

The *EQB Monitor*

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

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)

Publication Date: March 25, 2019
Vol. 43, No. 12

Publication Schedule: Mondays at 8:00 AM
Submission Deadline: [View 2019 Schedule](#)
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

In this publication:

- [EQB Board Meeting - March 25, 2019](#)
- [Public Hearings for EQB Mandatory Categories](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions](#)
- [Notices](#)

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 - March 25, 2019

Environmental Quality Board March 25 Meeting: Nitrates in the Karst Region

Please note that seating for the meeting is limited. **Seating is available on a first come, first served basis.** [Please RSVP](#) to assist us in anticipating turnout for the meeting. You can [view our full agenda on the EQB website](#).

March 25 Meeting Agenda

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will hold a public meeting on March 25, 2019 at the St. James Hotel Summit Room, 406 Main St., Red Wing, MN to gain public input on a proposal to study nitrate-contaminated water in the karst region of southeast Minnesota.

The Board will use input from the March 25 meeting to help decide whether to order a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on nitrate-contaminated water in the karst region of southeast Minnesota. The EQB plans to make the decision on whether to order the GEIS at a future EQB meeting.

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and the formal program begins at 5:30 p.m.

For those unable to attend the meeting, an online comment form is available here:
<http://survey.mn.gov/s.asp?k=155259309698>

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 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, Magellan Rochester Terminal Expansion Project, 3-18-19 (1-7-19)

Notices

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

Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, **MDA notification number 19-NO-31**. Notification is for genetically modified CORN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number **19-038-107n**. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-1 location at 10 acres, Dakota-1 location at 10 acres, Faribault-1 location at 10 acres, Goodhue-1 location at 10 acres, Mower-1 location at 10 acres, Rice-1 location at 10 acres, and Waseca-1 location at 10 acres. Project categories include HT (Herbicide Tolerance) and IR (Insect Resistance).

For additional information contact:

Denise Thiede
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert St N.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-6531
denise.thiede@state.mn.us.

Notice of Permit Decision in the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy for a Route Permit for the 115 kV Bull Moose Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Cass County

PUC Docket No. ET-2/TL-15-628 - In an order issued March 11, 2019 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) determined that the environmental assessment and record created at the public hearing adequately addressed the issues identified in the scoping decision for the 115 kV Bull Moose Transmission Line Project (project) and issued a high voltage transmission line (HVTL) route permit to Great River Energy . The route permit authorizes construction of an approximately 2.5-mile 115-kilovolt (kV) HVTL between the existing Minnesota Power Badoura to Pine River 115 kV transmission line and a new proposed Enbridge Energy Backus Substation near the town of Backus in Cass County to provide power to a new pump station associated with Enbridge Energy Line 3 petroleum pipeline.

Further information about the project, including the route permit, can be found on-line at: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/635/> and on the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select "Search eDockets" and enter the year (15) and the docket number (628) and select "Search".

Inquiries about the project should be directed to:

Cezar Panait
Commission Staff Analyst
651-201-2207
Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us

Notice of Permit Decision in the Matter of the Application of Lake Benton Power Partners II, LLC for a Site Permit Amendment for the 100.2 megawatt (MW) Lake Benton II Repowering Project Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Pipestone County

PUC Docket No. IP-6903/WS-18-179 - In an order issued March 14, 2019 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued a site permit to Lake Benton Power Partners II, LLC for the 100.2 MW Lake Benton Wind II Repowering Project. In making its decision to issue the site permit, the Commission considered the entire record, including comments submitted by state agencies and comments received at the public information meeting. The site permit authorizes construction and operation of the 100.2 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System (Wind Farm) and associated facilities (underground collection and feeder lines, access roads, meteorological towers, an operation and maintenance facility, and other associated facilities). The project is located at the site of the existing Lake Benton II wind farm, located immediately southwest of the city of Routhon and north of the city of Holland in Pipestone County. The existing Lake Benton II wind farm will be decommissioned just prior to constructing the new wind farm.

Further information about the project and the route permit can be found on-line at: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13331/> and on the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select "Search eDockets" and enter the year (18) and the docket number (179) and select "Search".

Inquiries about the project should be directed to:

Cezar Panait
Commission Staff Analyst
651-201-2207
Cezar.Panait@state.mn.us