



Memo

Date: December 4, 2024

To: ETAC

From: Sarah Lerohl, Technical Assistance & Energy Transition Support

RE: EQB Updates December 2024

Notable Environmental Quality Board actions since August ETAC Meeting:

[2024 Mandatory Categories Legislative Assessment Report](#) submittal December 1. Minnesota Statute Chapter 116D.04, Subd. 5b directs the EQB and co-authoring agencies DNR, DOT, and PCA to provide an evaluation on environmental review mandatory categories, including historical purpose, whether projects are also subject to government permits, and discussion on recommended changes.

[2024 Annual Pollinator Report](#) submittal December 1. Minnesota Executive Order 19-28 directs the EQB to convene the Interagency Pollinator protection Team (IPPT) to take action to restore healthy pollinator populations and report on progress annually. This year's report includes updated scorecards that incorporate some of the actions from the Pollinator Action Framework and serve to reflect the Framework progress. The report details IPPT actions and recommendations for agency leadership consideration.

Full reports and resolutions may be found in the [November 20 EQB Board Meeting materials packet](#).

Environmental Congress Recap. EQB held the [2024 Environmental Congress](#) across various locations in the state to foster collaboration among state leaders, local governments, and the public on environmental challenges. The events featured presentations from state agencies, followed by facilitated small-group discussions on regional environmental issues and strategies for addressing them. EQB is currently working on a report to present to the Board in January with key themes and findings.

Upcoming Meetings. The [Environmental Quality Board meets monthly](#) to discuss, learn about environmental efforts and issues in Minnesota, and make informed decisions. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide comments. All meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Hybrid meetings will be held at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul. **Upcoming dates:** December 18, 2024; January 15, 2025; February 19, 2025.

Work in progress.

[Gas Technical Advisory Committee \(GTAC\)](#) The Minnesota legislature enacted legislation on May 22, 2024, directing the DNR to form and lead the Gas Resources Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC). The multi-agency committee was charged with developing recommendations on a temporary regulatory framework for regulating gas projects during rulemaking. The recommendations will be submitted to the legislature by January 15, 2025 and will include a public comment period.

Staff Updates.

Energy Transition Office Support staff attended the [Just Transition Fund's](#) Coal Communities Convening October 9-11 in Washington, DC.