

## 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

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**Publication Schedule:** Mondays at 8:00 AM  
**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](#).

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](#).

## EQB Announcements

### EQB Board Meeting - October 17

The EQB will hold its monthly meeting on October 17, 2018. The proposed meeting agenda and additional information, including details for the live webcast, can be found on the [EQB website](#).

#### Agenda:

1. Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota
2. Environmental Review Advisory Panel Final Report

**Contact Person:**

Giuseppe Tumminello  
520 Lafayette Rd N  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-757-2795  
[giuseppe.tumminello@state.mn.us](mailto:giuseppe.tumminello@state.mn.us)

**EQB Board Meeting - October 18**

The EQB will hold a special monthly meeting on October 18, 2018. The proposed meeting agenda and additional information, including details for the live webcast, can be found on the [EQB website](#).

**Agenda:**

1. Youth Perspectives on Environmental Issues in Minnesota

**Contact Person:**

Giuseppe Tumminello  
520 Lafayette Rd N  
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651-757-2795  
[giuseppe.tumminello@state.mn.us](mailto:giuseppe.tumminello@state.mn.us)

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**Environmental Assessment Worksheets****Project Title: 311 2nd Street Southeast**

**Comment Deadline:** November 14, 2018

**Project Description:** This EAW studies the proposed 311 2nd Street Southeast development located at 311 2nd Street Southeast in Minneapolis. The Project includes the redevelopment of two plus blocks at 311 2nd Street SE that is comprised of a research and development facility, surface parking lot and landscaping area covering approximately 6.18 acres. The Project may include up to 989 dwelling units and up to 5,000 SF of retail when fully complete, and may be comprised of several towers of approximately thirty stories. For purposes of this EAW, Developer has included, where appropriate, discussion of the Expo project, located at 200 University Avenue SE, which is being developed by an affiliate of the Developer ("Expo"). The Expo received proper municipal approvals and is currently under construction. No EAW was required for the Expo. The Expo includes 368 residential units and approximately 3,500 SF of retail and sits on a full City block. In the aggregate, the Project and the Expo blocks could include up to 1,257 units and 8,500 SF of retail space on 8.70 acres across three city blocks.

Copies of the EAW will be available for review at the downtown Minneapolis Central Library located at 300 Nicollet Mall, and in the office of the City's CPED, Land Use, Design and Preservation Section at 250 S. 4th Street, Room 300 Public Service Center. Public comments on the EAW must be made within the 30-day comment period, which ends at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. It is anticipated that the Zoning and Planning Committee at its regular meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2018, or at a subsequent meeting, will receive a report and recommendation from City staff, hear comment from all parties and consider the adequacy of this EAW and the need for an Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal. The City Council will act on the recommendation of this Committee at a subsequent meeting on Friday, December 7, 2018.

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

**RGU Contact Person:**

Hilary Dvorak  
Principal City Planner  
250 South 4th Street, Room 300  
Minneapolis  
612-673-2639  
[hilary.dvorak@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:hilary.dvorak@minneapolismn.gov)

**Project Title: MN Valley State Trail – Bloomington Segment**

**Comment Deadline:** November 14, 2018

**Project Description:** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to develop 13.5 miles of the Minnesota Valley State Trail, from the Bloomington Ferry Bridge to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in Bloomington, Minnesota. The multiple-use, non-motorized recreational state trail will consist of a 10-foot wide paved surface with 2-foot vegetated shoulders.

The DNR will accept written and electronic comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. Electronic or email comments may be sent to [environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us) with "MN Valley State Trail EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, include name and mailing address. Written comments may also be sent by fax to (651) 296-1811.

A copy of the EAW is available for public review at: • DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155 • DNR Central Region Headquarters, 1200 Warner Rd, St. Paul, MN 55106 • Hennepin County – Minneapolis Central Library, Government Documents, Second Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992 • Penn Lake Library, 8800 Penn Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431. The EAW is also posted on DNR's website at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/mnvalley/index.html> Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-5110.

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** MN Department of Natural Resources

**RGU Contact Person:**

Lisa Fay  
EAW Project Manager  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025  
651-259-5110  
[Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us)

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## 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.

- City of North Branch, Meadows North Development, 10-3-18 (8-6-18)

## Alternative Urban Areawide Review Updates

### Project title: The West End AUAR Update

**Comment Deadline:** October 29, 2018

**Project Description:** The West End study area consists of 48.6 acres located at the southwest corner of I-394 and Trunk Highway 100 in St. Louis Park, MN, with eastern portions of the site in Golden Valley, MN. The City of St. Louis Park adopted The West End Final AUAR in March 2007. Since that time, some development within the study area has occurred. An update to the AUAR was adopted by the City of St. Louis Park in October 2013. Since the study area is not yet fully developed, the purpose of this document is to provide another update. This AUAR Update includes one additional scenario as outlined by the developer, which changes the amount of residential use previously proposed for the site, and is available on the City's website at <https://www.stlouispark.org/government/departments-divisions/planning-zoning/planning-studies>. The comment deadline is October 29, 2018.

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** City of St. Louis Park

**RGU Contact Person:**

Sean Walther  
Planning and Zoning Supervisor  
5005 Minnetonka Blvd  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
952-924-2574  
[swalther@stlouispark.org](mailto:swalther@stlouispark.org)

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## Notice

### Dodge County Wind, LLC - Notice of Public Information Meeting and Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meeting

Issued: October 11, 2018

**Comment Deadline:** November 15, 2018

**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**

**PUC Docket Numbers:** IP-6981/CN-17-306 (Certificate of Need), IP-6981/WS-17-307 (LWECS Site Permit), and IP-6981/TL-17-308 (HVTL Route Permit)

**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2018  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Holiday Inn and Suites Owatonna  
2365 43rd Street NW  
Owatonna, MN 55060

**Find out if a meeting is canceled due to bad weather or other:** Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

**Project Description:** The proposed project is a 170 megawatt (MW) wind facility consisting of up to 70 turbines to be located in Dodge and Steele counties. The project includes a 23-mile 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Dodge and Olmsted counties. The project also includes underground electric collection lines, a new collector substation, an operation and maintenance building, permanent meteorological towers, and gravel access roads. The associated 345 kV transmission line would be constructed on single-circuit monopole structures within a 150-foot right-of-way and would connect the wind farm to the Byron Substation

in Olmsted County. Dodge County Wind, LLC has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA) whereby MMPA will purchase the full output of the Project for a 30-year term.

## Meeting Information

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the proposed project and the state's review process, and to accept verbal or written comments on potential issues for the environmental impact statement (EIS) and the draft large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) site permit that will be prepared.

- The meeting starts on time.
- Arrive a few minutes early so you have time to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- State agency staff members run the meeting.
- Staff from the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Dodge County Wind, LLC will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.
- The Department of Commerce uses comments received at the meeting and during the comment period to develop the scope of the EIS and draft site permit for this project

## Written Comment Period

**Comment Period:** Written comments will be accepted through **November 15, 2018**.

please include the Commission's Docket Numbers (17-306, 17-307, 17-308) in all communications.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the EIS and the draft site permit?
- What are possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project that should be considered in the EIS and the draft site permit?
- Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered to address potential impacts associated with the 345 kV transmission line?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
- Are there other ways to meet the stated need for the project, for example, a different size project or a different type of facility? If so, what alternatives to the project should be studied in the EIS?
- Are there any items missing or mischaracterized in any of the applications or issues that need further development?

## Comments may be submitted via:

**Online**      <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

**Email**      [suzanne.steinbauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinbauer@state.mn.us)

**U.S. Mail**      Suzanne Steinhauer, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul MN 55101

**Fax**      **651-539-0109**

**Important: Comments** will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

## Process Information

The Commission must approve a certificate of need, a site permit, and a route permit before the project can be built. The certificate of need, site permit, and route permit applications are being processed jointly. This meeting satisfies the public meeting requirement for all three of those applications. After the close of the comment period associated with this meeting, the Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis unit (DOC EERA) will propose an EIS scoping decision and a draft site permit for Commission

approval. The DOC EERA will then prepare the draft EIS. Once the draft EIS is completed the DOC EERA will hold a draft EIS/draft site permit information meeting to solicit comments on the draft EIS and the draft site permit. After close of the draft EIS/draft site permit comment period, a public hearing and a contested case hearing will be conducted by an administrative law judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings. The hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to ask questions and provide comments on all components of the proposed project. Upon receipt of a report from the ALJ, the Commission will make a decision on the certificate of need, site permit, and route permit applications.

For all process and rule information, see Minn. Stat. § 216B.243 and Minn. R. ch. 7849 (certificate of need); Minn. Stat. ch. 216F and Minn. R. ch. 7854 (site permit); Minn. Stat. ch. 216E and Minn. R. ch. 7850 (route permit): <https://www.revisor.mn.gov>

### **Additional Information**

**Project Mailing List:** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate. Contact [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246 with the docket number (17-306, 17-307, or 17-308), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Subscribe to the Docket:** Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select Subscribe, and follow the prompts.

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select Search eDockets, and enter: year (17) and the docket number (306) for the certificate of need; or year (17) and docket number (307) for the site permit; or year (17) and the docket number (308) for the route permit, and select Search.

**Department of Commerce Project Website:** <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13333/>. An interactive map will be available on this website.

**Community Locations:** The certificate of need, site permit, and route permit applications are available for viewing at these locations:

- Blooming Prairie Branch Library, 138 Highway Avenue, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
- Dodge Center Public Library, 13 1st Avenue NW, Dodge Center, MN 55927
- Kasson Public Library, 607 1st Street NW, Kasson, MN 55944
- Owatonna Public Library, 105 North Elm Street, Owatonna, MN 55060
- Rochester Public Library, 101 2nd Street SE, Rochester, MN 55904
- West Concord Public Library, 180 Main Street, West Concord, MN 55985

### **Project Contacts**

#### **Public Utilities Commission**

Charley Bruce, Public Advisor: [charley.bruce@state.mn.us](mailto:charley.bruce@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2251  
Scott Ek, Energy Facilities Planner: [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2255

#### **Department of Commerce**

Suzanne Steinhauer, Environmental Review Manager: [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us) or 651-539-1843

#### **Dodge County Wind, LLC**

Mike Weich: [mike.weich@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:mike.weich@nexteraenergy.com) or 561-694-3987

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## **Environmental Review Guidance**

Do you have questions about Environmental Review that are not covered by current EQB guidance? Let us know! We continue to create new guidance and update existing documents, and we welcome your input.

To submit suggestions, email [Env.Review@state.mn.us](mailto:Env.Review@state.mn.us).