

The *EQB Monitor*

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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](#).



Registration is now open for the 2019 Minnesota Environmental Congress!

December 3, 2019. Minnesota State University – Mankato. 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Join us at the [Environmental Congress](#) to learn about innovative climate work happening across the state and explore ways to apply solutions in your community. This free, daylong conference will include sessions on community preparedness, innovative practices in agriculture, transitioning to a low-carbon transportation system, protecting our water resources, and more. Space is limited and preregistration is required; [register here](#) to reserve your spot.

EQB Announcements

Governor's Committee to Advise the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is seeking Minnesotans to serve on the Governor's Committee to Advise the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This citizens group has previously provided the MPCA with valuable counsel on its permitting, rules and environmental review decisions. Governor Walz has recently renewed this committee's charter and the MPCA is seeking eight Minnesotans with vast, diverse experiences to serve on the committee.

Appointments to the committee are facilitated through the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. Individuals can apply here

<https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Agency/Details/183>

Citizen Board Member Opening - 4th Congressional District

Applications are now open for an EQB Citizen Board Member in the 4th Congressional District. The 4th Congressional District includes St. Paul and surrounding suburbs such as Woodbury, Maplewood, Roseville, New Brighton, White Bear Lake, and Stillwater.

The position is for a four-year term starting January 1, 2020. The position is open until filled. For details and to

apply: <https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/agency/details/107>

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 during this calendar year 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=156822169253>

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.

- City of Lake Elmo, Sunfish Lake Park Mountain Bike Trails (Denied)
Link to document: http://www.lakeelmo.org/news_detail_T28_R19.php

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, County State Aid Highway 88 Reconstruction Project, 10-17-19 (8-12-19)
Contact: Jacob Rezac, 952-891-7981, jacob.rezac@co.dakota.mn.us
Link to document: No link available. Contact the RGU for a copy of the document.
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Environmental Assessment

Project Title: Cannon River Park 115 kV Substation/ Transmission Line

Comment Deadline: November 12, 2019

Project Description: Great River Energy, wholesale electric supplier to Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, proposes to construct a new overhead 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to deliver electric power to a new Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric distribution substation to be built in the City of Faribault's Northern Industrial Park. The proposed project will be located in the City of Faribault's Northern Industrial Park, in Section 13 of Wells Township, Rice County. The transmission line would originate at the existing Xcel Energy 115-kV transmission line running along Interstate 35. Two new switch structures, owned and installed by Xcel Energy, will allow the new line to connect to the existing Xcel Energy line. The new line will run approximately 2000-feet east, across Park Avenue, to the proposed Cannon River Substation.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) will be available for review at the City of Faribault, 208 NW 1st Avenue, Faribault, Minnesota 55021. Public comments on the EA must be made within the 10-day comment period, which ends at the close of business on November 12, 2019.

Link to document: [Cannon River Park 115 kV Substation/Transmission Line Project](#)

RGU Contact Person:

Peter Waldock, Planning Coordinator
City of Faribault
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Alternative Urban Areawide Review Drafts

Project Title: Jackson Township AUAR

Comment Deadline: November 27, 2019

Project Description: The Jackson Township Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) study is 2,889 acres located within Jackson Township to the west of the City of Shakopee. The study area is included within the existing Orderly Annexation Agreement between the City and Township. The study area is generally bound by the Minnesota River on the west, US 169 on the north, Marystown Road on the east and Scott County 78 to the south. As the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU), the City of Shakopee has prepared a Draft AUAR and Mitigation Plan for the Jackson Township area. The Draft AUAR and Mitigation Plan is being distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota Environmental Quality Board distribution list and members of the public who have identified interest in the study. The Draft AUAR and Mitigation Plan can be accessed electronically on the City of Shakopee's website at <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/home/showdocument?id=4634>.

The 30-day comment period will begin on October 28, 2019. Comments will be accepted through November 27, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Shakopee

RGU Contact Person:

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Notices

Power Plant Annual Hearing

Comment Deadline: December 6, 2019

Public Utilities Commission (Commission) – Notice of Public Hearing for the power plant siting and transmission line routing annual hearing. This hearing is conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 216E.07. The Commission is providing notice that it will hold the Public Hearing at 10 AM on November 19, 2019 in the Commission's Large Hearing Room at 121 7th Place East, 3rd Floor, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Administrative Law Judge Barbara Case will preside over the hearing. Commission and Department of Commerce staff will give an overview of the programs and projects pending or completed in 2019. Staff will also be available to answer questions. Judge Case will use the information gathered at the hearing to write a summary report for the Commission. Members of the public will have the opportunity to offer oral or written comments, or both, into the record. The annual hearing is on the power plant siting and routing program as a whole. Comments on specific projects will not be considered.

Comments on power plant siting and transmission line routing can be submitted using a variety of different methods until December 6, 2019, as noticed. Documents related to this docket can be obtained from the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select search eDockets, enter year (19) and the docket number (18), select search.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

RGU Contact Person:

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