

The *EQB Monitor*

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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](#).

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 – May 15, 2019

We invite you to join the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) at their next Board meeting on May 15 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the MPCA in St. Paul. The focus of the meeting is environmental review rulemaking.

This meeting will feature a resolution authorizing EQB staff to proceed with recommended changes to proposed Environmental Review Rules amendments. You can view our [full agenda on the EQB website](#).

Public Hearings 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](#)

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: Giants Ridge Mountain Bike Park

Comment Deadline: June 5, 2019

Project Description: The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) proposes to construct up to 35.2 miles of purpose-built, single-track mountain biking (MTB) trails within the Giants Ridge Recreation Area located north of Biwabik, Minnesota. The Project will be located on approximately 2,386 acres of land that will serve community residents and function as a tourist destination.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation

RGU Contact Person:

Mark Phillips, Commissioner
Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation
4261 Hwy 53 South
Eveleth, MN 55734
218-735-3000 Ext 2
mark.phillips@state.mn.us

Project Title: Redhead Mountain Bike Park

Comment Deadline: June 5, 2019

Project Description: The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) proposes to construct up to 35.9 miles of single-track mountain bike (MTB) trail within an inactive iron mine pit located south of Chisholm, Minnesota. The Project includes construction of a trailhead with informational signage, picnic shelters, and a bike repair station. The trail will be located on approximately 1,225 acres of land that will serve community residents and function as a tourist destination.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation

RGU Contact Person:

Mark Phillips, Commissioner
Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation
4261 Hwy 53 South
Eveleth, MN 55734
218-735-300 Ext 2
mark.phillips@state.mn.us

Notices

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

Rutgers University filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, **MDA notification number 19-NO-39**. Notification is for genetically modified **WHEAT**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic wheat, referenced as Application Number **19-078-105rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Dakota County-1 location at 0.5 acres**. Project categories include **FR (Fungal Resistance)**.

For additional information contact:

Denise Thiede
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St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-6531
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Notice of Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Decision

In the Matter of the Applications of Dodge County Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need, a Site Permit, and a Route Permit for the 170 MW Dodge County Wind Project and Associated 345 kV High-voltage Transmission Line in Dodge, Olmsted, and Steele Counties

DOCKET NO. IP-6981/CN-17-306, IP-6981/WS-17-307, and IP-6981/ TL-17-308

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has issued the scoping decision for the environmental impact statement (EIS) to be prepared for the proposed Dodge County Wind Project in Dodge, Olmsted, and Steele counties in Minnesota.

The EIS will be prepared on behalf of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) by the Department's Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff. The EIS will address the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives to the project. The scoping decision identifies the routing alternatives that will be examined in the EIS (see attached map). The decision also identifies the alternatives that will not be addressed.

The scoping decision and other relevant documents are available on the Department's website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities> and on the State of Minnesota's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "17" and the number "306," "307," or "308").

A draft EIS is anticipated to be completed and available in June 2019. Public meetings and a comment period on the draft EIS will follow. Comments regarding the draft EIS will be responded to in a final EIS. Public hearings will also be held in the project area after issuance of the draft EIS and are anticipated to occur in the summer of 2019.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the EERA environmental review manager Suzanne Steinhauer (651-539-1843, suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) or the Commission's public advisor Charley Bruce (651-201-2251, publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us).

To place your name on the project mailing list, contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 and provide the docket number (17-306, 17-307, or 17-308), your name, email address, and mailing address. Please indicate how you would like to receive notices— by email or U.S. mail.

This notice can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.