

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 - April 10, 2019

We invite you to join the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) at their next Board meeting on April 10 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at the Wilder Center in St. Paul. The focus of the meeting is reflecting on EQB's work and their efforts to expand public engagement.

A Panel of speakers will discuss opportunities for the EQB to deepen collaboration and public engagement. The panel will be followed by a community building open-house where the audience members can engage in informal discussion with the Board and reflect on ways the Board can build partnerships.

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

Public Hearings for EQB Mandatory Categories

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB or 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 Worksheet Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet in response to a citizen's petition.

- Public Utilities Commission, Nemadji Trails Energy Center (Denied)
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Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Traverse Lake RV Park

Comment Deadline: May 8, 2019

Project Description: The proposed project is an 88 site RV Park expansion to the existing 74-unit Rosebud RV Park located along Lake Traverse in Traverse County. The parcel totals 28.52 acres with 78.6% of the area remaining in greenspace. The purpose of this project is to provide affordable summertime recreation for area families.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Traverse County

RGU Contact Person:

Ben Oleson
Zoning Administrator
PO Box 487
Wheaton, MN 56296
320-759-1560
oleson@hometownplanning.com

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.

- South St. Louis SWCD, Mission Creek Restoration Project, 1-28-19 (12-24-18)
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Notice

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement

In the Matter of the Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications by Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest LLC for the Huntley to Wilmarth 345 kV Transmission Line Project in South Central Minnesota

Docket Nos. E002, ET6675/CN-17-184 and E002, ET6675/TL-17-185

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has issued the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Huntley to Wilmarth 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project in south central Minnesota.

The final EIS analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the project and possible measures to mitigate these impacts. It analyzes routing alternatives that could be used for the project and provides a comparative analysis of routing options. The final EIS responds to the comments received on the draft EIS for the project. The final EIS will be used by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in deciding whether to issue a certificate of need and route permit for the project.

Viewing the Final EIS

The final EIS can be viewed on the Department's website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>. Select "Transmission Lines" and then select "Huntley to Wilmarth Transmission 345 kV Transmission Line Project."

It can also be viewed through the Commission's website: <http://mn.gov/puc>. Select "eDockets," enter the year ("17") and the docket number ("184" or "185"), and then select "Search."

The final EIS can also be viewed at the following libraries:

- Blue Earth County Library, 100 East Main Street, Mankato, MN 56011
- Lake Crystal Public Library, 100 E Robinson Street, Lake Crystal, MN 56055
- Mapleton Public Library, 104 1st Avenue NE, Mapleton, MN 56065

- Muir Library, 36 Main Street N, Winnebago, MN 56098
- North Mankato Taylor Library, 1001 Belgrade Avenue, North Mankato, MN 56003

Project Description

Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest LLC propose to construct approximately 50 miles of new 345 kV transmission line from the Wilmarth substation in Mankato, Minn. to the Huntley substation near Winnebago, Minn. The project includes equipment additions and reconfigurations within the Wilmarth and Huntley substations to connect the new 345 kV line. Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest LLC indicate that the proposed project is needed to relieve congestion on the electric transmission grid in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

How to Learn More

- Department of Commerce website: <http://www.mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>.
- Full Case Record. See all documents filed in these dockets via the Commission's website, <http://www.mn.gov/puc>. Select "eDockets," enter the year ("17") and the docket number ("184" or "185"), and then select "Search."
- Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate. Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us, 651-201-2204, with the docket numbers (17-184, 17-185), your name, mailing address, and email address.
- Subscribe to the Dockets. To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the project dockets, go to the Commission's website, <http://www.mn.gov/puc>, select "Subscribe," and follow the prompts.

Project Contacts:

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor
Charley Bruce
651-201-2251
publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager
Ray Kirsch
651-539-1841 or 1-800-657-3794
raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us,

This notice can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.