

EQB Monitor

Weekly announcements and environmental review notices

Volume 46, Number 44

November 1, 2022

EQB Announcements

Just launched by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources!

The **Minnesota Conservation Explorer** is a tool to enhance the delivery of Minnesota's Natural Heritage Data and to automate the Natural Heritage Review process. This is a tool for the public to view and create maps of Natural Heritage Data for the purpose of conservation planning. Users can also submit a proposed project and request an automated assessment of potential impacts to Minnesota's rare features.



[Go to the Minnesota Conservation Explorer](#)

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](#).

Proposed Heartland Greenway

Location: Southwest Minnesota

Process: Petition

Step: Responsible governmental unit (RGU) assigned

RGU and contact: Public Utilities Commission, [Bret Eknes](#), 651-201-2236

Proposed Midwest Carbon Express

Location: Central and Southwest Minnesota

Process: Petition

Step: Responsible governmental unit (RGU) assigned

RGU and contact: Public Utilities Commission, [Bret Eknes](#), 651-201-2236

706 Mississippi River Blvd S Multifamily Project

Location: St. Paul, Ramsey County

Process: Petition

Step: Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) need decision

Responsible governmental unit decision: Negative (no EAW ordered)

Responsible governmental unit decision date: October 28, 2022

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

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of St. Paul, [Josh Williams](#), 651-266-6659

Shirley's Park and Country Retreat

Location: New Ulm, Brown County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW)

Step: EAW available

End of comment period: December 1, 2022

Project description: The proposed project is a RV site camping expansion located in rural Brown County, MN, near New Ulm. The property totals 27 acres. The purpose of this project is to provide affordable summertime recreation. The Campground is expanding entirely into what was previously farmland.

Link to public documents: [Shirley's Park and Country Retreat EAW](#)

Location of public documents: Brown County Planning and Zoning Office, 14 S State St, New Ulm, MN 56073

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Brown County, [Robert Santaella](#), 507-233-6642

Royal Oaks Farm

Location: Rochester Township, Olmsted County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet

Step: Environmental impact statement (EIS) need decision

Responsible governmental unit decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Responsible governmental unit decision date: October 13, 2022

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

Location of public documents: Township Cooperative Planning Association, 4111 11th Ave SW, Rochester, MN 55902

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Rochester Township, [Roger Ihrke](#), 507-529-0774

Valley Paving

Location: Belle Plaine and St. Lawrence Townships, Scott County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet

Step: Environmental impact statement (EIS) need decision

Responsible governmental unit decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Responsible governmental unit decision date: October 18, 2022

Link to public documents: [Valley Paving EIS need decision](#)

Location of public documents: Scott County Government Center, 200 4th Ave W, Shakopee, MN 55379

Responsible governmental unit and contact: Scott County, [Jesse Krzenski](#), 952-496-8361

The Bluffs

Location: Shoreview, Ramsey County

Process: Environmental assessment worksheet

Step: Environmental impact statement (EIS) need decision

Responsible governmental unit decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Responsible governmental unit decision date: October 17, 2022

Link to public documents: [The Bluffs EIS need decision](#)

Location of public documents: Shoreview City Hall, 4600 Victoria Street North, Shoreview, MN 55126

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Shoreview, [Niki Hill](#), 651-490-4658

Parkwood Knolls

Location: Big Lake, Sherburne County

Process: Alternative urban areawide review (AUAR)

Step: Revised AUAR available

End of comment period: November 16, 2022

Project description: The Parkwood Knolls Residential Development AUAR reviews two development scenarios considered for 46.93 acres of land that adjoins Preusse Lake in the City of Big Lake. Scenario 1 includes 33 detached and 158 attached residential units.

Scenario 2 includes 66 detached residential units. Both scenarios include installation of municipal utilities and best management practices to protect water resources. This Final AUAR includes a section specifically responding to comments submitted on the Draft AUAR.

Link to public documents: [Parkwood Knolls revised AUAR](#)

Location of public documents: Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN 55309

Responsible governmental unit and contact: City of Big Lake, [Lucinda Spanier](#), 763-263-2107

General notices

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

Power Plant Siting Act Annual Hearing

Notice description: At the hearing, staff from the Commission and the Department of Commerce will provide an overview of the program including a summary of projects initiated, pending, and permitted in 2022. Interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of agency staff; and (2) offer oral and written comments into the record. In addition, written comments may be submitted during the comment period following the hearing using the methods described in this notice. The hearing will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment, and all other business has been concluded. Please note that no comments or questions on specific projects or dockets will be considered at the annual hearing.

Public meeting date, time, location: November 9, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Commission's Large Hearing Room, 121 7th Place East, 3rd Floor, Saint Paul, MN 55101

Public meeting virtual link: [Join online](#)

Link to additional information: [Power Plant Siting Act Annual Hearing webpage](#)

Contact: [Craig Janezich](#), Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 651-201-2203

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

Notice description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 22-NO-40. Notification is for genetically modified SOYBEAN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in the following permit identified as AUTH – 0000222884. The counties identified for release include the

following: Blue Earth-1 site with 194 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 contact Denise Thiede.

Contact: Department of Agriculture, [Denise Thiede](#), 651-402-3149

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

Notice description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 22-NO-41. Notification is for genetically modified SOYBEAN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in the following permit identified as AUTH – 0000222883. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-1 site with 194 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 contact Denise Thiede.

Contact: Department of Agriculture, [Denise Thiede](#), 651-402-3149

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

Notice description: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification # 22-NO-42. Notification is for genetically modified SOYBEAN, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for release in the following permit identified as AUTH – 0000222886. The counties identified for release include the following: Blue Earth-1 site with 194 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 contact Denise Thiede.

Contact: Department of Agriculture, [Denise Thiede](#), 651-402-3149

Submit an environmental review notice to the *EQB Monitor*

The *EQB Monitor* is published every Tuesday at 12 p.m. Submissions to the [EQB Monitor](#) are due by 4 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.

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.



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