

The *EQB Monitor*

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Submission Deadline: [View 2020 Schedule](#)
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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 Monitor Schedule](#) and [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

EQB Board Meeting - March 16, 2020

We invite you to join the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) at their next Board meeting on March 16 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the MPCA in St. Paul. The March 16, 2020 EQB meeting will address three informational objectives:

- Discuss recommendations for implementing the strategies identified in the 2019 *Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota* report.
- Continue discussing Minnesota's strategies to protect pollinators by learning about Minnesota Department of Agriculture's approach to pest management and actions to address the effects of pesticides on pollinators.
- Reflect on the 2019 Environmental Congress and generate ideas to inform the next Congress in the 2021-2022 biennium.

You can view our full agenda on the [EQB Website](#).

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Rosedale Center

Comment Deadline: April 9, 2020

Project Description: Jones Lang LaSalle is proposing an expansion to the existing Rosedale Center in Roseville, MN. The proposed expansion includes 350 market rate residential units, 215 active adult housing units, two hotels with up to 340 hotel rooms, 90,000 square feet of office, and 200,000 square feet of retail space.

How to view the EAW: The EAW can be viewed online at the City of Roseville's website by following (<https://www.cityofroseville.com/DocumentCenter/View/29579/2020-02-26-Rosedale-Center-EAW>), comments are being accepted until April 9, 2020 unless otherwise extended to meet Minnesota Environmental Review guidelines. Comments shall be directed to City Planner, Thomas Paschke at Thomas.Paschke@cityofroseville.com.

Link to Document: <https://www.cityofroseville.com/DocumentCenter/View/29579/2020-02-26-Rosedale-Center-EAW>

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Roseville

RGU Contact Person:

Thomas Paschke, City Planner

2660 Civic Center Drive

Roseville, Minnesota 55113

651-792-7074

thomas.paschke@cityofroseville.com

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.

- Dakota County, CSAH 70 Expansion Project Negative Declaration, 2-25-20 (1-13-20)
RGU contact: Mark Krebsbach, 952-891-7100, mark.krebsbach@co.dakota.mn.us
Link to Document:
<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Board/Pages/default.aspx>
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Alternative Urban Areawide Review Adoptions

Project Title: Jackson Township AUAR

On behalf of the City of Shakopee, SRF Consulting Group is transmitting the Revised Alternative Urban Area Review (AUAR) and Mitigation Plan for Jackson Township. The AUAR study area includes 2,890 acres of land in Jackson Township to the southwest of the City of Shakopee. This area is included in an existing Orderly Annexation Agreement between the city and township. The AUAR analyzes the potential for impacts within the area as the result of development as proposed within the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. While no specific development layouts have been determined within the study area, the AUAR assesses the potential for impact based on the land uses of the 2040 plan and existing regulations. There is currently no timeline established for development within the study area.

The revised AUAR has been revised to reflect comments received on the Draft AUAR. All comments received and the corresponding responses are included in the AUAR Appendix. According to Minnesota Rules 4410.361 Subp. 5D, objections may be filed by State Agencies and the Met Council within 10 days of the receipt of the AUAR (March 7, 2019).

Link to Document: https://srfconsultinggroup-my.sharepoint.com/personal/sfalkers_srfconsulting_com/Documents/Jackson%20Township%20AUAR/11925_Jackson%20Township%20AUAR_February%202020.pdf?CT=1583352297688&OR=ItemsView

RGU Contact:

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mnoble@shakopeemn.gov

Notices

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

Monsanto Company filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number **20-NO-05**. 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 **20-049-101n**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Dodge-1 location with 25 acres; McLeod-1 location with 10 acres; Rice-1 location with 25 acres**. Project categories include **AP (Agronomic Performance), HT (Herbicide Tolerance), and OO (Other)**.

Betaseed, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number **20-NO-06**. Notification is for genetically modified **SUGAR BEET**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic sugar beet, referenced as Application Number **20-055-101n**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Carver- 1 location with not more than 10 acres; Clay-4 locations with not more than 10 acres per location; Dakota-2 locations with not more than 10 acres per location ; Goodhue-2 locations with not more than 10 acres per location; Rice-2 locations with not more than 10 acres per location; Scott-1 location with not more than 10 acres; and Wilken-1 location with not more than 10 acres per location**. Project categories include **HT (Herbicide Tolerance)**.

For additional information contact:

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

Notice of Availability of Environmental Report

Issued: March 6, 2020

In the Matter of the Certificate of Need Application for the Buffalo Ridge Wind Project

Docket Number: IP-7006/CN-19-309

The Minnesota Department of Commerce has issued an Environmental Report (ER) for the proposed Buffalo Ridge Wind Project. The ER analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives to the project.

The ER can be viewed on the Department's website: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13711/>. It can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: <http://mn.gov/puc>. Select "eDockets," enter the year ("19") and the docket number ("309"), and then select "Search."

The ER will also be available for review at the public library in the cities of Lake Benton, Tyler, and Pipestone.

Project Description

Buffalo Ridge Wind, LLC (Buffalo Ridge Wind) is proposing to construct a 109 megawatt (MW) wind farm in Lincoln County and Pipestone County, Minnesota. The Buffalo Ridge Wind project would consist of wind turbines and associated facilities, including access roads, communication lines, underground electrical collector lines, a meteorological tower, a staging and construction laydown area, an operation and maintenance facility, and a project substation. Buffalo Ridge Wind anticipates that the project would consist of up to 40 wind turbines varying in size from 2.2 to 2.8 MW.

Process Information

In order to construct the proposed Buffalo Ridge Wind project, Buffalo Ridge Wind must obtain two approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) – a certificate of need and a site permit. Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for certificate of need applications submitted to the Commission. EERA staff has prepared the above-noted ER to meet this responsibility.

The ER evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of the project and alternatives to the project. The ER will be used by the Commission in deciding whether to issue a certificate of need 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 this docket via the Commission's website, <http://www.mn.gov/puc>. Select "eDockets," enter the year ("19") and the docket number ("309"), 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 (19-309), your name, mailing address, and email address.
- Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notifications when new documents are filed in the project docket, go to the Commission's website, <http://www.mn.gov/puc>, select "Subscribe," and follow the prompts.

Project Contacts

- **Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager**
Larry B. Hartman, larry.hartman@state.mn.us, 651-539-1839 or 1-800-657-3794
Ray Kirsch, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us, 651-539-1841 or 1-800-657-3794

- **Public Utilities Commission**
Charley Bruce, Public Advisor, charley.bruce@state.mn.us, 651-201-2251
Cezar Panait, Staff Analyst, cezar.panait@state.mn.us, 651-201-2207
- **Buffalo Ridge Wind, LLC**
Danell Herzig, danell.herzig@nexteraenergy.com, 561-304-6548