



Environmental Quality Board accepting comments, hearing requests for proposed rule amendment

For Immediate Release
January 24, 2011

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(ST. PAUL) – The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is accepting written comments and requests for a public hearing through Feb. 23, 2011, on a proposed amendment to state rules governing the environmental review process.

Without the amendment, hundreds of additional Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs) would be required each year in Minnesota.

The proposed amendment would add a specific threshold number applying to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the mandatory EAW category for air pollutants at part 4410.4300, subpart 15. The level proposed is a combined total of 100,000 tons per year of GHG emissions, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents. The gases to which this threshold would apply are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride. The amendment would preclude the application of an existing threshold of 250 tons per year to greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed threshold is consistent with recent changes in the application of federal law to greenhouse gases.

The proposed rule amendments and official notice of rulemaking are in the Jan. 24, 2011 issue of the State Register, online at <http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/mnbookstore.asp>, or at the EQB website, www.eqb.state.mn.us. Copies are also available by calling the EQB office at 651/201-2477.

The EQB must receive written comments and hearing requests by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011. Comments regarding the amendments should identify the portion of the proposed rule amendment that is addressed, the reason for the comment and any proposed change to the amendment.

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NEWS RELEASE: Rule change

January 24, 2011

Page 2

In addition, if at least 25 people submit written requests meeting the requirements stated in the official notice of rulemaking, the EQB will hold a public hearing in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Board Room, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, starting at 2:00 p.m.

Comments, questions and hearing requests must be submitted to Jon Larsen, Environmental Quality Board, Room 300, Centennial Office Bldg., 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155; telephone 651/201-2477, fax 651/296-3698, email, jon.larsen@state.mn.us. TTY users may call the Department of Administration at 800-627-3529.

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