

The *EQB Monitor*

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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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EQB Announcement



Climate and Environmental Review

Summaries of feedback received on the draft recommendations for integrating climate change in the State Environmental Review Program are available on the [EQB's project webpage](#). All feedback will be considered when the Climate Technical Team final recommendations are presented to the Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee (ERIS), currently scheduled for the July ERIS meeting.

Environmental Assessment Worksheet Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit (RGU) has made a decision regarding the need for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) in response to a citizen's petition.

Petition Title: Condor Estates

Decision: Positive (EAW ordered), May 13, 2021

Link to Document: No link to electronic copies of the documents was provided by the RGU. For copies of the documents, see RGU contact information below.

RGU: Rochester Township

RGU Contact: Matthew Kitzman, 507-398-5576, Matt@SSCcleans.com

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Minnesota Riverbank Stabilization at Riverfront Park & WRRF

Comment Deadline: June 24, 2021

Project Description: The City of Mankato proposes to complete bank stabilization measures along the east bank of the Minnesota River at Riverfront Park and along the City's Water Resource Recovery Facility. The proposed design involves construction of an armored riverbank to correct the existing unstable and eroding riverbank and reconstruction of a public canoe landing.

Link to Document: <https://city.mankatomn.gov/streetprojects/map>

RGU: City of Mankato

RGU Contact: Michael McCarty, 507-387-8643, mmccarty@mankatomn.gov

Scanlon Reservoir Sediment Remediation

Comment Deadline: June 24, 2021

Project Description: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will conduct environmental cleanup in the Scanlon Reservoir in the St. Louis River Area of Concern. The objectives are to prevent contaminated sediment exposure to benthic organisms and other aquatic life, to prevent migration of contaminated sediments, and to improve aquatic habitat where feasible. The project consists of applying a 4-inch layer of sand amended with granular activated carbon over sediments in open-water areas, and broadcasting pelletized activated carbon in shallow wetlands areas of the reservoir where sediment contaminants exceed the cleanup criteria.

Link to Document: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/regulations/projects-under-mpca-review>

RGU: Pollution Control Agency

RGU Contact: Patrice Jensen, 651-757-2465, patrice.jensen@state.mn.us

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decision

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Dundee Nursery Redevelopment

Decision: Negative, May 11, 2021

Link to Document: <https://www.plymouthmn.gov/departments/community-development/planning/development-applications/dundee-nursery>

RGU: City of Plymouth

RGU Contact: Lori Summers, 763-509-5457, lsommers@plymouthmn.gov

Alternative Urban Areawide Review Draft

Upper Harbor Terminal

Comment Deadline: June 24, 2021

Project Description: This AUAR studies the proposed Upper Harbor Terminal development located at 3800 1st St N, 2 36th Ave N, 51 36th Ave N, 51 34th Ave N, 3360 1st St N, 3700 Washington Ave N, 3648 Washington Ave N, 3701 Washington Ave N, and 3639 Washington Ave N in Minneapolis. The AUAR study area encompasses an area totaling approximately 53 acres. United Properties, in partnership with First Avenue Productions, the Minneapolis Park

and Recreation Board (MPRB), and the City of Minneapolis, is proposing to redevelop the 53-acre Upper Harbor Terminal site, which was formerly used as a barge shipping terminal and is currently made up of city-owned land and quasi-public entities, including utilities and Canadian Pacific (CP) rail lines. The proposed development would include residential, hospitality, retail/service, office/employment, light industrial, community performing arts center (includes an outdoor amphitheater), and recreational land uses.

Link to Document: <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/business-services/planning-zoning/environmental-assessments-worksheets/>

Location of Documents: City of Minneapolis

Location Address: 505 4th Avenue South, Room 320, Minneapolis, MN 55415

First Public Meeting Date: June 10, 2021

First Public Meeting Time: 6 p.m.

First Public Meeting Location Name and Address: Online

First Link to Public Meeting Online: No link provided. See RGU contact information below.

Second Public Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

Second Public Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m.

Second Public Meeting Location Name and Address: Online

Second Link to Public Meeting Online: No link provided. See RGU contact information below.

Third Public Meeting Date: September 10, 2021

Third Public Meeting Time: 9:30 a.m.

Third Public Meeting Location Name and Address: Online

Third Link to Public Meeting Online: No link provided. See RGU contact information below.

RGU: City of Minneapolis

RGU Contact: Hilary Dvorak, 612-673-2639, hilary.dvorak@minneapolismn.gov

Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Decision Amendment

Grindstone Dam Removal Project

Project Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Grindstone Dam Removal Project (the Project). The EIS will evaluate the Project and several project alternatives, and address their potential environmental effects.

The DNR proposes to remove the dam on the Grindstone River in Hinckley and restore connectivity to the river channel. This would result in the permanent removal of the 26.6-acre Grindstone Reservoir, which is a public water basin. The removal is proposed because the dam is in poor condition, it presents a safety hazard and it is a barrier to passage of fish and other aquatic wildlife on the river. The dam also does not allow for natural sediment transport and natural stream features or habitat diversity.

The DNR distributed a scoping environmental assessment worksheet and draft scoping decision document in October. The DNR held a public scoping meeting in November and accepted public comments.

Following the comment period, the DNR considered comments on the proposed EIS scope and issued a final scoping decision document (FSDD) in December. It identifies project alternatives and issues that will be addressed in the EIS and presents a tentative schedule for EIS completion.

The EIS will address potential environmental effects related to wetlands; hydrology; sediment and contaminants; fish, wildlife and ecologically sensitive resources; geology; groundwater; cumulative potential effects; physical impacts on water resources and riparian rights; and mitigation. A more detailed description of each of these topics can be found in the FSDD, which is available on the [DNR website](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/grindstone/index.html) (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/grindstone/index.html>).

The EIS will evaluate the following alternatives:

- **Proposed Project:** removal of the Grindstone Dam, grade control in the channel in the area of the removed dam, and allowing the river to reform naturally; floodplain restoration.
- **No Action Alternative:** Includes discussion on leaving the current dam in place.
- **Partially engineered restoration:** Includes the same dam removal of the Proposed Project, but rather than letting the river channel naturally restore, this alternative would restore the resultant stream channel with some engineering. The engineered portions of the stream would steer channel formation in a specific pattern and path at key locations. The remainder of the stream would be allowed to naturally restore. This alternative may include some bank stabilization efforts.
- **Partially engineered restoration:** Includes the same dam removal of the Proposed Project, but rather than letting the river channel naturally restore, this alternative would restore the resultant stream channel with full engineering. In this alternative, the resultant stream would be manipulated along much of its distance within the Aquatic Management Area (AMA) to design specifications that would ensure channel stability.

EIS Schedule: The tentative EIS schedule has been updated to reflect current scope of the EIS and the anticipated timelines necessary to complete the EIS and associated studies. The schedule now anticipates the draft EIS publication in December 2021, final EIS publication in March 2022 and determination of EIS adequacy in May 2022.

Link to

Document: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/grindstone/index.html>

RGU: Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact: Becky Horton, 651-259-5122, becky.horton@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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