

Environmental Quality Board

NOTICE OF HEARING

Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing Environmental Review, *Minnesota Rules*, 4410.0200, 4410.0500, 4410.4300, 4410.4400, 4410.5200, 4410.7904, 4410.7906, 4410.7926, 4410.4600; Revisor's ID Number RD-04157; OAH docket number 80-9008-35532

Public Hearing. The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) intends to adopt rules after a public hearing following the procedures in the rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, *Minnesota Rules*, parts 1400.2200 to 1400.2240, and the Administrative Procedure Act, *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 14.131 to 14.20. The agency will hold a public hearing on the above-named rules in Room 100, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, **starting at 1:30pm on Friday, May 31, 2019**, and continuing until the hearing is completed. The hearing (via a video-conference connection) will also be available at:

Brainerd MPCA Office
7678 College Road, Suite 105
Baxter, MN 56425

Detroit Lakes MPCA Office
714 Lake Ave., Suite 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Duluth MPCA Office
525 Lake Ave. S., Suite 400
Duluth, MN 55802

Marshall MPCA Office
504 Fairgrounds Rd., Suite 200
Marshall, MN 56258

Rochester MPCA Office
18 Wood Lake Drive SE
Rochester, MN 55904

In the November 13, 2018, State Register, on pages 531 to 546, and in the December 31, 2018, State Register, on pages 775 to 778, the EQB published a Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules relating to Environmental Review categories. The Notice stated that a hearing would be held on the proposed rules if 25 or more persons submitted written requests for a hearing. In response, the EQB received 177 requests for a hearing. **The hearing(s) on Friday March 8, 2019 and on March 12, 2019 are cancelled** and rescheduled for Friday, May 31, 2019 1:30pm, in Room 100, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN.

The EQB will schedule additional days of hearing if necessary. All interested or affected persons will have an opportunity to participate by submitting either oral or written data, statements, or arguments. Statements may be submitted without appearing at the hearing.

Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judge LauraSue Schlatter will conduct the hearing. The judge can be reached at the Office of Administrative Hearings, 600 North Robert Street, P.O. Box 64620, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620 by fax (651) 539-0310 or by telephone by calling Judge Schlatter's assistant Ian Lewenstein at (651) 361-7857, or by email to

Ian.Lewenstein@state.mn.us. The rule hearing procedure is governed by *Minnesota Statutes*, sections 14.131 to 14.20, and by the rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, *Minnesota Rules*, parts 1400.2000 to 1400.2240. You should direct questions about the rule hearing procedure to the administrative law judge.

Subject of Rules, Statutory Authority, and Agency Contact Person. The proposed rules are about Environmental Review: definitions, RGU selection process, Mandatory EAW Categories, Mandatory EIS categories, Exemptions, Required notices, Licensing of Explorers, Content of an application for drilling permit, Abandonment of Exploratory Borings. The statutory authority to adopt the rules is *Minnesota Statutes, section 116D.04, subdivisions 2a(a), 4a, 5a; Minnesota Statutes 116D.045, subdivision 1; Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 114, Article 4, Section 105; Laws of Minnesota 2015 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 121; Minnesota Statutes 116C.991; Laws of Minnesota 2015 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 5, Section 33.* A copy of the proposed rules was published in the *State Register* on November 13, 2018, *State Registers*, on pages 531 to 546, and is attached to this notice as mailed.

Agency Contact Person. The Environmental Quality Board contact person is:

Erik Cedarleaf Dahl
Environmental Quality Board,
520 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN, 55101,
651-757-2364 (phone), 651-757-2343 (fax), erik.dahl@state.mn.us.

Statement of Need and Reasonableness. The statement of need and reasonableness contains a summary of the justification for the proposed rules, including a description of who will be affected by the proposed rules and an estimate of the probable cost of the proposed rules. It is now available from the agency contact person. You may review or obtain copies for the cost of reproduction by contacting the agency contact person.

Public Comment. You and all interested or affected persons, including representatives of associations and other interested groups, will have an opportunity to participate. *The administrative law judge will accept your views* either orally at the hearing or in writing at any time before the close of the hearing record. Submit written comments *to the administrative law judge at the address above or via the Office of Administrative Hearings Rulemaking eComments website at <https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions>*. All evidence that you present should relate to the proposed rules. You may also submit written material *to the administrative law judge* to be recorded in the hearing record for five working days after the public hearing ends. At the hearing the administrative law judge may order this five-day comment period extended for a longer period but for no more than 20 calendar days. Following the comment period, there is a five-working-day rebuttal period during which the agency and any interested person may respond in writing to any new information submitted. No one may submit additional evidence during the five-day rebuttal period. The Office of Administrative Hearings must receive all comments and responses submitted to the administrative law judge no later than 4:30 p.m. on the due date. All comments or responses received are public and will be available for review at the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The agency requests that any person submitting written views or data to the administrative law judge before the hearing or during the comment or rebuttal period also submit a copy of the written views or data to the agency contact person at the address stated above.

Alternative Format/Accommodation. Upon request, this information can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, braille, or audio. To make such a request or if you need an accommodation to make this hearing accessible, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

Modifications. The agency may modify the proposed rules as a result of the rule hearing process. It must support modifications with data and views presented during the rule hearing process. The adopted rules may not be substantially different than these proposed rules, unless the agency follows the procedure under *Minnesota Rules*, part 1400.2110. If the proposed rules affect you in any way, the agency encourages you to participate.

Adoption Procedure after the Hearing. After the close of the hearing record, the administrative law judge will issue a report on the proposed rules. You may ask to be notified of the date when the judge's report will become available, and can make this request at the hearing or in writing to the administrative law judge. You may also ask to be notified of the date that the agency adopts the rules and files them with the Secretary of State, or ask to register with the agency to receive notice of future rule proceedings. You may make these requests at the hearing or in writing to the agency contact person stated above.

Lobbyist Registration. *Minnesota Statutes*, chapter 10A, requires each lobbyist to register with the State Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. You should direct questions regarding this requirement to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board at: Suite #190, Centennial Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155, telephone (651) 539-1180 or 1-800-657-3889.

Order. I order that the rulemaking hearing be held at the date, time, and location listed above.

2/12/19
Date _____



William Seuffert
Executive Director, Environmental Quality Board