

## 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

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

**Publication Date: May 20, 2019**  
Vol. 43, No. 20

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

### In this publication:

- [Public Hearings and Comment Period for EQB Mandatory Categories](#)
- [Environmental Assessment Worksheets](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions](#)
- [Notice](#)

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](#).

## Public Hearings and Comment Period for EQB Mandatory Categories

The Environmental Quality 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](#)

--> the two-way video conferencing will **only** be available at: Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Marshall and Rochester MPCA offices.

## 2nd HEARING ADDED:

**June 26, 2019 5:30 pm-8:30 pm hearing** at the [Great River Regional Library, 1300 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud, MN 56301](#)

## COMMENT PERIOD ADDED:

May 20, 2019 - June 21, 2019 (4:30 pm CST)

### How to submit written comments:

1. Email: [Denise.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:Denise.wilson@state.mn.us) and/or [Erik.Dahl@state.mn.us](mailto:Erik.Dahl@state.mn.us) with the subject line: "Mandatory Category Rulemaking: Comment"
2. OAH's eComment portal: [eComments](#) -- *comments on the rule or requests for a hearing can be made at this website.*
3. Mail to:

Environmental Quality Board  
Attn: Mandatory Category Rulemaking  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Additional rule timeline updates are available at the EQB rulemaking webpage:  
<https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/eqb-mandatory-categories-rulemaking>

---

## Environmental Assessment Worksheets

### Project Title: Becker Data Center Project

**Comment Deadline:** June 19, 2019

**Project Description:** The Becker Data Center Project is a proposed approximately 375,000-square-foot light industrial data center facility that is planned in the City of Becker, Sherburne County, Minnesota. The site is located on surplus buffer land for the existing Xcel Energy (Xcel) Sherco power plant. The property is currently used for agricultural purposes and

comprises approximately 315 acres which is available to be developed as one contiguous plot. The site is proposed to include a main facility, substation to support operations, and parking/site access features.

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

**RGU Contact Person:**

Marie Pflipsen  
Community Development Director  
12060 Sherburne Avenue  
Becker, Minnesota 55308  
763-200-4246  
[mpflipsen@ci.becker.mn.us](mailto:mpflipsen@ci.becker.mn.us)

## **Project Title: Lake Orono Restoration and Enhancement**

**Comment Deadline:** June 19, 2019

**Project Description:** The City of Elk River is proposing restoration and enhancement to Lake Orono, which is a pool above the Lake Orono dam. The goal of the Lake Orono Restoration and Enhancement project is to remove accumulated sediment from specified locations within the lake to improve navigation, recreation, and enhance wildlife habitat.

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** City of Elk River

**RGU Contact Person:**

Amanda Bednar  
Environmental Coordinator  
13065 Orono Parkway  
Elk River, Minnesota 55330  
763-635-1068  
[abednar@elkrivernm.gov](mailto:abednar@elkrivernm.gov)

---

## **Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions**

### **Project Title: I-94 Reconstruction from Clearwater to Albertville (SP 8680-173) EA/EAW - FONSI and Negative Declaration**

**Project Description:** MnDOT has determined that the proposed action does not have the potential to cause significant environmental impacts and that the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary (4/12/2019). MnDOT recommended that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) make a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project. FHWA has concurred with MnDOT's recommendation and prepared a FONSI for project segments between Trunk Highway (TH) 24 in Clearwater and TH 25 in Monticello (5/8/2019), which is currently funded for construction. Environmental clearance has not been

provided for project segments between TH 25 in Monticello and CSAH 37 in Albertville since there are not reasonably foreseeable funds at this time. FHWA anticipates a re-evaluation of the EA and issuance of a separate FONSI when reasonably foreseeable funds become available for the segments between Monticello and Albertville.

**Contact Person:**

Aaron Stolte  
612-326-9510  
[aaron.stolte@kimley-horn.com](mailto:aaron.stolte@kimley-horn.com)

## **Project Title: I-94 UBOL Resurfacing Maple Grove to Rogers and Brockton Interchange EA/EAW**

**Project Description:** The project proposes to resurface 9.6 miles of the existing pavement on I-94 from the I-494/I-694 interchange in Maple Grove to TH 101 in Rogers. Resurfacing will be accomplished by placing an unbonded concrete overlay over the existing concrete traffic lanes and over the existing bituminous shoulders. The project also includes the construction of a new interchange to the east of Brockton Lane in the City of Dayton. The new interchange will be a four-lane diverging diamond interchange and include intersection improvements at Brockton Lane on the west and CSAH 81 on the east. Finally, the project will also involve the addition of a new travel lane in both the westbound and eastbound directions of I-94 from TH 610 to TH 101. To accommodate the addition of the eastbound travel lane near TH 101, an additional lane will be added on eastbound I-94 from the end of the exit ramp to TH 101 to the end of the entrance ramp from TH 101.

**Contact Person:**

Rick Dalton  
651-234-7677  
[Richard.dalton@state.mn.us](mailto:Richard.dalton@state.mn.us)

---

## **Notice**

## **Project Title: Notice of Availability of Federal Agency Draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Comment Period:** June 19, 2019

**Project Description:** The public is hereby notified of the availability of a Draft EA / FONSI prepared by the 934th Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve. The Draft EA analyzes potential environmental impacts associated with construction of a new "Mission Support Group Facility", and demolition of four sub-standard facilities at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The Draft EA / FONSI can be accessed electronically on the 934th Airlift Wing public website: [www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil](http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil). It will also be available at Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central, Government Documents – 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Written comments may be mailed or emailed to: 934th Airlift Wing, Building 744 CEV Attn:  
Douglas Yocum 760 Military Highway Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100 [douglas.yocum@us.af.mil](mailto:douglas.yocum@us.af.mil).  
The public comment period for the Draft EA/FONSI ends 30 days from publication of this  
notice.

**Contact Person:**

Douglas Yocum

612-713-1955

[douglas.yocum@us.af.mil](mailto:douglas.yocum@us.af.mil)