



# The *EQB Monitor*

520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 - [www.eqb.state.mn.us](http://www.eqb.state.mn.us)  
[EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us](mailto:EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us) - (651)-757-2873

**Publication Date: February 6, 2017**  
Vol. 41, No. 6

**Publication Schedule:** Mondays at 8:00 AM  
**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](#).

You can manage your subscription to the *EQB Monitor* [here](#). Be sure to add [MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com](mailto: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](#). You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



## In this publication:

- [Environmental Assessment Worksheets](#)
- [Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheets](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions](#)
- [Environmental Assessments](#)
- [Notices](#)

## Environmental Assessment Worksheets

### Project Title: Mahtomedi Ice Arena

**Comment Deadline:** March 8, 2017

**Project Description:** Rinc 2 is seeking to build an indoor hockey rink in the City of Grant on a portion of the Mahtomedi Public School campus, between the Mahtomedi High School and Wildwood Elementary School. The location of the hockey rink is currently vacant and undeveloped; however, it is the location of a former solid waste disposal site for municipal and industrial waste and demolition debris.

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** City of Grant

**RGU Contact Person:**

Kim Points  
City Administrator/Clerk  
111 Wildwood Road  
Willernie, MN 55090  
651-426-3383  
[clerk@cityofgrant.us](mailto:clerk@cityofgrant.us)

---

## Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheets

### Project Title: Baudette/Rainy River International Bridge Replacement Project

**Comment Deadline:** March 23, 2017

**Project Description:** The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), along with its partner, the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) is proposing to replace the existing Baudette/Rainy River International Bridge with a new structure located on a new alignment immediately upstream of the existing bridge. The project will include reconstruction of the U.S. and Canadian approaches to tie into the existing roadway on Trunk Highway 72 in the City of Baudette and Kings Highway 11 in the Town of Rainy River.

The EA/EAW, which documents the purpose and need of the project along with the anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, including Federal Section 106 and Section 4(f) impacts, is available on the project website at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d2/projects/baudette-bridge/index.html>. Copies of the EA will be available for review during an open house and public hearing, and are also available for public viewing during business hours at the following locations from February 6, 2017 through March 24, 2017:

- Baudette Public Library, 110 1st Ave SW, Baudette, MN 56623
- MnDOT District 2 Office, 3920 Highway 2 West, Bemidji, MN 56601
- MnDOT Library, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155
- Environmental Conservation Library, Hennepin County Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 54401

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies, and groups to comment on the EA, a public hearing/open house meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the City of Baudette Council Chambers, located at 106 Main Street West in Baudette. There will be no formal presentation.

The EA describes the proposed project, impacts, and mitigation. The EA includes documentation on the Section 106 findings regarding historic properties, as well as a Draft Memorandum of Agreement which outlines the future design review process. The EA document also includes information on the Section 4(f) impacts and the preliminary de minimis finding, i.e., that Peace Park would not be adversely impacted from the proposed project. Any comments received regarding this issue during the public comment period will be considered by the Federal Highway Administration in making its final de minimis determination. More information about Section 4(f) and the de minimis finding is available on the project website.

Written comments will be accepted at the public hearing or via mail, prior to the close of the 45-day public comment period on March 23, 2017, to Joseph McKinnon, Project Manager, 3920 Highway 2 West, Bemidji, MN 56601. To request this document in an alternative format, please contact MnDOT at 651-366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota). Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may contact the Minnesota Relay service toll-free at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY, Voice or ASCII) or 711. You may also email your request to [ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us).

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** MnDOT

**RGU Contact Person:**

Joseph McKinnon  
MnDOT Project Manager  
3920 Highway 2 West  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218-755-6517  
[joseph.mckinnon@state.mn.us](mailto:joseph.mckinnon@state.mn.us)

---

## **Project Title: Willmar Rail Connector & Industrial Access Project**

**Comment Deadline:** March 8, 2017

**Project Description:** The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), along with its partners, the City of Willmar, Kandiyohi County, Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission, and BNSF Railway are proposing to construct a new railway connection in the City of Willmar and Willmar Township. The proposed project includes a 2.8-mile railway connection between the Morris and Marshall Subdivisions consisting of a mainline connection, siding, industrial park access spur line, access roads, and mainline extension. Roadway modifications include a 2.5-mile realignment of Trunk Highway (TH) 12, construction of two bridges on TH 12 and TH 40 over the proposed rail line, new local access road between the realigned TH 12 and 1st Avenue West, and other road modifications to County State Aid Highway 55, 1st Avenue West, and 45th Street NW.

An open house and public hearing will be held Thursday, February 23, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Department of Transportation office at 2505 Transportation Road in Willmar. A formal presentation will begin at 5:30 p.m. Copies of the Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts are available for public viewing on the project website <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/willmarwye>, at the open house, and during business hours at the following locations from February 6, 2017 through March 8, 2017:

- Willmar Public Library, 410 Fifth Street SW, Willmar, MN 56201
- MnDOT District 8 Office, 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar, MN 56201
- MnDOT Library, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155
- Environmental Conservation Library, Hennepin County Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 54401

Written comments will be accepted at the public hearing or via mail, prior to the close of the 30-day public comment period on March 8, 2017, to Paul Rasmussen, Project Manager, 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar, MN, 56201-2207. To request this document in an alternative format, please contact MnDOT at

651-366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota). Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may contact the Minnesota Relay service toll-free at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY, Voice or ASCII) or 711. You may also email your request to [ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us).

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** Minnesota Department of Transportation

**RGU Contact Person:**

Paul Rasmussen  
Project Manager  
2505 Transportation Road  
Willmar, MN, 56201  
320-214-6320  
[p.rasmussen@state.mn.us](mailto:p.rasmussen@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*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Louriston Dairy, 1-25-17 (12-5-16)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, The Pit Stop - Spring Valley Farms, 1-26-17 (11-14-16)
- Lake County, Prospector's Loop Trail, 1-24-17 (11-28-16)

---

## Environmental Assessments

There is no formal comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) below (Minnesota Rule 7850); however, persons may comment on the EA during the public hearing for the project. Public hearing dates, times, and comment periods are noted on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's calendar:

[www.mn.gov/puc](http://www.mn.gov/puc)

REVISION Issued: January 24, 2017

## NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**In the Matter of the Applications for a Route Permit for the Minnkota MPL-Laporte 115 kV HVTL Project**

**PUC Docket Numbers: ET6/TL-16-327**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) announces the release of the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Minnkota Power Cooperative 115 kV MPL-Laporte HVTL project.

Electronic versions of the EA, the scoping decision, route permit application and other documents relevant to this matter are available on the Minnesota Department of Commerce's website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34468> and on the Department of Commerce eDockets website by entering the Docket Number Year "14" and Number "977":  
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>

The Environmental Assessment is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts

of the transmission line project (and selected alternative routes) and methods to mitigate such impacts. Applications for high voltage transmission line route permits under the alternative permitting process require a public hearing upon completion of the EA pursuant to Minn. R. 7850.3800. A portion of the hearing must be held in a county where the proposed project would be located.

The public hearing will be noticed separately and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 216E.03, subdivision 6.

If you have any questions about this document or would like more information, please contact the DOC EERA Environmental Manager: Bill Storm, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101; Tel: 651.539.1844; e-mail: [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us).

## Notices

### Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Notification of Request for Commercial Use Exemption

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
CUE 17C001	J.R. Simplot Company	Potato	Plant Quality Traits	Statewide

J.R. Simplot, filed a Request for a Commercial Use Exemption with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17C001. Request is for genetically modified potato identified as W8, X17, and Y9 events, which have been deregulated by USDA and received EPA as Plant-Incorporated Protectants. 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](mailto:clifford.watrin@state.mn.us)

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

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-03 17-NO-04	Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.	soybean	HT – Herbicide Tolerant MG – Selectable Marker PQ – Feed Properties	Redwood (5 acres) 2 sites

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, filed a Notification for Release of Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-03, and 17-NO-04. Notification is for genetically modified soybean, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic soybean, referenced as Application Number 17-018-102n and 17-018-107n. 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](mailto:clifford.watrin@state.mn.us)