

The *EQB Monitor*

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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](#).

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In this publication:

- [EQB Announcements](#)
- [Citizen Petition](#)
- [Environmental Assessment Worksheets](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions](#)
- [General Notices](#)

EQB Announcements

Climate Change & Environmental Review: We are listening!

The EQB is hosting the first of two Listening Sessions virtually on March 17th from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. The Listening Sessions provide opportunities to engage with staff and other participants on proposed changes to Minnesota's Environmental Review Program to integrate climate information. For more details about this meeting, the proposed changes, as well as other opportunities to provide feedback, please visit the [Climate Change and Environmental Review webpage](#).



Deadline extended to March 10! 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 Wednesday, March 10, 2021**. All activities will be held virtually, and a \$500 stipend is offered.

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.

Public Survey on Pollinator Protection in Minnesota

The Interagency Pollinator Protection Team (IPPT) wants to thank everyone that have already responded and shared the [Pollinator Survey](#). The IPPT will use your feedback to shape future pollinator annual reports, to identify new opportunities for action and to engage with Minnesotans to advance pollinator protection in our state.



The survey will be open until March 12. Help us continue to spread the word!

If you find it more convenient, you can send written feedback on the 2020 Minnesota State Agency Pollinator Annual Report directly to the State Pollinator Coordinator, Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno by email at rebeca.gutierrez@state.mn.us.

We appreciate your participation!



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 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](#).

Apply now to be an Environmental Quality Board member

The application is open for a Public Board Member position representing Minnesota's Congressional District 6. This district spans parts of Benton, Carver, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright, Anoka and Washington counties, including cities such as Saint Cloud, Big Lake, Hugo, and Waconia.



Serving on the Environmental Quality Board is a unique opportunity to shape environmental issues in Minnesota. Public Board Members bring the voices of Minnesotans from around the state into decision making, helping the Board think in new ways about environmental challenges and solutions.

To learn more, visit the Environmental Quality Board's [Join the Board](#) page. The position is open until filled, and begins in January 2022.

Citizen Petition

The following petition has been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

Petition Title: Border to Border Touring Route

Responsible Governmental Unit: Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

SKB Environmental Industrial Waste Disposal Facility Expansion, Rosemount

Comment Deadline: April 8, 2021

Project Description: SKB Environmental, Inc. (SKB) is proposing to expand the SKB Rosemount Industrial Waste Disposal Facility. The Facility is located at 13425 Courthouse Boulevard within sections 19, 20, and 29, Township 115N, Range 18W, Dakota County, Minnesota. There are currently multiple disposal areas at the Facility that receive different waste streams, which include demolition debris, industrial waste, and municipal solid waste combustor ash disposal. The expansion areas would receive only industrial waste and construction and demolition debris (C&D). SKB is proposing to increase the industrial waste and C&D landfill capacity by expanding onto 113 acres of adjacent land immediately east of the current landfill disposal area as well as in the area where the current office and scale are located. The two expansion areas will together provide approximately 19,500,000 cubic yards of disposal capacity. Although detailed development plans are not included as part of this project, a future business park is proposed for development on 50 acres east of the landfill.

Link to Document: No link provided. See RGU contact information below.

RGU: City of Rosemount

RGU Contact: Kyle Klatt, 651-322-2052, kyle.klatt@ci.rosemount.mn.us

Gertens Greenhouse Expansion

Comment Deadline: April 8, 2021

Project Description: The project is an expansion of the existing nursery operation to include the construction of two new greenhouses consisting of 313,272 square feet, plus the addition of a truck maneuvering area and loading dock. Stormwater basins will be constructed to account for stormwater treatment of the site.

Link to Document: <https://wsbeng.sharefile.com/d-s418a18ca2ab046e1a7396af9ee68ec9e>

RGU: Denmark Township

RGU Contact: Kathy Higgins, 651-437-2980, higg5@msn.com

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental units have determined the following projects do not require preparation of Environmental Impact Statements.

Vermillion River Aquatic Management Area: Streambank Stabilization

Decision: Negative, March 1, 2021

Link to Document: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/vermillion-river-stream-stabilization/index.html>

RGU: Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact: Anneka Munsell, 651-259-5671, anneka.munsell@state.mn.us

Hoot Lake Solar Project

Decision: Negative, March 1, 2021

Link to Document: www.ci.fergus-falls.mn.us

RGU: City of Fergus Falls

RGU Contact: Brian Yavarow, 218-332-5413, Brian.Yavarow@ci.fergus-falls.mn.us

General Notices

Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-06**. Notification is for genetically modified **SOYBEAN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-005-103rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 195 acres**. Project categories include **AP(Agronomic Performance)**, **FR (Fungal Resistance)**, **HT(Herbicide Tolerance)**, **IR(Insect Resistance)**, **MG(Marker Gene)**, **OO(Other)**, and **PQ(Product Quality)**.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-07**. Notification is for genetically modified **SOYBEAN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-005-105rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 195 acres**. Project categories include **AP(Agronomic Performance), FR (Fungal Resistance), HT(Herbicide Tolerance), IR(Insect Resistance), MG(Marker Gene), OO(Other), and PQ(Product Quality)**.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-08**. Notification is for genetically modified **SOYBEAN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-005-107rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 195 acres**. Project categories include **HT(Herbicide Tolerance), IR(Insect Resistance), MG(Marker Gene), and OO(Other)**.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-09**. Notification is for genetically modified **SOYBEAN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-005-108rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 195 acres**. Project categories include **HT(Herbicide Tolerance), IR(Insect Resistance), MG(Marker Gene), and OO(Other)**.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-10**. Notification is for genetically modified **SOYBEAN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-005-109rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 195 acres**. Project categories include **AP(Agronomic Performance), FR (Fungal Resistance), HT(Herbicide Tolerance), IR(Insect Resistance), MG(Marker Gene), OO(Other), and PQ(Product Quality)**.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-11**. Notification is for genetically modified **SOYBEAN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-005-110rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 195 acres**. Project categories include **AP(Agronomic Performance), FR (Fungal Resistance), HT(Herbicide Tolerance), IR(Insect Resistance), MG(Marker Gene), OO(Other), and PQ(Product Quality)**.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-12**. Notification is for genetically modified **SOYBEAN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-005-111rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 195 acres**. Project categories include **AP(Agronomic Performance), FR (Fungal Resistance), HT(Herbicide Tolerance), IR(Insect Resistance), MG(Marker Gene), OO(Other), and PQ(Product Quality)**.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # **21-NO-13**. Notification is for genetically modified **SOYBEAN**, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in Application **21-005-112rm**. The counties identified for release include the following: **Blue Earth-1 location with 195 acres**. Project categories include **AP(Agronomic Performance), FR (Fungal Resistance), HT(Herbicide Tolerance), IR(Insect Resistance), MG(Marker Gene), OO(Other), and PQ(Product Quality)**.

For additional information related to Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms, contact Denise Thiede, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-402-3149, 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, call 651.757.2873, or visit our [website](#).

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