

EQB Monitor

Weekly announcements and environmental review notices

Volume 47, Number 2

January 10, 2023

Announcements

Environmental Quality Board meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 1 – 4 p.m.

Join us virtually for the January Environmental Quality Board meeting. At this meeting, the board will hear an overview of the EQB budget and workplan for the first half of 2023, and an overview of the budget request for a Minnesota-based emissions assessment tool and guidance to support implementation of the EAW process. The board will also hear a process update in regard to the environmental review continuous improvement effort. More information about the meeting, including the meeting packet and Webex link, can be found on the board meeting [webpage](#).

Share your ideas for enhancing Minnesota's Environmental Review Program

We are developing a new process for identifying and prioritizing Environmental Review Program improvement initiatives and we want to hear from you. Visit our [engagement platform](#) to share your ideas for program improvement and learn more about our continuous improvement effort. The online forum closes Friday, February 17.

Apply now for EQB environmental review planner position

We are hiring to fill the environmental review planner position. This position carries out the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board's authorities and oversight of the state's Environmental Review Program and manages and assesses the data generated by the program. Application deadline is January 11.

Find more information and apply on the State of Minnesota's [Careers website](#) (Job ID #61709).



New environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) form

The EQB chair formally approved updates to the EAW form that incorporates climate information. This means all responsible governmental units are required to use the new form for project reviews that began after December 14, 2022. Look for the new EAW form and applicable resources and guidance on the [Climate assessments and environmental review](#) and [Guidance for practitioners and proposers](#) webpages.

Environmental Review Program: Ombuds pilot

The Environmental Quality Board is excited to announce the start of an ombuds pilot to provide guidance and support for navigating the incorporation of climate assessments into environmental documents. Denise Wilson will serve as the Environmental Quality Board ombuds for the duration of this pilot, which will last six months (January to June 2023). Visit the [Ombuds Pilot website](#) to learn more about the EQB's ombuds role and to contact Denise.

REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTICES



Environmental review project notices

EQB publishes environmental review notices provided by responsible governmental units. For more information on a project undergoing environmental review, click on the individual project links below. You can also find information about active projects in your community on the [Environmental Review Projects Interactive Map](#).

Kandiyohi County CP 119-20

Location: Willmar, Kandiyohi County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW)

Step: EAW available

End of comment period: February 9, 2023

Project description: County Road 119 will be reconstructed beginning at US Highway 71 and heading east to County State Aid Highway No. 3. Six extremely sharp curves will be eliminated and replaced with two 55 mph curves. Existing timber bridge 94107 will be replaced with double 12'x9' concrete box culverts (Bridge 34J43).

Link to public documents: [Kandiyohi County CP 119-20 EAW](#)

Location of public documents: Kandiyohi County Public Works Facility, 1801 East Hwy 12, Willmar, MN 56201

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Kandiyohi County, [Jeremy Pfeifer](#), 320-235-3266

Minnewawa Lodge Renovation

Location: Nisswa, Crow Wing County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet

Step: Environmental impact statement (EIS) need decision

Responsible governmental unit decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Responsible governmental unit decision date: 08/17/2021

Link to public documents: No link to documents provided. See responsible governmental unit contact information below.

Location of public documents: Nisswa City Hall, 5442 City Hall Street, Nisswa, MN 56468

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Nisswa, [Bethany Soderlund](#), 218-963-4444

Sacred Heart School Demolition

Location: Sacred Heart, Renville County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet

Step: Environmental impact statement (EIS) need decision

Responsible governmental unit decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Responsible governmental unit decision date: 12/19/2022

Link to public documents: No link to documents provided. See responsible governmental unit contact information below.

Location of public documents: Sacred Heart City Hall, 309 1st Avenue, Sacred Heart, MN 56285

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Sacred Heart, [Amy Hubbard](#), 320-765-2559

Additional Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

Location: Monticello, Wright County

Process: Environmental impact statement (EIS)

Step: Final EIS

End of comment period: January 25, 2023

Project description: Xcel Energy is requesting to store additional spent nuclear fuel at the Monticello nuclear plant sufficient to extend the operating life of the plant by 10 years – from 2030 to 2040. This additional storage requires installation of a second concrete support pad within the plant’s existing independent spent fuel storage installation. A modular concrete storage system would be placed on the new concrete pad. Xcel Energy indicates that spent fuel would be stored in steel canisters, with the canisters then being placed in the concrete storage system. Xcel Energy estimates that approximately 14 additional spent fuel storage canisters will be needed for operations through 2040.

Link to public documents: [Additional Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Final EIS](#)

Location of public documents: Monticello Public Library, 200 West 6th St., Monticello, MN 55362

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Department of Commerce, [Ray Kirsch](#), 651-539-1841

Submit a notice to the *EQB Monitor*

The *EQB Monitor* is published every Tuesday at noon. Submissions to the [EQB Monitor](#) are due by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday one week prior to the intended publication date. Please see the [EQB Monitor schedule](#) for more details.

To submit a notice for publication:

[Use the EQB Monitor submission form](#)

Questions? Contact EQB by phone at 651-757-2873 or email us at EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us.

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](#) or contact us at env.review@state.mn.us.



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