



The *EQB Monitor*

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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](#).



In this publication:

- [EQB Announcements](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions](#)
- [Environmental Assessments](#)
- [Alternative Urban Areawide Review Update Adoptions](#)
- [Notices](#)

EQB Announcements

Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection Meeting Notice

The Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection will meet in Room 116C of the [Administration Building](#) from 9 am - 3 pm on Wednesday, February 8.

Room in 116C is limited; however, we will broadcast this meeting via WebEx. Please email Claudia.Hochstein@state.mn.us by 12 pm on Tuesday, February 7 for the WebEx meeting information.

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 Lake Elmo, The Royal Golf Club Residential Development, 1-17-17 (10-24-16)
 - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 40th Avenue West Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project, 1-17-17 (11-14-16)
 - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Circle K Family Farm - Z Finisher, 1-20-17 (9-5-16)
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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

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 MP 16 Line Relocation 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.

Alternative Urban Areawide Review Update Adoptions

Project Title: Lake Elmo Village Area Final AUAR Update

Project Description: The Lake Elmo City Council approved the Village Area Final AUAR Update on December 20, 2016. The AUAR update was available for review and comment from November 21, 2016 through December 7, 2016. Under the provisions of Minnesota Rule 441.3610 Subpart 7 this update will remain in effect for five years or until full development of the AUAR area is complete, whichever occurs first.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Lake Elmo

RGU Contact Person:

Stephen Wensman
Planning Director
3800 Laverne Avenue North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
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Notices

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

File Number	Company	Crop	Project	County
17-NO-01 USDA/BRS Application #: 17-017-102n	Pioneer Hi- Bred International Inc.	Corn	Agronomic Properties Herbicide Tolerance Selectable Markers Insect Resistance	Blue Earth (up to 2 sites)
17-NO-02 USDA/BRS Application #: 17-017-103n	Pioneer Hi- Bred International Inc.	Corn	Agronomic Properties Herbicide Tolerance Selectable Markers	Blue Earth (up to 2 sites)

For more information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO HOLD STATE METALLIC MINERALS LEASE SALE

State Lands Being Considered for Metallic Minerals Leasing

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announces that plans are being developed to hold the state's 35th sale of metallic minerals exploration and mining leases. The sale is tentatively scheduled for early 2017. The lease sale plans are being announced at this time in order to give all interested parties time to review and provide input on the areas under consideration (draft mining unit book).

The metallic minerals lease sale involves non-ferrous minerals, which are all metals except iron ore and taconite. Examples of non-ferrous metallic minerals are: copper, nickel, platinum, palladium, gold, silver, cobalt, chromium, zinc, lead, bismuth, tin, tungsten, tantalum, and niobium.

The purpose of Minnesota's metallic minerals rules (Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100 - .0700) is to promote and regulate the exploration for and mining and removal of metallic minerals on state-owned and state-administered lands. These rules, and the leases issued under these rules, authorize exploration and development of these minerals and impose certain requirements on the lessee. The requirements include: the payment of rentals that increase with the passage of time, the payment of royalty for all ore mined and removed, compliance with all applicable environmental statutes and rules, and the submission of data and other reports. In addition, the state lessee must comply with all other applicable regulatory laws.

The areas under consideration contain lands in portions of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis Counties. Nearly all of the lands being considered for the metallic minerals lease sale have been offered in previous lease sales, and many of them have been previously leased. The Department of Natural Resources will be accepting public input for 60 days regarding the lands listed in the areas under consideration (draft mining unit book).

Written public input regarding the areas under consideration (draft mining unit book) will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2017. Input may be submitted by U.S. mail or email. All input received is public information. Following the public input period, the DNR will review the input, and modify and finalize the lands to be offered in the lease sale.

The exact time and place of the lease sale will be announced by legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the sale. The final mining unit book, listing the state lands to be offered at the lease sale, will be released at that time and will be available on the DNR website.

The areas under consideration (draft mining unit book) are available on the internet through the DNR website at http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/leasesale/index.html and for review at the Hibbing and St. Paul offices of the Division of Lands and Minerals. Interactive maps of the lands under consideration may also be viewed on the DNR website. Written public input may be sent to: Division of Lands and Minerals, Box 45, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155-4045, email: MMLeaseSale.dnr@state.mn.us.

Dated: January 23, 2017

Jess Richards, Director
Division of Lands and Minerals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: January 23, 2017

In the Matter of the Application of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. for a Route Permit for the MPL-Laporte 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Clearwater and Hubbard Counties, Minnesota

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: ET-6/TL-16-327

Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Docket Number: 80-2500-34009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing on the route permit application by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. for its proposed 115 KV transmission line project in Clearwater and Hubbard Counties, Minnesota.

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Frank White Education Center
301 Huntzinger Ave.
Park Rapids, MN 56470

To find out if a meeting has been cancelled due to bad weather call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/puc.

The Honorable LauraSue Schlatter, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the Office of Administrative Hearings, will conduct this hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments regarding the environmental assessment issued by the Department of Commerce, or other concerns regarding the project from the public.

Project Description

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) proposes to:

- build a new 9.4 mile 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line
- build a new 115/4.16 kV distribution substation

The proposed project is located in Itasca Township in Clearwater County and Lake Hattie and Lake Alice Townships in Hubbard County. A map of the proposed project location is attached to this Notice. This project, will serve a new pipeline pumping station operated by Minnesota Pipeline Company, LLC.

Written Comment Period

Comment Period: Written comments will be accepted through **March 3, 2017** at 4:30pm. Please include both the Commission's Docket Number (16-327) and OAH's Docket Number (80-2500-34009) in all communications.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- Should the Public Utilities Commission issue a route permit?
- Is the proposed transmission line in the public interest?
- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed transmission line?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of each route under consideration and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Comments may be submitted via:

Online: Visit mn.gov/puc, select Speak Up!, select Open Discussions, and find this docket.

eFiling: Visit mn.gov/puc, select eFiling and follow the prompts.

U.S. Mail: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

Important: Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered. Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Process Information

The Commission must approve a route permit before the project can be built. This hearing satisfies the public hearing requirement for route permit application (Minnesota Rules 7850.3800). The Department of Commerce issued an environmental assessment scoping decision on October 31, 2016, followed by an environmental assessment and a draft site permit on January 20, 2017. This public hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to ask questions and provide comments on the environmental assessment.

Following the written comment period ending March 3, 2017, the applicant and the Department will have the opportunity to respond to the comments made. In addition to the other information submitted into the record, the ALJ will use the information gathered at the public hearing or submitted during the comment period and submit a report including findings of fact and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission will make final decisions on this project at a public meeting in June 2017. For additional information on the alternative review process, see Minnesota Rules, parts 7850.2800 – 7850.4400.

Learn More

Full Case Record: The **certificate of need and site permit applications** and other documents filed in this matter are available at: mn.gov/puc, select eDockets, enter the year (16) and the docket number (327), select Search.

On July 27, 2016, Minnkota filed a minor revision to the application (Revision 1). See Document ID: 20167-123650-01 in eDockets.

Department of Commerce Website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=34468>.

Subscribe to the Docket: To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: mn.gov/puc, select Subscribe, and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate in meetings and comment periods. Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (16-327), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Community Locations: Copies of the route permit application and the Environmental Assessment (EA) document are available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Park Rapids Public Library, 210 1st Street SW, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216E and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7850, available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Contacts

Public Utilities Commission

Kevin George, Public Advisor: kevin.george@state.mn.us; 651-201-2251 or 1-800-657-3782

Cezar Panait, Energy Facilities Planner: cezar.panait@state.mn.us; 651-201-2201

Department of Commerce

Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager: bill.storm@state.mn.us; 651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Craig Bleth, Environmental Manager: CBleth@minnkota.com; 701-795-4661

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service. Individuals with a disability who need reasonable accommodations to participate in this public hearing please also contact the Public Utilities Commission at 651-296-0406 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Proposed Project Location

