



The *EQB Monitor*

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Submission Deadline: [View 2017 Schedule](#)
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

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](#).

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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](#). You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



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EQB Announcements

Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection Meeting

The Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection will meet at the Mn/DOT Office of Aeronautics (222 Plato Blvd St. Paul, MN 55107) from 9am-3pm on Thursday, April 27. Please email Claudia.Hochstein@state.mn.us by 12 PM on Wednesday, April 26 if you plan to attend the meeting either in person or via WebEx. Visit <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/april-27-2017-governors-committee-pollinator-protection-meeting> for information on the meeting.

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Riverstone Addition

Comment Deadline: May 24, 2017

Project Description: Riverstone Addition is proposed on 89.44 acres of land in the southwestern part of the City of Ramsey, Anoka County. The project will include up to 246 detached single-family homes and 98 attached townhome units. Site development will include installation of municipal sewer and water, mass grading, and stormwater features.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Ramsey

RGU Contact Person:

Tim Gladhill
Community Development Director
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
763-433-9826
tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us

Project Title: Afton Creek Preserve EAW

Comment Deadline: May 24, 2017

Project Description: The Afton Creek Preserve project is a 20 lot single family clustered development on 218.6 acres with 109.7 acres of conservation easement to protect Trout Brook. The development will have individual wells and septic systems, and special vegetative buffers protecting steep slopes against erosion. Currently no wetland impacts are planned and over 50% of the area will remain in open space.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Afton

RGU Contact Person:

Ron Moorese
City Administrator
3033 St. Croix Trail S
Afton, MN 55001
651-436-5090
administrator@ci.afton.mn.us

Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Northern Lights Express (NLX) Passenger Rail Project from Minneapolis to Duluth, Minnesota Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment

Project Description: The proposed project includes constructing the necessary infrastructure for, and operation of, an approximately 152-mile long, higher speed intercity passenger rail service between Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota, a portion of which will travel through Douglas County in Wisconsin, and that will reach speeds up to 90 miles per hour. Stations are proposed in six communities: Minneapolis, Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Duluth in Minnesota and Superior in Wisconsin. In addition, the proposed NLX Project would include one maintenance facility and one layover facility. These facilities may be on separate sites in Sandstone and Duluth, or co-located on one site in Duluth.

The Tier 2 EA includes documentation on the preliminary Section 106 findings regarding historic properties. The Tier 2 EA document also includes information on the Section 4(f) impacts and the preliminary de minimis findings, i.e., that adverse impacts to parks and recreation facilities and recreational trails would not result from the proposed project. Any comments received regarding this issue during the public comment period will be taken by the Federal Railroad Administration in making its final de minimis determination.

Copies of the Tier 2 EA, which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic, transportation, and environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning April 24, 2017, at the following locations:

- On the MnDOT website at <http://www.mndot.gov/nlx>
- MnDOT Library, MnDOT Transportation Building, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155-1800
- Cambridge Public Library 244 South Birch Street, Cambridge, MN 55008
- Coon Rapids Crooked Lake Branch Library, 11440 Crooked Lake Boulevard NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W. Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802
- Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central, Environmental Conservation Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992
- Hinckley Public Library, 106 First Street SE, Hinckley, MN 55037
- Sandstone Public Library, 119 N. Fourth Street, Sandstone, MN 55072
- Superior Public Library, 1530 Tower Avenue, Superior, MN 54880

To request a document in an alternative format call 651-366-4718 or email ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us.

To afford an opportunity for all interested person, agencies and groups to comment on the Tier 2 EA, public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Sandstone Senior Center
206 Main Street
Sandstone, MN 55072

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Duluth Depot
506 W. Michigan Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Coon Rapids Civic Center
11155 Robinson Drive NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

The public meeting in Duluth will also serve as a public hearing to meet requirements under Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter TRANS 400.11, Distribution and Review of Environmental Documents. The format and information provided at the Duluth meeting will be the same as the meetings in Sandstone and Coon Rapids.

To request an ASL interpreter call 651-366-4720. To request other reasonable accommodations, call 651-366-4718; the Minnesota Relay Service toll-free at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY, Voice or ASCII) or 711, or email your request to ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us.

Copies of the Tier 2 EA are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on April 24, 2017. Comments will be accepted through May 24, 2017, and may be submitted online at nlx.dot@state.mn.us or in writing to the MnDOT Project Manager listed below.

Project Proposer: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Department of Transportation

RGU Contact Person:

Francis Loetterle
Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 470
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1800
651-366-3194
nlx.dot@state.mn.us

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the Environmental Assessment Worksheet notice was published in the *EQB Monitor*.

- Renville County, Zaske Gravel Mine, 4-11-17 (2-20-17)

Notices

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

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-22	Pioneer Hi-Bred International	Corn	OO – Transformation Frequency MG – Selectable Marker	Blue Earth (1) – 10 acres, Blue Earth (2) 25 acres

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-22. 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 17-038-103rm-a1. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-23	Dow AgroSciences	Corn	IR – Insect Resistance HT – Herbicide Tolerance	Fillmore (2), Nicollet, Ottertail, Renville, Sibley, Stearns, Wilkin – up to 10 acres each

Dow AgroSciences, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-23. 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 17-081-102n. For additional

information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-24 17-NO-25	Syngenta Crop Protection LLC.	Corn	AP – Agronomic Properties HT – Herbicide Tolerant IR – Insect Resistant	Dakota, Faribault, Goodhue, Mower (2), Rice, Waseca – Up to 10 acres each site

Syngenta LLC., filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-24, and 17-NO-25. 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 17-083-108n and 17-086-105n. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-26	Nuseed Americas	Canola	PQ – Processing Quality MG – Selectable Markers	Benton – 10 acres

Nuseed Americas, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-26. Notification is for genetically modified canola, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic canola, referenced as Application Number 17-096-103n. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-27	Pioneer Hi-Bred International	Corn	OO – Transformation Frequency HT – Herbicide Tolerance IR – Insect Resistance	Blue Earth (1) – 10 acres, Blue Earth (2) 25 acres

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-27. 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 17-074-102rm. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us