

## The *EQB Monitor*

520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 - [www.egb.state.mn.us](http://www.egb.state.mn.us)  
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**Submission Deadline:** [View 2021 Schedule](#)  
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

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 find active projects in your community on the [Environmental Review Projects Interactive Map](#).



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](#).

To manage your subscription to the *EQB Monitor*, [click here](#). Be sure to add [MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com) to your address book or safe sender list.

### In this publication:

- [EQB Announcements](#)
- [Responsible Governmental Unit Redesignation](#)
- [Environmental Assessment Worksheet](#)
- [Alternative Urban Areawide Review Update Adoption](#)
- [General Notice](#)

# EQB Announcements

## Notice of Request for Public Feedback on Draft Recommendations



Integrating climate change information into environmental review

The EQB is considering changes to the Environmental Review Program to address climate change. The EQB Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee seeks your feedback on draft recommendations through **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**. Please let us know if you support the draft recommendations as proposed or suggest changes that would result in your support.

Please submit your input:

- Send an email to [Env.Review@state.mn.us](mailto:Env.Review@state.mn.us) with subject line CLIMATE
- Mail your feedback to EQB, 520 Lafayette Rd N, St. Paul, MN 55155

EQB will be holding listening sessions this spring to hear from the public. To stay up-to-date on this project, visit the EQB website: [Climate Change and Environmental Review Engagement](#).



## Emerging Environmental Leaders program seeking applicants for 2021 cohort

*The program elevates young people's voices in protecting Minnesota's environment*

Apply now for the spring 2021 cohort of the Emerging Environmental Leaders program, a partnership between the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board and the University of

Minnesota Institute on the Environment. Applications will be accepted on or before Sunday, March 7, 2021.

The program engages diverse young Minnesotans ages 18-24 to learn about environmental issues in Minnesota, help grow a broader network of young people interested in the environment, and share their ideas, perspectives, and solutions with Minnesota's state government leadership. The spring 2021 cohort will plan and facilitate a joint meeting of the governor's Climate Change Subcabinet and the Environmental Quality Board to bring youth voices forward on climate change and other environmental issues.

Learn more and apply at [bit.ly/EEL21](https://bit.ly/EEL21).

To stay up to date on this project, please [sign up](#) for the Emerging Environmental Leaders email list.

# Public Survey on Pollinator Protection in Minnesota



We are extending the deadline to answer the [Pollinator Survey](#). **Now you can answer and share the survey by March 12th!**

The Interagency Pollinator Protection Team will use your feedback to shape future pollinator reports, to identify new opportunities for action and to engage with Minnesotans to advance pollinator protection in our state.

If you have any questions, please contact the State Pollinator Coordinator, Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno by email at [rebeca.gutierrez-moreno@state.mn.us](mailto:rebeca.gutierrez-moreno@state.mn.us), or by phone: 651-757-2268.

We appreciate your participation!

*Photo by Erik Runquist*

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## Responsible Governmental Unit Redesignation

### Rochester International Airport

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) Redesignation:** On February 16, 2021, the Environmental Quality Board (EQB, Board) received a data submittal for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed project at Rochester International Airport. According to [Minn. R. 4410.4300 Subp. 7 Pipelines](#), the EQB is the designated RGU assigned to prepare the EAW for the proposed project.

**Project Description:** Rochester International Airport (RST) is proposing to reconstruct and extend Runway 2/20 by 1,647 feet to the south, while shortening it by 595 feet on the north end, to allow RST to maintain uninterrupted operational capability. An existing petroleum pipeline, owned by BP, traverses airport property. Because of this, the runway does not comply with current FAA design standards. Thus, the pipeline will be relocated outside of existing and future airport property prior to the runway extension.

#### **What is the process for redesignation?**

- A notice of RGU redesignation is published for one week in the *EQB Monitor*.
- Any Board member may request a full Board review of the redesignation within one week of being published in the *EQB Monitor*.
  - A Board member may be contacted by a member of the public to make the request for full Board review on their behalf.
- If no requests are received at the end of the notice period, the EQB chair will make the redesignation of RGU for the proposed project.
- If a request for review by the full Board is received, the RGU redesignation will be placed on the next Board meeting agenda.

**Deadline for request of full Environmental Quality Board review:** March 2, 2021

The redesignation of the RGU for the Rochester International Airport will be made by the EQB chair on March 3, 2021, unless any Board member on behalf of the public requests a full review by the Board. To request a review by the full Board, contact EQB members. Visit [EQB's website](#) for contact information.

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## Environmental Assessment Worksheet

### 319 - 333 E Superior St, Duluth MN

**Comment Deadline:** March 25, 2021

**Project Description:** The project involves the demolition of three buildings in downtown Duluth at the southwest corner of Superior St E and N 4th Ave E that will be replaced by a 15-story mixed-use complex. The complex will house retail space on the first and second floors and 200 apartments including three townhome units. The new facility will provide parking for the three townhome units and a loading zone. Additional parking spaces have been secured in a parking ramp on an adjoining property.

**Link to Document:** <https://duluthmn.gov/planning-development/environmental/environmental-assessment-worksheets/>

**Public Meeting Date:** March 9, 2021

**Public Meeting Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Public Meeting Location Name and Address:** WebEx virtual meeting, <https://duluthmn.gov>

**RGU:** City of Duluth

**RGU Contact:** Adam Fulton, 218-730-5580, [planning@duluthmn.gov](mailto:planning@duluthmn.gov)

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## Alternative Urban Areawide Review Update Adoption

### Opus Study Area

**Adoption Date:** February 8, 2021

**Project Description:** The Opus Study Area is approximately 580 acres located in the southeastern corner of the City of Minnetonka that is general bounded by TH 62 and the City of Eden Prairie to the south, TH 169 and the City of Edina to the east, Smetana Road and the City of Hopkins to the north, and Shady Oak Road (Hennepin County Road 61) and the western edge of Section 36 to the west. The Opus AUAR includes the review of two development scenarios. Scenario 1 is generally consistent with the City's 2040 Comprehensive

Plan and Scenario 2 reflects land use development that is more intense than Scenario 1 and that would be supported by the construction of the Opus Station of the Green Line Light Rail Transit (LRT). The draft AUAR was published in the October 26, 2020 EQB Monitor and the final AUAR was published in the December 28, 2020 EQB Monitor. See the full AUAR for a description of each scenario's type and intensity of development.

**Link to Document:** <https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/services/projects/development-studies/opus-auar-study>

**RGU:** City of Minnetonka

**RGU Contact:** Rob Hanson, 952-939-8234, [rhanson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rhanson@minnetonkamn.gov)

## General Notice

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

**KWS Seeds, LLC** filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-05**. Notification is for genetically modified **SUGARBEET**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **AUTH - 0000100216**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Chippewa-1 location with 35 acres; Clay-2 locations with 160 and 15 acres, respectively; Kandiyohi-1 location with 10 acres, Norman-1 location with 210 acres; Polk-2 locations with 70 and 300 acres, respectively; Renville-1 location with 5 acres.** Project categories include **HR (Herbicide Resistance)**.

For additional information contact Denise Thiede, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-402-3149, [denise.thiede@state.mn.us](mailto:denise.thiede@state.mn.us).

\*Links to environmental review documents were provided by the RGU. In the event that the link does not work, you may contact the RGU directly to request either a paper or electronic copy of the documents. If you are not able to connect with the RGU, please email EQB staff at [Env.Review@state.mn.us](mailto:Env.Review@state.mn.us), call 651.757.2873, or visit our [website](#).\*

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