

EQB Monitor

EQB announcements and Environmental review notices

Volume 46, Number 1

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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 Loon Lake Resort Expansion

Location: Vergas, Otter Tail County

Process: Citizen Petition

Step: Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) Need Decision

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) Decision: Negative (no EAW ordered)

Record of Decision Date: December 21, 2021

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

RGU and Contact: Otter Tail County, [Christopher LeClair](#), 218-998-8105

Eveleth Manual Training School

Location: Eveleth, St. Louis County

Process: EAW

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: February 3, 2022

Project Description: The Manual Training School (MTS) located in Eveleth, Minnesota (City) was utilized from 1914 to 1998 as the first building in Minnesota dedicated for use by manual arts training. After the building was deemed unsafe, Independent School District No. 2909, Rock Ridge Public Schools (ISD 2909) is proposing its demolition.

Link to Public Documents: [Eveleth Manual Training School EAW](#)

Location of Public Documents: Eveleth City Hall, 413 Pierce Street, Eveleth, MN 55734

RGU and Contact: City of Eveleth, [Jackie Monahan-Junek](#), 218-744-7444

Cates Industrial Park

Location: Medina, Hennepin County

Process: EAW

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: February 3, 2022

Project Description: The Cates Family owns three parcels of approximately 68.9 acres of agricultural land located north of Highway 55 at Chippewa Road and Willow Drive in Medina. There is an existing farmstead and associated structures on the site. The proposed project consists of a total of approximately 664,500 square feet of office/warehouse uses on the site. Development would include new infrastructure, including water service, sewer, stormwater, streets, and utilities. All of these new services would be extensions to existing infrastructure or upgrading existing systems to support the new land development.

Link to Public Documents: [Cates Industrial Park EAW](#)

Location of Public Documents: Medina City Hall, 2052 County Road 24, Medina, MN 55340

RGU and Contact: City of Medina, [Dusty Finke](#), 763-473-8846

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Additional Dry Cask Storage

Location: Monticello, Wright County

Process: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Step: EIS Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision

End of Comment Period: February 9, 2022

Project Description: The Monticello nuclear generating plant (MNGP) is a 671

megawatt electric generating plant in Monticello, Minn. Spent nuclear fuel from the plant is stored on site in the MNGP ISFSI. Xcel Energy proposes to extend the operating life of the MNGP to 2040. To accommodate the additional spent nuclear fuel associated with this extension, Xcel Energy proposes to expand storage within the MNGP ISFSI. This additional storage requires installation of a second concrete support pad within the existing ISFSI. Additionally, a modular concrete storage system will be placed on the new concrete pad. Xcel Energy indicates that spent fuel will be stored in welded canisters; approximately 14 additional spent fuel storage canisters will be needed for operations through 2040.

Link to Public Documents: [Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Additional Dry Cask Storage Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Documents](#)

Location of Public Documents: Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, St. Paul, MN 55101

First Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: January 25, 2022, 6 p.m. Monticello Community Center, 505 Walnut St., Monticello, MN 55362

First Public Meeting Additional Details: The same information will be presented at both meetings. Masks are recommended for the in-person meeting. Public meetings are not open-house style meetings; we recommend that you arrive by the meeting start time. Attendees will have the opportunity to enter comments into the record. A public comment period will extend past the meeting dates to allow for written comments. Department of Commerce staff will preside over the meeting. Department staff, as well as staff from Xcel Energy, will be available to answer questions about the environmental review process and the project. Meetings will conclude after everyone who wishes to offer comments has had an opportunity to speak.

Second Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: January 26, 2022, 6 p.m., virtual meeting

Second Public Meeting Virtual Link: tinyurl.com/239pm3c6

RGU and Contact: Department of Commerce, [Ray Kirsch](#), 651-539-1841

General Notice

Notices published in this section may be required under Minnesota Statute or Rule.

Notice of Permit Decision

Notice Description: Notice of Permit Decision in the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company for a Route Permit for the Frazee to Erie 115 kV Transmission Line Project in Becker and Otter Tail Counties, Minnesota. Docket No. E017/ ET2/TL-20-423. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in an order issued December 17, 2021, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission: (i) found that the environmental assessment prepared by the Department of Commerce and the record created at the

public hearing addressed the issues identified in the scoping decision; and (ii) issued a route permit to Great River Energy and Otter Tail Power Company for its Frazee to Erie 115 kV Transmission Line in Becker and Otter Tail counties, Minnesota. Questions about this project may be directed to Charley Bruce at charley.bruce@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251.

Contact: [Charley Bruce](#), Minnesota Department of Commerce, 651-201-2251

Link to additional information: [Additional Information](#)

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.



MINNESOTA

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