

The *EQB Monitor*

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Submission Deadline: [View 2020 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](#). You can find active projects in your community on the [Environmental Review Projects Interactive Map](#).

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

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EQB Announcements

December 16th Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee Meeting

We invite you to join the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) [Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee \(ERIS\)](#) at their next meeting on December 16 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ERIS will convene its December meetings virtually through the WebEx platform. Instructions for connecting to WebEx are included on page 4 of the ERIS packet.

[Access Link to the December 16, 2020 ERIS Meeting](#)

The ERIS will address two objectives in one informational agenda item:

- Discuss the Environmental Review (ER) Climate Technical Team's draft report and recommendations for integrating climate change into environmental review.
- Discuss the proposed Engagement Plan and give feedback prior to implementing the plan.

Accessibility: This material can be provided in different forms, like large print, braille, or on a recording. Please contact EQB staff at least one week prior to the event at info.EQB@state.mn.us to arrange an accommodation.

Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee Question & Answer Session

EQB staff will host a Public Question & Answer Session on December 15th, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m., in advanced of the December 16 [Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee \(ERIS\)](#) meeting. This informal Question & Answer Session is designed to give members of the public an additional opportunity to address questions they have about the ERIS meeting packet materials. Staff from EQB and the Environmental Review Interagency Climate Technical Team members will be available for the discussion.

[Access Link to the December 15, 2020 Question & Answer Session](#)

Changes are coming to the EQB Monitor in 2021

EQB staff will be introducing a series of updates to the *EQB Monitor* throughout 2021. The updates will streamline and setup a user-friendly Monitor Submission process that will make environmental review project related data more easily accessible for everyone.

Starting January 5, 2021, the EQB Monitor publication date changes to Tuesdays at Noon. A Tuesday publication date allows for more flexibility in the submission timeline.

The 2021 EQB Monitor schedule is now available online: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/2021-egb-monitor-schedule>

To find out more and stay up to date, visit: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/eqb-monitor>

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Vermillion River Aquatic Management Area: Streambank Stabilization

Comment Deadline: January 13, 2021

Project Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to stabilize a streambank on a section of the Vermillion River. The proposed project is located within the Vermillion River Aquatic Management Area, near the City of Vermillion in Dakota County. The eroding bank of the Vermillion River is affecting wildlife habitat due to increased sediment in the river. Stabilization of 365 feet of streambank would reduce erosion while benefiting fish, aquatic invertebrates and wildlife habitats.

Link to Document: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/vermillion-river-stream-stabilization/index.html>

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact: Anneka Munsell, 651-259-5671, Anneka.munsell@state.mn.us

Roseau Lake Rehabilitation & Sprague Creek Wetland Restoration

Comment Deadline: January 13, 2021

Project Description: The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project would install water control structures, embankments, and a drainage way to allow for water level management in the historic Roseau lakebed. Improved water level management capability would reduce peak flows and adjust timing of outflows of existing storage, which would reduce flooding damage and improve wildlife habitat. Restoration of hydrology at Sprague Creek would provide wetland mitigation for the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project.

Link to Document: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/roseau-lake/index.html>

RGU: Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact: Gina L Quiram, 651-259-5067, gina.quiram@state.mn.us

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Chippewa Road Extension and Weston Woods

Decision: Negative (no EIS ordered), November 17, 2020

Link to Document: No link to electronic copies of the documents was provided. For copies of the documents, see RGU contact information below.

RGU: City of Medina

RGU Contact: Dusty Finke, 763-473-8846, dusty.finke@medinamn.gov

Final EIS Scoping Decision

Grindstone Dam Removal

Project Description: The DNR proposes to remove the dam on the Grindstone River in Hinckley and restore connectivity to the river channel. This would result in the permanent removal of the 26.6-acre Grindstone Reservoir, which is a public water basin. The removal is proposed because the dam is in poor condition, it presents a safety hazard, and it is a barrier to passage of fish and other aquatic wildlife on the river. The dam also does not allow for natural sediment transport and natural stream features or habitat diversity.

The proposed dam removal requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will describe the potential environmental effects of a proposed dam removal project in the Hinckley area. The EIS scoping documents provide information about the topics that are proposed to be included in the State EIS for the proposed project.

Final Scoping Decision Document (FSDD)

The FSDD describes the final scope of the Grindstone EIS. The FSDD was approved on December 7, 2020. Also included with the FSDD is a Response to Comment (RTC) document, which responds to substantive comments received during public review of the Draft Scoping documents. Copies of the FSDD and RTC are available online at:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/grindstone/index.html>

Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-5122. Copies of the FSDD and RTC are available for public review at:

- East Central Regional Library, 111 N Dellwood S, Cambridge, MN

Previous EIS Scoping Tasks and Documents

The DNR prepared a Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (SEAW) and a Draft Scoping Decision Document (DSDD) for the Project.

The SEAW and DSDD were noticed in the October 12 edition of the EQB Monitor. A 30-day public review and comment period was open October 12 through November 12.

The DNR held an online public information meeting on November 5. The meeting provided information on the project and the EIS scoping process, followed by a question and answer session and a formal, verbal public input session.

Comments received during the 30-day public review and comment period informed the FSDD.

Next Steps

The DNR will prepare a Draft EIS that will be made available for public comment. Another public information meeting will be held during the Draft EIS comment period.

RGU: Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact: Becky Horton, 651-259-5122, becky.horton@state.mn.us

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Links to environmental review documents were provided by the RGU. In the event that the link does not work, you may contact the RGU directly to request either a paper or electronic copy of the documents. If you are not able to connect with the RGU, please email EQB staff at Env.Review@state.mn.us, call 651.757.2873, or visit our [website](#).



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