

EQB Monitor

EQB announcements and Environmental review notices

Volume 46, Number 4

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EQB announcement

Registration open for participation in Climate Change and Environmental Review Pilot Program

EQB is seeking local responsible governmental units (RGUs) and consultants interested in participating in a pilot program that will assess the efficiency and effectiveness of climate information by testing a draft revised Environmental Assessment Worksheet. Participants will benefit from shared learning as well as training provided by technical experts.

Registration is open to all RGUs and consultants, regardless of whether you are actively reviewing a project. This cohort-based program will begin in early 2022. [Register now!](#)

If you are not eligible to register, but would like to receive updates about the Pilot Program, please [sign-up here](#).

Environmental review 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](#).

Proposed Lorentz-Schleining gravel mine project

Location: Fairmont Township, Martin County

Process: Citizen Petition

Step: Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) Assigned

RGU and Contact: Martin County, [Elliot Belgard](#), 507-236-1173

Proposed Gun Lake Family Campground

Location: Fleming Township, Aitkin County

Process: Citizen Petition

Step: RGU Assigned

RGU and Contact: Aitkin County, [Jessica Seibert](#), 218-927-7276

Proposed Ulland Brothers-Klitzke Project

Location: Lansing Township, Mower County

Process: Citizen Petition

Step: Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) Need Decision

RGU Decision: Negative (no EAW ordered)

Record of Decision Date: January 18, 2022

Link to Public Documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

RGU and Contact: Lansing Township, [Duane Mortensen](#), 507-438-1278

Starbuck Marina Project

Location: Starbuck, Pope County

Process: EAW

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: February 24, 2022

Project Description: The Starbuck Marina Project consists of the installation and operation a commercial marina expandable to accommodate 72 boat slips, located in Lakeshore Park in Starbuck, MN along the shore of Lake Minnewaska.

Link to Public Documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

Location of Public Documents: Starbuck City Hall, 307 East 5th Street, Starbuck, MN 56381

RGU and Contact: City of Starbuck, [Joan Kerkvliet](#), 320-239-2525

Frontier Project

Location: Cohasset, Itasca County

Process: EAW

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: February 24, 2022

Project Description: The proposed Frontier Project is a 750,000 square-foot oriented strand board (OSB) manufacturing facility which would occupy approximately 159 acres of agricultural and undeveloped lands west of the City of Cohasset. One new rail spur would be constructed to an existing rail line along U.S. Highway 2. The rail spur will support raw material deliveries and product shipments, in addition to those made by road transport. New utilities would be constructed to service the new facility.

Link to Public Documents: [Frontier Project EAW](#)

Location of Public Documents: Cohasset City Hall, 305 Northwest 1st Avenue,

Cohasset, MN 55721

RGU and Contact: City of Cohasset, [Max Peters](#), 218-326-6225

Prairie Meadows 3rd Addition Development Project

Location: Big Lake, Sherburne County

Process: EAW

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: February 24, 2022

Project Description: Cavaliera Homes proposes a 75 mixed unit residential development, which includes 22 twin homes and 53 town homes on approximately 14.67 acres of brushland and grassland in the City of Big Lake, Sherburne County, Minnesota. The homes will be served with public utilities and will utilize infiltration with storm water ponding. The site is situated on the east side of Prairie Drive approximately 500 feet north of Marketplace Drive.

Link to Public Documents: [Prairie Meadows 3rd Addition Development Project EAW](#)

Location of Public Documents: Great River Regional Library, 1300 W. St. Germain Street, St. Cloud, MN 56301-3667

RGU and Contact: City of Big Lake, [Lucinda Spanier](#), 763-251-2977

CSAH 35 Reconstruction (SAP 056-635-038)

Location: Sverdrup Township, Otter Tail County

Process: EAW

Step: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Need Decision

RGU Decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Record of Decision Date: January 11, 2022

Link to Public Documents: [CSAH 35 Reconstruction EIS Need Decision](#)

Location of Public Documents: Otter Tail County Highway Department, 505 South Court Street, Suite 1, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

RGU and Contact: Otter Tail County, [Craig Tschida](#), 218-770-8470

Lake Shamineau High Water Outlet Project

Location: Scandia Valley Township in Morrison County, Fawn Lake Township in Todd County

Process: EAW

Step: EIS Need Decision

RGU Decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Record of Decision Date: January 17, 2022

Link to Public Documents: No link to documents provided. See RGU contact information below.

Location of Public Documents: Scandia Valley Town Hall, 3518 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443

RGU and Contact: Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District, [Rick Rosar](#), 612-709-6402

Big Bend Wind Project, Associated Transmission Line, and Red Rock Solar Project

Location: Cottonwood, Martin, and Watonwan Counties

Process: Alternative Review

Notice Title: Notice of Environmental Assessment Availability, Public Hearings, and Comment Period

Notice Description: The Public Utilities Commission will hold in-person public hearings and a remote-access public hearing on the applications of Big Bend Wind, LLC and Red Rock Solar, LLC, both affiliates of Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC for two certificates of need, a LWECS Site Permit, a Solar Site Permit, and an HVTL Route Permit. The Department of Commerce has completed and made available an Environmental Assessment for the proposed projects being considered for need and permitting by the Commission.

Project Description: The amended Big Bend Wind Project will generate up to 300 MW of electricity with 45 to 47 turbines, gravel access roads, underground and/or above ground electrical collection and communication lines, one O&M facility, a project substation, up to one meteorological tower, a SODAR or LIDAR unit, up to four Aircraft Detection Lighting System radars, and one temporary batch plant area. The Red Rock Solar Project will generate up-to 60 MW solar energy on approximately 483 acres of land in Cottonwood County. The facility will include photovoltaic panels installed on a tracking rack system, electrical inverters, an electrical collection system, fencing, access roads, up to three weather stations, a project substation, and 10 stormwater drainage basins. A 161 kV transmission line will interconnect the Big Bend Wind and Red Rock Solar Projects to the transmission grid. The proposed HVTL will be located in Cottonwood, Watonwan, and Martin Counties.

Link to Public Documents:

<https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/eera/web/project/14153>

Location of Public Documents: Mountain Lake Public Library, 1054 Fourth Ave, Mountain Lake, MN 56159

First Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: February 1, 2022, 2:00 PM, Windom Community Center, 1750 Cottonwood Lake Drive, Windom, MN 56101

First Public Meeting Additional Details: The public hearings will be presided over by the Honorable James E. LaFave, Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings. The purposes of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed projects, including on the Draft Site Permit for Big Bend Wind, issuance of a route permit for the Big Bend HVTL Project, and the issuance of a site permit for Red Rock Solar. Comments can also be provided on the Environmental Assessment, and Interested persons are welcome to ask questions of the project applicants and agency staff during the public hearings. The hearings will conclude when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been completed, or by 9 p.m., whichever occurs first. Written comments will also be accepted through February 22, 2022 at 4:30 pm, and can be submitted in any of the options as follows: Online: mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments, and follow the instructions. Email: publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. US Mail: Public Advisor, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7th Place East, Suite 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101 eFiling: Visit <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments/>, and follow the prompts.

Second Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: February 1, 2022, 6:00 PM, Windom Community Center, 1750 Cottonwood Lake Drive, Windom, MN 56101

Second Public Meeting Additional Details: The public hearings will be presided over by the Honorable James E. LaFave, Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings. The purposes of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed projects, including on the Draft Site Permit for Big Bend Wind, issuance of a route permit for the Big Bend HVTL Project, and the issuance of a site permit for Red Rock Solar. Comments can also be provided on the Environmental Assessment, and Interested persons are welcome to ask questions of the project applicants and agency staff during the public hearings. The hearings will conclude when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been completed, or by 9 p.m., whichever occurs first. Written comments will also be accepted through February 22, 2022 at 4:30 pm, and can be submitted in any of the options as follows: Online: mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments, and follow the instructions. Email: publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us. US Mail: Public Advisor, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7th Place East, Suite 350 Saint Paul, MN 55101 eFiling: Visit <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments/>, and follow the prompts.

Third Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: February 1, 2022, 6:00 PM, remotely

Third Public Meeting Virtual Link: minnesota.webex.com

Third Public Meeting Additional Details: The virtual hearing can be accessed by Telephone: 1-855-282-6330 or by web at <https://minnesota.webex.com/>. The event password, if needed is MPUC1, and the event number and access code are 2498 887 0085.

RGU and Contact: Public Utilities Commission, [Bret Eknes](mailto:Bret.Eknes@puc.state.mn.us), 651-201-2236

Submit an environmental review notice to the *Monitor*

The *EQB Monitor* is published every Tuesday at 12:00 pm. Submissions to the [EQB Monitor](#) are due by 4:00 pm 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.



Email us: Env.review@state.mn.us | Call: 651-757-2873



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