

EQB Monitor

EQB announcements and Environmental review notices

Volume 45, Number 39

September 28, 2021

Environmental review 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](#).

Trott Brook Crossing

Location: Ramsey, Anoka County

Process: Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: October 28, 2021

Project Description: Trott Brook Crossing is proposed on approximately 200.5 acres of land in the northern portion of the City of Ramsey, Anoka County. The project will include as many as 275 single-family homes and parkland with tree preservation. Site development will include installation of municipal sewer and water, mass grading, and stormwater management practices.

Link to Public Documents: [Trott Brook Crossing EAW](#)

Location of Public Documents: Ramsey City Hall, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) and Contact: City of Ramsey, [Bruce Westby](#), 763-433-9826

Frontier Project

Location: Cohasset, Itasca County

Process: EAW

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: October 28, 2021

Project Description: The proposed 750,000 square-foot oriented strand board (OSB) manufacturing facility will occupy approximately 159 acres of agricultural and undeveloped lands west of the City of Cohasset. One new rail spur would be constructed for product shipments to an existing rail line along U.S. Highway 2. New city utilities, an electrical transmission line and substation would be constructed to service the new facility.

Link to Public Documents: [Frontier Project EAW](#)

Location of Public Documents: City of Cohasset, 305 Northwest 1st Avenue, Cohasset, MN 55721

Public Meeting Date, Time, Location: October 12, 2021, 7 p.m., City of Cohasset, 305 Northwest 1st Avenue, Cohasset, MN 55721

RGU and Contact: City of Cohasset, [Max Peters](#), 218-328-6225

Pelican Rapids Dam Modification and Fish Passage Installation Project

Location: Pelican Rapids, Otter Tail County

Process: EAW

Step: EAW Available

End of Comment Period: October 28, 2021

Project Description: The City of Pelican Rapids in coordination with the Minnesota DNR proposes the replacement of the Pelican Rapids Dam with a constructed fish passage.

The Pelican Rapids Dam is located just east of where the Pelican River flows underneath the North Broadway Bridge. Built in 1870, the Pelican Rapids is a “High Hazard Dam” and in need of repair or replacement due to its poor condition. The designed fish passage will include a series of stepped arch shaped rapids utilizing various sized boulders. The construction of the fish passage will lower the water level within the impoundment, exposing the lakebed and returning a stream-like hydrologic regime. The project will provide recreational opportunities, safety against dam failure, restore critical habitats for aquatic species, improve visual aesthetics, and protect the historic Pelican Pete statue.

Link to Public Documents: [Pelican Rapids Dam Modification and Fish Passage Installation Project EAW](#)

RGU and Contact: City of Pelican Rapids, [Don Solga](#), 218-863-7076

Oxboro Lake Maintenance

Location: Bloomington, Hennepin County

Process: EAW

Step: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Need Decision

RGU Decision: Negative (no EIS ordered)

Record of Decision Date: September 13, 2021

Link to Public Documents: [Oxboro Lake Maintenance EIS Need Decision](#)

Location of Public Documents: City of Bloomington, 1700 West 98th Street; Bloomington, MN 55431

RGU and Contact: City of Bloomington, [Steve Gurney](#), 952-563-4606

Upper Harbor Terminal

Location: Minneapolis, Hennepin County

Process: Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR)

Step: AUAR Adoption

RGU Decision: Adequate

Record of Decision Date: September 10, 2021

Project Description: The AUAR study area encompasses an area totaling approximately 53 acres. United Properties, in partnership with First Avenue Productions, 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 Public Documents: [Upper Harbor Terminal AUAR Adoption](#)

Location of Public Documents: Public Service Building, 505 4th Avenue South, Room 320, Minneapolis, MN 54417

RGU and Contact: City of Minneapolis, [Hilary Dvorak](#), 612-673-2639

Prairie Island

Location: Red Wing, Red Wing County

Process: Supplemental EIS (SEIS)

Step: Scoping Meetings for SEIS

In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company D/B/A Xcel Energy for a Certificate of Need for Additional Dry Cask Storage at Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

Docket Number: E002/CN-08-510

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) will hold scoping meetings for the supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to be prepared for Xcel's Energy's proposed change in spent fuel storage technology at the Prairie Island independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The purpose of the meetings is to inform the public about Xcel Energy's proposed change in storage technology and to solicit comments on impacts and mitigation measures to study in the SEIS that will be prepared by the Department.

In-Person Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. Red Wing Ignite Community Development City Hall Annex 419 Bush St. Red Wing, MN 55066	Wednesday, October 6, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. Internet: https://tinyurl.com/3z9re47h Password: Commerce1

Meeting Information

- The same information will be presented at both meetings.
- Masks are required for the in-person meeting at the Red Wing City Hall Annex. Disposable masks will be available for attendees who do not have a mask.
- Public meetings are not open-house style meetings; we recommend that you arrive by the meeting start time.

- Attendees will have the opportunity to enter comments into the record. A public comment period will extend past the meeting dates to allow for written comments.
- Department staff will preside over the meeting. Department staff, as well as staff from Xcel Energy, will be available to answer questions about the environmental review process and the project.
- Meetings will conclude after everyone who wishes to offer comments has had an opportunity to speak.
- Comments received at the meetings and during the public comment period will be used to develop the scope of the SEIS for this project.

Virtual Meeting

- Meeting video and audio are available only via the internet.
- Logon five to 10 minutes before the meeting begins. You will be asked to join the meeting through a Webex application or through a plug-in for your web browser. You will be asked to enter your name and email address.
- Attendees will be muted. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator. Your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask your question or make a comment.
- If you have questions about participating in the meeting or need assistance during the meeting, please contact David Birkholz at the Department (contact information below).

Submit Comments

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following question(s):

- *What human and environmental impacts of the proposed change in spent fuel storage technology should be studied in the SEIS?*
- *Are there specific methods to mitigate these impacts that should be studied in the SEIS?*

Comment Period: Comments will be accepted through **October 20, 2021**. Please include the docket number (08-510) in all communications.

U.S. Mail:

Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101

Email: raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Online: mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities

Fax: 651-539-0109

Important: Comments will be made available to the public, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally-identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

Environmental Review Process

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Department will issue a scoping decision for the SEIS and a notice of SEIS preparation. Department staff will prepare a draft SEIS, which will be issued for public comment. Comments on the draft SEIS will be responded to in a final SEIS. The Department will determine the adequacy of the final SEIS. Subsequently, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will determine whether to approve Xcel Energy's request for a change in spent fuel storage technology.

Project Description

Xcel Energy proposes to use a different spent fuel storage technology in the Prairie Island ISFSI. Xcel Energy proposes to use any fuel storage cask approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at the ISFSI, rather than being limited to the TN-40HT casks approved by the Commission in 2009. Xcel Energy would select from NRC-approved cask designs based on considerations including price and compatibility with future offsite storage facilities. Xcel Energy envisions that cask designs could be similar to the welded, canister design used at the Monticello nuclear generating plant ISFSI.

Xcel Energy indicates that it is not seeking to store more spent fuel than was approved by the Commission in 2009. Xcel Energy still seeks to store the 2,560 spent-fuel assemblies anticipated by the Commission's 2009 certificate of need. Xcel Energy's request is that it not be limited to storing these assemblies in 64 TN-40HT casks, but rather storing them in any NRC-approved spent fuel storage casks.

Xcel Energy indicates that its proposed change in spent fuel storage technology would likely result in lower customer costs and could potentially facilitate relatively earlier shipments of spent nuclear fuel from Prairie Island to offsite storage facilities.

Background Information

On May 16, 2008, Xcel Energy applied to the Commission for a certificate of need to expand the Prairie Island ISFSI, by 35 casks, to accommodate a total of 64 spent fuel storage casks. Department staff prepared an EIS that analyzed the proposed ISFSI expansion. At that time, Xcel Energy proposed that these casks be Transnuclear TN-

40HT bolted casks. On December 18, 2009, the Commission issued a certificate of need authorizing Xcel Energy to expand the Prairie Island ISFSI by 35 casks.

On April 30, 2021, Xcel Energy requested that the Commission authorize a change in the spent fuel storage technology at Prairie Island. Xcel Energy requested that it be authorized to use any spent fuel storage technology that has been approved by the NRC rather than being limited solely to the TN-40HT cask. On May 14, 2021, the Commission issued a notice soliciting comments on Xcel Energy's proposed change in fuel storage technology and on the appropriate process for considering Xcel Energy's request.

After reviewing Xcel Energy's request, Department staff concluded that the request represented substantial new information that affects the potential environmental effects at the Prairie Island ISFSI such that the 2009 Prairie Island final EIS must be supplemented. Department staff requested that the Commission take no action on Xcel Energy's request until staff could supplement the 2009 Prairie Island final EIS in accordance with Minnesota Rule 4410.3000.

Additional Information

Draft Scoping Decision. Department staff has prepared a draft scoping decision for the SEIS. The draft scoping decision is available on the Department's website: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/315/>. The 2009 Prairie Island final EIS is also available on this website.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *eDockets*, enter the year (08) and a docket number (510), and select *Search*.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to Dockets* and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246 with the docket number (08-510), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Project Contacts

Department of Commerce

Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us or 651-539-1841.

David Birkholz, Virtual Meeting Assistance, david.birkholz@state.mn.us or 651-539-1838.

Public Utilities Commission

Michael Kaluzniak, Energy Facilities Planner, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257.

Xcel Energy

Jon Kapitz, Manger, Spent Nuclear Fuel Projects, jon.k.kapitz@xcelenergy.com or 612-330-5893.

Submit an environmental review notice to the *Monitor*

The *EQB Monitor* is published every Tuesday at 12:00 pm. Submissions to the [EQB Monitor](#) are due by 4:00 pm 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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