

The *EQB Monitor*

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Publication Schedule: Mondays at 8:00 AM
Submission Deadline: [View 2018 Schedule](#)
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

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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 Announcements

2019 EQB Monitor Schedule

The [2019 EQB Monitor Schedule](#) is now available. See the schedule for *EQB Monitor* publications, the submission deadlines, and 10-day and 30-day comment period deadlines.

EQB Board Meeting – December 19, 2018

The EQB will hold its monthly meeting on December 19, 2018. The proposed meeting agenda and additional information, including details for the live webcast, can be found on the [EQB website](#).

Agenda:

- 1) Enterprise Sustainability 2017 Annual Report Review
- 2) Environmental Quality Board Member Reflection and Discussion

Contact Person:

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Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project

Comment Deadline: January 16, 2019

Project Description: The City of Golden Valley has released an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project located in Golden Valley, MN. The project primarily consists of reducing flooding and improving water quality through expanding existing stormwater ponds. Additionally, the project will improve habitat diversity and public recreation opportunities. A copy of the EAW will be available for review beginning December 17, 2018 at Golden Valley City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN) and online at <http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/stormwater/projects/upcoming-projects/index.php>

Comments on the EAW will be received through January 16, 2019 and should be sent to: Marc Nevinski – Physical Development Director 7800 Golden Valley Road Golden Valley, MN 55427
mnevinski@goldenvalleymn.gov

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Golden Valley

RGU Contact Person:

Marc Nevinski
Physical Development Director
7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427
763-593-8008
mnevinski@goldenvalleymn.gov

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*.

- City of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Distribution Center, 11-19-18 (10-1-18)
- City of Crystal, Winnetka Pond Dredging Project, 12-4-18 (10-8-18)
- City of Monticello, Haven Ridge, 11-26-18 (10-1-18)
- City of Burnsville, Healey-Ramme Burnsville Multifamily, 12-4-18 (10-22-18)

Alternative Urban Areawide Review Update Adoptions

Project Title: NorthPark Business Center AUAR Update Adoption

Project Description: The Brooklyn Park City Council adopted Resolution #2018-169 on Monday, November 26, 2018, adopting the NorthPark Business Center AUAR Update. The update was necessary since five years have passed since the original AUAR was adopted and because additional scenarios were analyzed where the amount of development would exceed previously-reviewed area.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Brooklyn Park

RGU Contact Person:

Todd Larson
Senior Planner
5200 85th Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
763-493-8069
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Notice

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Public Information Meetings

Issued: December 10, 2018

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

Docket Numbers: E002, ET-6675/CN 17-184 and E002, ET-6675/TL-17-185

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has released the draft environmental impact statement (draft EIS) for the proposed Huntley to Wilmarth 345 kV transmission line project. The Department will conduct public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the draft EIS:

**Mankato
Wednesday,
January 9, 2019**

**Delavan
Thursday,
January 10, 2019**

**Mapleton
Thursday,
January 10, 2019**

1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott
901 Raintree Road
Mankato, MN 56001

Delavan High School Gym
300 2nd St.
Delavan, MN 56023

Maple River High School
101 6th Ave. NE
Mapleton, MN 56065

Bad weather? To find out if a meeting has been postponed due to bad weather call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities. If any of the above-noted meetings are cancelled due to bad weather, they will be held at the same locations and times on the following make-up dates: January 15 in Mankato and January 16 in Delavan and Mapleton.

Meeting Information

- Public meetings start on time. Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to offer oral and/or written comments into the record.
- Department of Commerce staff will preside over the meeting. Department staff, as well as staff from Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest LLC, will be available to answer questions about the project and the process.
- Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.
- Each meeting will last until everyone at the meeting has had an opportunity to speak.
- Comments received at the meetings and during the comment period will be used to develop the final EIS for this project.

Submit Comments

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following question(s):

- *What information needs to be clarified or included in the draft EIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate?*

Comment Period: Comments will be accepted through **Monday, January 28, 2019**. Please include the docket numbers (17-184 and 17-185) in all communications.

U.S. Mail:

Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul MN 55101

Email: raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us
Online: mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities
Fax: 651-539-0109

Important: Comments will be made available to the public, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Draft EIS Availability

The draft 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 Minnesota Public Utilities 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 draft EIS will be available for viewing at the following public 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

Print copies of the draft EIS will be available for review at the public meetings. A limited number of electronic copies of the draft EIS will also be available.

Project Description

Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest LLC propose to:

- Build approximately 50 miles of new 345 kV transmission line from the Wilmarth substation in Mankato, Minnesota to the Huntley substation, near Winnebago, Minnesota.
- Make necessary modifications to the existing Wilmarth and Huntley substations to accommodate the new 345kV transmission 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.

Process Information

In order to construct the proposed Huntley to Wilmarth project, Xcel Energy and ITC Midwest LLC must obtain two approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) – a certificate of need and a route permit.

Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for certificate of need and route permit applications submitted to the Commission. EERA staff has prepared the above-noted EIS to meet these responsibilities.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of the project and possible mitigation measures, including routing alternatives. Additionally, the EIS evaluates potential alternatives to the project itself. The EIS does not advocate or state a preference for a specific routing alternative, or for an alternative to the project. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

Public hearings regarding the project will be held in the project area the week of January 28, 2019, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Barbara J. Case from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Notice of the hearings will be issued separately. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project. An evidentiary hearing will be held in St. Paul, Minn., the week of February 4, 2019.

Judge Case will submit a report to the Commission which includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on the certificate of need and route permit applications. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a certificate of need and route permit for the project.

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 – publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us, 651-201-2251 or 1-800-657-3782
- **Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner**
Tricia DeBleeckere – tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us or 651-201-2254
- **Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**
Ray Kirsch – raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us, 651-539-1841 or 1-800-657-3794
- **Applicant Contacts**
Thomas Hillstrom – thomas.hillstrom@xcelenergy.com or 1-855-839-8865
Tim Tessier – tessier@itctransco.com or 515-639-3327