

The *EQB Monitor*

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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](#).

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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](#).

EQB Announcements

Citizen Environmental Review Survey

The Environmental Quality Board, which oversees the state's Environmental Review program, is undergoing a continuous improvement project to monitor and improve the effectiveness of Environmental Review. Minnesota citizens who have participated in the Environmental Review process are asked to consider taking 10 minutes to complete the survey at the link below. Engagement in the process may include: reviewed a document, attended a public meeting, wrote a comment, contacted staff, etc.

<http://survey.mn.gov/s.asp?k=151335922389>

Contact Person:

Kristin Mroz
Environmental Review Program Staff
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-757-2873
env.review@state.mn.us

Citizen Petition Process Video

If you are concerned about a new project or are affected by a project occurring in your area and believe there are environmental risks that have not yet been assessed, you may want to get involved. The citizen petition process is designed to provide a standard mechanism by which citizens can alert government entities of projects that may have the potential for significant environmental effects. Watch our Guide to the Citizen Petition Process Video on YouTube to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzOobDkwUyA#action=share> EQB staff are also available to answer questions about Environmental Review at Env.Review@state.mn.us or 651-757-2873.

RGU Contact Person:

Melissa Peck
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Environmental Assessment Worksheets**Project Title: Lower Mound Lake Basin Restoration, Blue Mounds State Park**

Comment Deadline: April 25, 2018

Project Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) proposes to address conditions left by natural disasters that occurred between June and July, 2014, which resulted in a failed dam and damages, including the drained basin that was known as Lower Mound Lake, located within Blue Mounds State Park near Luverne, in Rock County, Minnesota. The proposed project includes removal of the remaining structures of the failed dam and restoration of Lower Mound Lake Basin to a natural stream. Public comments will be taken from March 26, 2018 until 4:30 pm April 25, 2018. They can be submitted electronically at Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us or via mail to Kathy Metzker, EAW Project Manager Environmental Review Unit DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Box 25 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4025.

Please go to <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/lower-mound/index.html> for a copy of the EAW and supporting documents. A copy of the EAW and attachments are also available for public review at the following locations:

- DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
- DNR Southern Region Headquarters, 21371 State Highway 15 South, New Ulm, MN 56073
- Hennepin County – Minneapolis Central Library, Government Documents, 2nd floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992 • Marshall-Lyon County Library, 201 C Street, Marshall, MN 56258
- Rock County Community Library, 201 West Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156 Additional copies may also be requested by calling 651-259-5694

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): MN DNR, Ecological & Water Resources

RGU Contact Person:

Kathy Metzker
EAW Project Manager
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5694
Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us

Project Title: DeCook Pit

Comment Deadline: April 25, 2018

Project Description: The DeCook Pit is a proposed sand quarry in Salem Township, Olmsted County. This EAW proposes the project area to be approximately 66 acres in size and reach a max depth of 60 feet when complete. The sand from the quarry will be used for construction purposes in the local area. The 30 day comment deadline is April 25, 2018. Copies of the EAW may be received by contacting Roger@tcpamn.org. or 507-529-0774

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Salem Township

RGU Contact Person:

Roger P. Ihrke
Zoning Administrator
4111 11th Ave SW, Room 10
Rochester, MN 55902
507-529-0774
Roger@tcpamn.org

Environmental Assessment Worksheet Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet in response to a citizen's petition.

- Waseca County, Waseca County Ditch No. 48 (Denied)

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 Department of Transportation, NLX passenger Rail project from Minneapolis to Duluth, Minnesota, 3-2-18 (4-24-17) UPDATED
- Minnesota DNR, Star of the North Walking Trail, 3-6-18 (1-1-18) UPDATED
- City of Oakdale, Helmo Station Area EAW, 3-13-18 (1-29-18)

Alternative Urban Areawide Review Drafts

Project Title: Oakdale 3M Foundation Project AUAR

Comment Deadline: April 25, 2018

Project Description: The City of Oakdale is conducting an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) as a result of a small area plan for the largest undeveloped parcel remaining in the City in the northeast quadrant of I 694 and CR 14, formerly part of the 3M campus. The eastern boundary of the area abuts the City of Lake Elmo. The process began with a Scoping EAW and is now in the Draft AUAR phase. Agencies and members of the public should provide comments on the Draft AUAR by April 25, 2018.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Oakdale

RGU Contact Person:

Beth Elliott
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Notices

Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection Meeting, March 29, 2018

The Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection will meet at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155 in the Lower Level Board Rooms on March 29th, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For more information on this meeting, please see the agenda on the EQB website (<https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/governor%E2%80%99s-committee-pollinator-protection-0>).

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): DNR

RGU Contact Person:

Faith Krogstad
State Pollinator Coordinator
500 Lafayette Rd
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5074
faith.krogstad@state.mn.us

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

Project Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-17. 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 18-019-104rm. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-1 location with 80 acres. Project categories include HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Gene), OO (Other), and PQ (Product Quality). 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.

Project Description: Syngenta Crop Protection LLC filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-18. 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 18-052-101n. The counties identified for release include the following: Dakota-1 location with 10 acres; Fairbault-2 locations with 10 acres/location; Goodhue-1 location with 10 acres, Mower-1 location with 10 acres; Rice-1 location with 10 acres; Waseca-1 location with 10 acres. Project categories include HT (Herbicide Tolerance), 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.

Project Description: University of Minnesota filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-19. Notification is for genetically modified BARLEY, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic barley, referenced as Application Number 18-019-105r. The counties identified for release include the following: Dakota-1 locations with 1 acre. Project categories include FR (Fungal 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.

Project Description: Betaseed, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-21. Notification is for genetically modified SUGARBEET, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic sugarbeet, referenced as Application Number 18-060-102n. The counties identified for release include the following: Clay-1 location, Dakota-8 locations, Goodhue-6 locations, Rice-3 locations, Scott-3 locations, Wilkin-1 location. Project categories include HT (Herbicide Tolerance). 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.

Project Description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-22. 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 18-030-102n. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-2 locations with up to 25 acres per location; Brown-1 location with 25 acres, Fillmore-1 location with 4.5 acres, and Swift-1 location with 15 acres. Project categories include AP (Agronomic Properties), FR (Fungal Resistance), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), IR (Insect Resistance), MG (Marker Gene), and OO (Other). 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.

Project Description: Betaseed, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 18-NO-23. Notification is for genetically modified SUGARBEET, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic sugarbeet, referenced as Application Number 18-060-104n. The counties identified for release include the following: Carver-1 location, Clay-3 locations, Dakota-1 location, Goodhue-3 location, Scott-1 location, Sibley-1 location, Wilken-1 location. Project categories include PQ (Product Quality). 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.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Plant Protection Division

RGU Contact Person:

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