modified **CORN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number 19-091-106rm. The counties identified for release include the following: Freeborn-2 locations at 10 acres per location. Project categories include AP (Agronomic Performance), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Gene), OO (Other) and PQ (Product Quality).

University of Minnesota filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, **MDA notification number 19-NO-37**. Notification is for genetically modified **BARLEY**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic barley, referenced as Application Number 19-080-102r. The counties identified for release include the following: Dakota County-1 location at less than 1 acre. Project categories include FR (Fungal Resistance).

University of Minnesota filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, **MDA notification number 19-NO-38**. Notification is for genetically modified **WHEAT**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic wheat, referenced as Application Number 19-080-103r. The counties identified for release include the following: Dakota County-1 location at less than 1 acre. Project categories include FR (Fungal Resistance).

For additional information contact:

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