

# EQB Monitor

Weekly announcements and environmental review notices

Volume 46, Number 24

June 14, 2022

## Announcements

### Pollinator Week Kickoff Event Cancelled

The Environmental Quality Board, the Department of Natural Resources and Dakota County are sad to announce that the Pollinator Week kickoff event scheduled for Wednesday June 15 is cancelled due to bad weather.



Photo by Laura Marti

We are sorry we won't be able to kick off 2022 Pollinator Week. However, we want to assure Minnesotans of our continued commitment to protect pollinators in our state.

You can learn more about our efforts and how you can get involved on our [pollinator website](#).

### Considerations for responsible governmental units when creating an administrative record

*Climate Change and Environmental Review Speaker Series*

**Thursday, June 23, 10 – 11 a.m.**

[Join online](#)

Join a panel discussion of experienced legal practitioners that will share their perspectives on historic legal challenges, lessons learned from the administrative records of recent legal challenges and considerations when creating an effective administrative record. Featuring:

- Robert Roche - Assistant Ramsey County Attorney and former Assistant Attorney General for Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
- Colin O'Donovan - Assistant Attorney General, Office of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison
- Jean Coleman - Senior Attorney, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Throughout the [Climate Change and Environmental Review Pilot Program](#), EQB is hosting a monthly speaker series open to anyone that will feature presentations by technical experts about incorporating climate information into environmental assessment worksheets.

## **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](#).

## 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](#).

**We need your feedback:** Some governmental units are completing environmental review using the draft revised environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) form that includes information about greenhouse gases and climate change. These reviews are noted below with a star (\*) in front of the project title. Help us understand the usefulness of the climate change information in these EAWs by completing a [brief survey](#). Your feedback is important to the Environmental Quality Board and will inform decision making on the final EAW form.

## **Kenneth Gruenes Farm**

**Location:** Richmond, Stearns County

**Process:** Petition

**Step:** Responsible governmental unit correction

**Notice description:** In the June 7, 2022 *EQB Monitor*, Stearns County was designated as the responsible governmental unit assigned to make the decision on the need for an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) for the Kenneth Gruenes Farm petition. Based on additional information, and in accordance with Minnesota Rules, chapter 4410.0500, the EQB has determined the Pollution Control Agency is the appropriate governmental unit to decide the need for an EAW.

**Responsible governmental unit and contact:** Pollution Control Agency, [Dan Card](#), 651-757-2261

## **Trunk Highway (TH) 11: Roseau to Warroad Improvements**

**Location:** Roseau and Warroad, Roseau County

**Process:** Environmental assessment worksheet

**Step:** Environmental assessment worksheet available

**Joint federal and state review:** Yes

**End of comment period:** July 14, 2022

**Project description:** The preferred alternative consists of a bituminous reclamation of TH 11 from the east city limits of Roseau (17th Avenue NE) to TH 313 in Warroad, including realigning 1.3 miles of TH 11 south of the Roseau Municipal Airport and reconstructing TH 11 from 550th Avenue to 570th Avenue, west of Warroad, to a three-lane section.

**Link to public documents:** [TH 11: Roseau to Warroad Improvements EA/EAW](#)

**Location of public documents:** Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau, MN 56751

**First public meeting date, time, location:** June 29, 2022, 5 p.m., Roseau Civic Center, 121 Center Street East, Roseau, MN 56751

**Responsible governmental unit and contact:** Minnesota Department of Transportation, [Jim Bittmann](#), 218-407-5893

## **\*East Gateway Development**

**Location:** Minneapolis, Hennepin County

**Process:** Alternative urban areawide review

**Step:** Final order of review

**Project description:** The AUAR study area encompasses 24 parcels on approximately 12 acres in the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. The study area is bounded to the north by University Avenue Southeast, Oak Street Southeast and Ontario Street Southeast to the west, Delaware Street Southeast to the south, and Huron Boulevard Southeast to the east. The study area currently includes residential and commercial property and a stormwater basin. Two development scenarios are proposed for evaluation in the AUAR, described in Table 1. Scenario 1 represents the density of the development proposed within the AUAR study area. Scenario 2 represents a higher density development based on the City's Transit 30 Built Form district, which calls for building heights of 10 to 30 stories. All buildings in Scenario 2 are assumed to be 20 stories, except those that are proposed to be more than 20 stories in Scenario 1; these are assumed to be 30 stories in Scenario 2.

**Link to public documents:** [East Gateway Development final order of review](#)

**Location of public documents:** Public Service Building, 505 4th Avenue South, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55415

**Responsible governmental unit and contact:** City of Minneapolis, [Hilary Dvorak](#), 612-673-2639

## **137 Line Extension Transmission Line**

**Location:** Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt, Saint Louis County

**Process:** Alternative review

**Notice title:** Notice of Permit Decision

**Notice description:** On May 23, 2022 the City of Hoyt Lakes City Council determined that the environmental assessment adequately addressed potential environmental effects of the 137 Line Extension transmission line project and issued a conditional use permit to Minnesota Power. The permit authorizes construction of approximately 8 miles of new 115 kV line between the existing Mesaba Junction Switching Station and the Peter Mitchell Mine. The City of Hoyt Lakes conducted a local review and permit process as is allowed under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216-E.05. The City conducted a public hearing on April 19, 2022 and accepted written comments until May 3, 2022. The comments received were included in letters from the MPCA dated May 3, 2022 and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources dated May 3, 2022, including request that the City review an alternative route. The City reviewed the alternative route and found it did not reduce environmental effects.

**Project description:** The proposed 137 Line Extension 115 kV Project is a 115 kV High

Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) in the City of Hoyt Lakes and the City of Babbitt. Approximately 3 miles of new 115 kV line will be constructed along the existing 1 Line transmission line corridor and approximately 5 miles of new corridor will be constructed. This will extend the existing 137 Line 115 kV Line from the Peter Mitchell Mine to the Mesaba Junction Switching Station.

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

**Location of public documents:** Hoyt Lakes City Hall, 206 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750

**Responsible governmental unit and contact:** City of Hoyt Lakes, [Becky Lammi](#), 218-225-2344

## Environmental review general notices

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

### Notice of Public Meetings and Comment Period - Rochester Pipeline Relocation Project

**Notice description:** On March 29, 2022, BP Midwest Product Pipelines Holdings, LLC (BPMW) filed an application for a route permit and partial exemption from certain pipeline routing permit procedures with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Project, as proposed, will include the relocation of a segment of BPMW's Dubuque to Twin Cities 10-inch finished products (gasoline and diesel) pipeline to allow for the reconstruction of Runway 2/20 at the Rochester International Airport (Airport or RST). BPMW is proposing to reroute approximately 10,171-feet of pipeline to accommodate and support the expansion of the Airport runway. The proposed pipeline relocation route will extend south, around the RST Project area, and outside the FAA runway projection zone.

**Link to additional information:** [Public Information Meeting - Rochester Pipeline Relocation Project](#)

**First public meeting date, time, location:** June 27, 2022, 6 p.m., Rochester Event Center, 7333 Airport View Drive SW, Rochester, MN 55902

**First public meeting additional details:** BPMW filed its application under the Commission's partial exemption review process. The partial exemption review process is applicable to pipeline projects that are not anticipated to have significant environmental impacts. The partial exemption process is outlined in Minn. Rule 7852.0600 and applications are reviewed under the evaluation criteria outlined in Minn. Rule 7852.0700. The Commission will decide whether to grant or deny the partial exemption based upon public comments received, the information in the record, and the criteria set

forth in Minnesota Rule 7852.0700, Subp. 3. If the Commission does not grant the partial exemption, BPMW may submit its application pursuant to the Commission's full pipeline route selection procedures. The public information meeting is intended to inform the public about the permitting process, to compile information to assist the Commission in determining whether to grant or deny the partial exemption application, and to afford an opportunity for members of the public to submit comments. In deciding whether to grant or deny the partial exemption, the Commission will consider comments filed, the information contained in the application, and the record as a whole relevant to the criteria for a partial exemption. If the Commission grants a partial exemption, it will issue a pipeline route permit. A final decision is anticipated in approximately 90 days. The Public Comment Period for the project will remain open until July 26, 2022, at 4:30 PM. Comments may be submitted via: Online: Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc) select Comment and follow the prompts. Email: [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) U.S. Mail: Public Advisor – Minnesota Public Utilities Commission 121 7th Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101 A copy of the route permit application is also available at the following public library: • Rochester Public Library, 101 2nd SE, Rochester, MN 55904.

**Second public meeting date, time, location:** June 28, 2022, 6 p.m., virtual

**Second public meeting virtual link:** <https://minnesota.webex.com/>

**Second public meeting additional details:** WebEx Link: <https://minnesota.webex.com> WebEx (Meeting) Number: 2495 240 7195 WebEx Password: MNPUC Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free Access Code: 2495 240 7195 If you are joining the meeting by WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press \*3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments. Additional information and instructions are available at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

**Contact:** [Cezar Panait](#), Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 651-201-2207

## Other general notices

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

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

**Notice description:** University of Minnesota filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 21-NO-35. Notification is for genetically modified SOYBEAN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release in the following permit identified as AUTH - 0000213800. The

counties identified for release include the following: Ramsey-1 site with 0.3 acres. Project categories include AP (Agronomic Performance), OO (Other), and MG (Marker Gene). For additional information contact Denise Thiede.

**Contact:** [Denise Thiede](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531

## Submit an environmental review notice to the *EQB Monitor*

The *EQB Monitor* is published every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m. 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](mailto: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](mailto:env.review@state.mn.us).



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