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# Memo

**Date:** August 21, 2024

**To:** ETAC

**From:** Sarah Lerohl, Technical Assistance & Energy Transition Support

## RE: EQB Updates August 2024

**Background:**

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 116J.55, EQB hired a full-time staff that is focused on regulatory coordination and technical assistance related to environmental review, with an emphasis on energy transition communities. I joined EQB on June 26 and have been busy learning environmental review processes and becoming familiar with impacted communities across the state.

**Updates:**

* Attending ETO community check-ins: Oak Park Heights, Otter Tail County, Coalition of Utility Cities, Prairie Island Indian Community, Fergus Falls, Itasca County, Red Wing, Itasca Economic Development Corporation. I’m currently planning fall and spring community visits, will be reaching out to schedule in-person stops.
* Applied for Just Transition Fund 2024 Coal Communities Convening Fellowship Program for scholarship to October Convening in Washington, D.C.
* Other notable ETO-related meetings:
	+ Jon Grosshans, USEPA
	+ Stantec, *Application of the Alternative Urban Areawide Review*- historical perspectives and practitioner experience.
	+ Chet Bodin, *Minnesota Business First Stop 101*
* EQB is hosting the [**2024 Environmental Congress**](https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/programs/environmental-congress) featuring a series of community conversations hosted by board members and state agencies at locations throughout Minnesota. The Congress aims to advance mutual learning among community members, state and local leaders, and a broad range of professionals on pressing climate policy issues.

Interactive facilitated discussion will highlight innovative work taking place across Minnesota and inspire meaningful climate action at the individual, community, and local and state government levels.

* + September 23 – Brainerd, MN: Climate Resiliency and Adaptation
	+ September 24 – St. Cloud, MN: Developing Minnesota’s Green Economy
	+ September 25 – Saint Paul, MN: Climate Action Framework
	+ September 26 – Mankato, MN:  Managing Water Pollution