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	ent can be made available e formats upon request	State	of Minnesota		Printed Page No.	358
	HOUSE (OF R	EPRESEN	ΓΑΤΙVΕ	S	
	EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION			H. F. N	No.	2095
02/08/2012	Authored by Fabian, Quam, Cornish, Nor The bill was read for the first time and refu	-		ergy and Natural Re	sources Polic	w and Finance

- The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment, Energy and Nature02/15/2012Adoption of Report: Pass as Amended and re-referred to Jobs and Economic Development Finance02/20/2012Adoption of Report: Pass and re-referred to Ways and Means03/07/2012Adoption of Report: Pass as Amended and Read Second Time Natural Resources Policy and Fina

1.1	A bill for an act
1.2	relating to environment; providing for permitting efficiency; modifying
1.3	environmental review requirements; appropriating money; amending Minnesota
1.4	Statutes 2010, sections 14.05, by adding a subdivision; 41A.10, subdivision 1; 84.027, by adding a subdivision; 115.03, by adding a subdivision; 116.07,
1.5 1.6	subdivision 4a; 116J.035, by adding a subdivision; Minnesota Statutes 2011
1.7	Supplement, sections 84.027, subdivision 14a; 116.03, subdivision 2b; 116D.04,
1.8	subdivision 2a.
1.9	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
1.10	ARTICLE 1
1.11	PERMITTING
1.12	Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2011 Supplement, section 84.027, subdivision 14a,
1.13	is amended to read:
1.14	Subd. 14a. Permitting efficiency. (a) It is the goal of the state that environmental
1.15	and resource management permits be issued or denied within 150 days of the submission
1.16	of a substantially completed permit application. The commissioner of natural resources
1.17	shall establish management systems designed to achieve the goal.
1.18	(b) The commissioner shall prepare semiannual permitting efficiency reports that
1.19	include statistics on meeting the goal in paragraph (a). The reports are due February 1
1.20	and August 1 each year. For permit applications that have not met the goal, the report
1.21	must state the reasons for not meeting the goal, steps that will be taken to complete action
1.22	on the application, and the expected timeline. In stating the reasons for not meeting the
1.23	goal, the commissioner shall separately identify delays caused by the responsiveness of
1.24	the proposer, lack of staff, scientific or technical disagreements, or the level of public
1.25	engagement. The report must specify the number of days from initial submission of the

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application to the day of determination that the application is complete. The report for 2.1 August 1 each year must aggregate the data for the year and assess whether program 2.2 or system changes are necessary to achieve the goal. The report must be posted on the 2.3 department's Web site and submitted to the governor and the chairs and ranking minority 2.4 members of the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over 2.5 natural resources policy and finance. 2.6 (c) The commissioner shall allow electronic submission of environmental review 2.7 and permit documents to the department. 28 (d) Beginning July 1, 2011, within 30 business days of application for a permit 2.9

subject to paragraph (a), the commissioner of natural resources shall notify the project 2.10 proposer, in writing, of whether or not the permit application is complete enough for 2.11 processing. If the permit is incomplete, the commissioner must identify where whether 2.12 the application is complete or incomplete. If the commissioner determines that an 2.13 application is incomplete, the notice to the applicant must enumerate all deficiencies exist, 2.14 citing specific provisions of the applicable rules and statutes, and advise the applicant 2.15 on how they the deficiencies can be remedied. A resubmittal of the application begins 2.16 a new 30-day review period. If the commissioner fails to notify the project proposer 2.17 of completeness within 30 business days, the application is deemed to be substantially 2.18 complete and subject to the 150-day permitting review period in paragraph (a) from the 2.19 date it was submitted. This paragraph does not apply to an application for a permit that is 2.20 subject to a grant or loan agreement under chapter 446A. 2.21

2.22 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 84.027, is amended by adding a subdivision
2.23 to read:

2.24 <u>Subd. 14b.</u> <u>Irrevocability or suspensions of permits.</u> If, by July 1 of an
2.25 <u>odd-numbered year, a biennial appropriation law has not been enacted to fund air,</u>
2.26 <u>water, and land programs at the department, existing permits shall not be terminated or</u>
2.27 <u>suspended, provided the terms and conditions of the permit and local, state, and federal</u>
2.28 <u>laws and rules are met, regardless of the state's capability to receive, review, or process</u>
2.29 <u>fees, reports, or other filings.</u>

2.32 <u>Subd. 8b.</u> Permit duration; state disposal system permits; animal feedlots. State
2.33 <u>disposal system permits that are issued without a national pollutant discharge elimination</u>
2.34 <u>system permit to animal feedlots shall be issued for a term of ten years.</u>

^{2.30} Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 115.03, is amended by adding a subdivision to2.31 read:

3.1

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

3.2 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2011 Supplement, section 116.03, subdivision 2b, is
3.3 amended to read:

3.4 Subd. 2b. Permitting efficiency. (a) It is the goal of the state that environmental and
3.5 resource management permits be issued or denied within 150 days of the submission of a
3.6 substantially completed permit application. The commissioner of the Pollution Control
3.7 Agency shall establish management systems designed to achieve the goal.

(b) The commissioner shall prepare semiannual permitting efficiency reports that 3.8 include statistics on meeting the goal in paragraph (a). The reports are due February 1 3.9 and August 1 each year. For permit applications that have not met the goal, the report 3.10 must state the reasons for not meeting the goal, steps that will be taken to complete action 3.11 on the application, and the expected timeline. In stating the reasons for not meeting the 3.12 goal, the commissioner shall separately identify delays caused by the responsiveness of 3.13 the proposer, lack of staff, scientific or technical disagreements, or the level of public 3.14 engagement. The report must specify the number of days from initial submission of the 3.15 application to the day of determination that the application is complete. The report for 3.16 August 1 each year must aggregate the data for the year and assess whether program 3.17 or system changes are necessary to achieve the goal. The report must be posted on the 3.18 agency's Web site and submitted to the governor and the chairs and ranking minority 3.19 members of the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over 3.20 environment policy and finance. 3.21

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(c) The commissioner shall allow electronic submission of environmental review and permit documents to the agency.

(d) Beginning July 1, 2011, within 30 business days of application for a permit 3.24 3.25 subject to paragraph (a), the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency shall notify the project proposer, in writing, of whether or not the permit application is complete 3.26 enough for processing. If the permit is incomplete, the commissioner must identify where 3.27 whether the application is complete or incomplete. If the commissioner determines that an 3.28 application is incomplete, the notice to the applicant must enumerate all deficiencies exist, 3.29 citing specific provisions of the applicable rules and statutes, and advise the applicant 3.30 on how they the deficiencies can be remedied. A resubmittal of the application begins 3.31 a new 30-day review period. If the commissioner fails to notify the project proposer 3.32 of completeness within 30 business days, the application is deemed to be substantially 3.33 complete and subject to the 150-day permitting review period in paragraph (a) from the 3.34

4.1	date it was submitted. This paragraph does not apply to an application for a permit that is
4.2	subject to a grant or loan agreement under chapter 446A.
4.3	(e) For purposes of this subdivision, "permit professional" means an individual not
4.4	employed by the Pollution Control Agency who:
4.5	(1) has a professional engineer license issued by the state of Minnesota; and
4.6	(2) has at least ten years of experience in the subject area of the permit.
4.7	(f) Upon the agency's request, an applicant relying on a permit professional must
4.8	participate in a meeting with the agency before submitting an application:
4.9	(1) during the preapplication meeting, the applicant must submit at least the
4.10	following:
4.11	(i) project description, including, but not limited to, scope of work, primary
4.12	emissions points, discharge outfalls, and water intake points;
4.13	(ii) location of the project, including county, municipality, and location on the site;
4.14	(iii) business schedule for project completion; and
4.15	(iv) other information requested by the agency at least two weeks prior to the
4.16	scheduled meeting; and
4.17	(2) during the preapplication meeting, the agency shall provide for the applicant at
4.18	least the following:
4.19	(i) an overview of the permit review program;
4.20	(ii) a determination of which specific application or applications will be necessary
4.21	to complete the project;
4.22	(iii) a statement notifying the applicant if the specific permit being sought requires a
4.23	mandatory public hearing or comment period;
4.24	(iv) a review of the timetable established in the permit review program for the
4.25	specific permit being sought; and
4.26	(v) a determination of what information must be included in the application,
4.27	including a description of any required modeling or testing.
4.28	(g) The applicant may select a permit professional to undertake the preparation
4.29	of the permit application and draft permit.
4.30	(h) A permit application submitted by a permit professional shall be deemed
4.31	complete unless the terms and conditions in the application submitted by the permit
4.32	professional are clearly erroneous under statute or rule. The agency shall, within five
4.33	business days of receipt of an application, notify the applicant and submitting permit
4.34	professional that the application is complete or is denied, specifying the deficiencies
4.35	of the application.

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(i) Upon receipt of notice that the application is complete, the permit professional 5.1 shall submit to the agency a timetable for submitting a draft permit. The permit 5.2 professional shall submit a draft permit on or before the date provided in the timetable. 5.3 Within 60 days after the close of the public comment period and public hearing, the 5.4 commissioner shall notify the applicant whether the permit is approved. 5.5 (j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify: 5.6 (1) any requirement of law that is necessary to retain federal delegation to or 5.7 assumption by the state; or 58 (2) the authority to implement a federal law or program. 5.9 (k) The permit application and draft permit shall identify or include as an appendix 5.10 all studies and other sources of information used to substantiate the analysis contained in 5.11 the permit application and draft period. The commissioner shall request additional studies, 5.12 if needed, and the project proposer shall submit all additional studies and information 5.13 necessary for the commissioner to perform the commissioner's responsibility to review, 5.14 modify, and determine the completeness of the application and approve the draft permit. 5.15 (1) If, by July 1 of an odd-numbered year, a biennial appropriation law has not been 5.16 enacted to fund air, water, and land programs at the agency, existing permits shall not be 5.17 terminated or suspended, provided the terms and conditions of the permit and local, state, 5.18 and federal laws and rules are met, regardless of the state's capability to receive, review, 5.19 or process fees, reports, or other filings. 5.20

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 116.07, subdivision 4a, is amended to read:
Subd. 4a. Permits. (a) The Pollution Control Agency may issue, continue in
effect or deny permits, under such conditions as it may prescribe for the prevention of
pollution, for the emission of air contaminants, or for the installation or operation of
any emission facility, air contaminant treatment facility, treatment facility, potential air
contaminant storage facility, or storage facility, or any part thereof, or for the sources
or emissions of noise pollution.

5.28 The Pollution Control Agency may also issue, continue in effect or deny permits,
5.29 under such conditions as it may prescribe for the prevention of pollution, for the storage,
5.30 collection, transportation, processing, or disposal of waste, or for the installation or
5.31 operation of any system or facility, or any part thereof, related to the storage, collection,
5.32 transportation, processing, or disposal of waste.

5.33 The agency may not issue a permit to a facility without analyzing and considering
5.34 the cumulative levels and effects of past and current environmental pollution from all
5.35 sources on the environment and residents of the geographic area within which the facility's

- emissions are likely to be deposited, provided that the facility is located in a community in 6.1 a city of the first class in Hennepin County that meets all of the following conditions: 6.2 (1) is within a half mile of a site designated by the federal government as an EPA 6.3 superfund site due to residential arsenic contamination; 6.4 (2) a majority of the population are low-income persons of color and American 6.5 Indians: 6.6 (3) a disproportionate percent of the children have childhood lead poisoning, asthma, 6.7 or other environmentally related health problems; 68 (4) is located in a city that has experienced numerous air quality alert days of 6.9 dangerous air quality for sensitive populations between February 2007 and February 6.10 2008; and 6.11 (5) is located near the junctions of several heavily trafficked state and county 6.12 highways and two one-way streets which carry both truck and auto traffic. 6.13 The Pollution Control Agency may revoke or modify any permit issued under this 6.14 subdivision and section 116.081 whenever it is necessary, in the opinion of the agency, to 6.15 prevent or abate pollution. 6.16 (b) The Pollution Control Agency has the authority for approval over the siting, 6.17 expansion, or operation of a solid waste facility with regard to environmental issues. 6.18 However, the agency's issuance of a permit does not release the permittee from any 6.19 liability, penalty, or duty imposed by any applicable county ordinances. Nothing in this 6.20 chapter precludes, or shall be construed to preclude, a county from enforcing land use 6.21 controls, regulations, and ordinances existing at the time of the permit application and 6.22 6.23 adopted pursuant to sections 366.10 to 366.181, 394.21 to 394.37, or 462.351 to 462.365, with regard to the siting, expansion, or operation of a solid waste facility. 6.24 (c) Except as prohibited by federal law, a person may commence construction, 6.25 reconstruction, replacement, or modification of any facility prior to the issuance of a 6.26 construction permit by the agency. 6.27 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 116J.035, is amended by adding a subdivision 6.28 to read: 6.29 Subd. 8. Environmental permits coordinator. (a) The commissioner is designated 6.30 the environmental permits coordinator and shall coordinate the implementation and 6.31 administration of state permits, including: 6.32 (1) establishing a mechanism in state government that will coordinate administrative 6.33 decision-making procedures and related quasijudicial and judicial review pertaining to 6.34
- 6.35 permits related to the state's air, land, and water resources;

7.1	(2) providing coordination and understanding between federal, state, and local
7.2	governmental units in the administration of the various programs relating to air, water,
7.3	and land resources;
7.4	(3) identifying all existing federal, state, and local permits and other approvals;
7.5	compliance schedules; or other programs that pertain to the use of natural resources and
7.6	protection of the environment; and
7.7	(4) recommending legislative or administrative modifications to existing permit
7.8	programs to increase their efficiency and utility.
7.9	(b) A person proposing a project may apply to the environmental permits coordinator
7.10	for assistance in obtaining necessary state permits and other approvals. Upon request, the
7.11	environmental permits coordinator shall:
7.12	(1) provide a list of all federal, state, and local permits and other required approvals
7.13	for the project;
7.14	(2) provide a plan that will coordinate federal, state, and local administrative
7.15	decision-making practices, including monitoring, analysis and reporting, public comments
7.16	and hearings, and issuances of permits and approvals;
7.17	(3) provide a timeline for the issuance of all federal, state, and local permits and
7.18	other approvals required for the project;
7.19	(4) coordinate the execution of any memorandum of understanding between the
7.20	person proposing a project and any federal, state, or local agency;
7.21	(5) coordinate all federal, state, or local public comment periods and hearings; and
7.22	(6) provide other assistance requested to facilitate final approval and issuance of all
7.23	federal, state, and local permits and other approvals required for the project.
7.24	(c) As necessary, the environmental permits coordinator shall negotiate a schedule
7.25	to assess the project proposer for reasonable costs that any state agency incurs in
7.26	coordinating the implementation and administration of state permits, and the proposer
7.27	shall pay the assessed costs to the environmental permits coordinator. Money received
7.28	by the environmental permits coordinator must be credited to an account in the special
7.29	revenue fund and is appropriated to the commissioner to cover the assessed costs incurred.
7.30	(d) The coordination of implementation and administration of state permits is not
7.31	governmental action under section 116D.04.
7.32	(e) For the purposes of this subdivision:
7.33	(1) "agency" means:
7.34	(i) a state department, commission, board, or other agency of the state, however
7.35	titled; or

8.1	(ii) a local governmental unit or instrumentality, only when that unit or
8.2	instrumentality is acting within existing legal authority to grant or deny a permit that
8.3	otherwise would be granted or denied by a state agency;
8.4	(2) "local governmental unit" means a county, city, town, or special district with
8.5	legal authority to issue a permit;
8.6	(3) "permit" means a permit, certificate, certification, approval, compliance schedule,
8.7	or other similar document pertaining to a regulatory or management program related to
8.8	the protection, conservation, or use of or interference with the natural resources of land,
8.9	air, or water that must be obtained from a state agency before constructing or operating a
8.10	project in the state;
8.11	(4) "person" means an individual, an association or partnership, or a cooperative,
8.12	municipal, public, or private corporation, including but not limited to a state agency
8.13	and a county; and
8.14	(5) "project" means a new activity or an expansion of or addition to an existing
8.15	activity, which is fixed in location and for which permits are required from an agency
8.16	prior to construction or operation, including but not limited to industrial and commercial
8.17	operations and developments.
8.18	ARTICLE 2
8.18 8.19	ARTICLE 2 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
8.19	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
8.19 8.20	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 14.05, is amended by adding a subdivision
8.198.208.21	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 14.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:
8.198.208.218.22	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 14.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to read: <u>Subd. 5a.</u> Review of environmental assessment worksheets and environmental
8.198.208.218.228.23	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 14.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to read: Subd. 5a. Review of environmental assessment worksheets and environmental impact statements. By December 1, 2012, and every five years thereafter, the
 8.19 8.20 8.21 8.22 8.23 8.24 	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 14.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to read: <u>Subd. 5a. Review of environmental assessment worksheets and environmental impact statements.</u> By December 1, 2012, and every five years thereafter, the Environmental Quality Board, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural
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 8.19 8.20 8.21 8.22 8.23 8.24 8.25 8.26 8.27 8.28 	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 14.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to read: <u>Subd. 5a. Review of environmental assessment worksheets and environmental</u> impact statements. By December 1, 2012, and every five years thereafter, the Environmental Quality Board, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Transportation, after consultation with political subdivisions, shall submit to the governor and the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources a list of mandatory environmental assessment worksheet or mandatory environmental impact
 8.19 8.20 8.21 8.22 8.23 8.24 8.25 8.26 8.27 8.28 8.29 	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 14.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to read: <u>Subd. 5a. Review of environmental assessment worksheets and environmental</u> impact statements. By December 1, 2012, and every five years thereafter, the Environmental Quality Board, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Transportation, after consultation with political subdivisions, shall submit to the governor and the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources a list of mandatory environmental assessment worksheet or mandatory environmental impact statement categories for which the agency or a political subdivision is designated as the
 8.19 8.20 8.21 8.22 8.23 8.24 8.25 8.26 8.27 8.28 8.29 8.30 	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 14.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to read: <u>Subd. 5a. Review of environmental assessment worksheets and environmental</u> impact statements. By December 1, 2012, and every five years thereafter, the Environmental Quality Board, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Transportation, after consultation with political subdivisions, shall submit to the governor and the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources a list of mandatory environmental assessment worksheet or mandatory environmental impact statement categories for which the agency or a political subdivision is designated as the responsible government unit, and for each worksheet or statement category, a document

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0.1	(2) on aurilanction of what information provided on the mandatery worksheet or
9.1	(3) an explanation of what information provided on the mandatory worksheet or
9.2	statement within each category is not included in or provided for in an existing permit or
9.3	other federal, state, or local law.
9.4	Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 41A.10, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
9.5	Subdivision 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section and section 103F.518,
9.6	the terms defined in this subdivision have the meanings given them.
9.7	(a) "Cellulosic biofuel" means transportation fuel derived from cellulosic materials.
9.8	(b) "Cellulosic material" means an agricultural or wood feedstock primarily
9.9	comprised of cellulose, hemicellulose, or lignin or a combination of those ingredients
9.10	grown on agricultural lands or harvested timber lands.
9.11	(c) "Agricultural land" means land used for horticultural, row, close grown, pasture,
9.12	and hayland crops; growing nursery stocks; animal feedlots; farm yards; associated
9.13	building sites; and public and private drainage systems and field roads located on any of
9.14	that land.
9.15	(d) "Cellulosic biofuel facility" means a facility at which cellulosic biofuel is
9.16	produced.
9.17	(e) "Perennial crops" means agriculturally produced plants that have a life cycle of at
9.18	least three years at the location where the plants are being cultivated.
9.19	(f) "Perennial cropping system" means an agricultural production system that
9.20	utilizes a perennial crop.
9.21	(g) "Native species" means a plant species which was present in a defined area of
9.22	Minnesota prior to European settlement (circa 1850). A defined area may be an ecological
9.23	classification province. Wild-type varieties therefore are regional or local ecotypes that
9.24	have not undergone a selection process.
9.25	(h) "Diverse native prairie" means a prairie planted from a mix of local Minnesota
9.26	native prairie species. A selection from all available native prairie species may be made so
9.27	as to match species appropriate to local site conditions.
9.28	(i) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of agriculture.
9.29	Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2011 Supplement, section 116D.04, subdivision 2a, is
9.30	amended to read:
9.31	Subd. 2a. When prepared. Where there is potential for significant environmental
9.32	effects resulting from any major governmental action, the action shall be preceded by a
9.33	detailed environmental impact statement prepared by the responsible governmental unit.
9.34	The environmental impact statement shall be an analytical rather than an encyclopedic

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document which describes the proposed action in detail, analyzes its significant 10.1 environmental impacts, discusses appropriate alternatives to the proposed action and 10.2 their impacts, and explores methods by which adverse environmental impacts of an 10.3 action could be mitigated. The environmental impact statement shall also analyze those 10.4 economic, employment and sociological effects that cannot be avoided should the action 10.5 be implemented. To ensure its use in the decision-making process, the environmental 10.6 impact statement shall be prepared as early as practical in the formulation of an action. 10.7 No mandatory environmental impact statement may be required for an ethanol plant, 10.8 as defined in section 41A.09, subdivision 2a, paragraph (b), that produces less than 10.9 10.10 125,000,000 gallons of ethanol annually and is located outside of the seven-county metropolitan area. 10.11

(a) The board shall by rule establish categories of actions for which environmental 10.12 impact statements and for which environmental assessment worksheets shall be prepared 10.13 as well as categories of actions for which no environmental review is required under this 10.14 10.15 section. A mandatory environmental assessment worksheet shall not be required for the expansion of an ethanol plant, as defined in section 41A.09, subdivision 2a, paragraph 10.16 (b), or the conversion of an ethanol plant to a biobutanol facility or the expansion of a 10.17 biobutanol facility as defined in section 41A.105, subdivision 1a, based on the capacity 10.18 of the expanded or converted facility to produce alcohol fuel, but must be required if 10.19 the ethanol plant meets or exceeds thresholds of other categories of actions for which 10.20 environmental assessment worksheets must be prepared. The responsible governmental 10.21 unit for an ethanol plant project for which an environmental assessment worksheet is 10.22 10.23 prepared shall be the state agency with the greatest responsibility for supervising or approving the project as a whole. A mandatory environmental impact statement shall 10.24 not be required for a facility or plant located outside the seven-county metropolitan 10.25 10.26 area that produces less than 125,000,000 gallons of ethanol, biobutanol, or cellulosic biofuel annually, if the facility or plant is: an ethanol plant, as defined in section 41A.09, 10.27 subdivision 2a, paragraph (b); a biobutanol facility, as defined in section 41A.105, 10.28 subdivision 1a, clause (1); or a cellulosic biofuel facility as defined in section 41A.10, 10.29 subdivision 1, paragraph (d). 10.30

(b) The responsible governmental unit shall promptly publish notice of the
completion of an environmental assessment worksheet in a manner to be determined by
the board and shall provide copies of the environmental assessment worksheet to the board
and its member agencies. Comments on the need for an environmental impact statement
may be submitted to the responsible governmental unit during a 30-day period following
publication of the notice that an environmental assessment worksheet has been completed.

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11.1 The responsible governmental unit's decision on the need for an environmental impact 11.2 statement shall be based on the environmental assessment worksheet and the comments 11.3 received during the comment period, and shall be made within 15 days after the close of 11.4 the comment period. The board's chair may extend the 15-day period by not more than 15 11.5 additional days upon the request of the responsible governmental unit.

(c) An environmental assessment worksheet shall also be prepared for a proposed 116 action whenever material evidence accompanying a petition by not less than 100 11.7 individuals who reside or own property in the state, submitted before the proposed 11.8 project has received final approval by the appropriate governmental units, demonstrates 11.9 that, because of the nature or location of a proposed action, there may be potential for 11.10 significant environmental effects. Petitions requesting the preparation of an environmental 11.11 assessment worksheet shall be submitted to the board. The chair of the board shall 11.12 determine the appropriate responsible governmental unit and forward the petition to it. 11.13 A decision on the need for an environmental assessment worksheet shall be made by 11.14 11.15 the responsible governmental unit within 15 days after the petition is received by the responsible governmental unit. The board's chair may extend the 15-day period by not 11.16 more than 15 additional days upon request of the responsible governmental unit. 11.17

(d) Except in an environmentally sensitive location where Minnesota Rules, part
4410.4300, subpart 29, item B, applies, the proposed action is exempt from environmental
review under this chapter and rules of the board, if:

11.21 (1) the proposed action is:

(i) an animal feedlot facility with a capacity of less than 1,000 animal units; or

(ii) an expansion of an existing animal feedlot facility with a total cumulativecapacity of less than 1,000 animal units;

(2) the application for the animal feedlot facility includes a written commitment by
the proposer to design, construct, and operate the facility in full compliance with Pollution
Control Agency feedlot rules; and

(3) the county board holds a public meeting for citizen input at least ten business
days prior to the Pollution Control Agency or county issuing a feedlot permit for the
animal feedlot facility unless another public meeting for citizen input has been held with
regard to the feedlot facility to be permitted. The exemption in this paragraph is in
addition to other exemptions provided under other law and rules of the board.

(e) The board may, prior to final approval of a proposed project, require preparation
of an environmental assessment worksheet by a responsible governmental unit selected
by the board for any action where environmental review under this section has not been
specifically provided for by rule or otherwise initiated.

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(f) An early and open process shall be utilized to limit the scope of the environmental 12.1 impact statement to a discussion of those impacts, which, because of the nature or location 12.2 of the project, have the potential for significant environmental effects. The same process 12.3 shall be utilized to determine the form, content and level of detail of the statement as well 12.4 as the alternatives which are appropriate for consideration in the statement. In addition, 12.5 the permits which will be required for the proposed action shall be identified during the 12.6 scoping process. Further, the process shall identify those permits for which information 12.7 will be developed concurrently with the environmental impact statement. The board 12.8 shall provide in its rules for the expeditious completion of the scoping process. The 12.9 determinations reached in the process shall be incorporated into the order requiring the 12.10 preparation of an environmental impact statement. 12.11

(g) The responsible governmental unit shall, to the extent practicable, avoid
duplication and ensure coordination between state and federal environmental review
and between environmental review and environmental permitting. Whenever practical,
information needed by a governmental unit for making final decisions on permits or
other actions required for a proposed project shall be developed in conjunction with the
preparation of an environmental impact statement.

(h) An environmental impact statement shall be prepared and its adequacy 12.18 determined within 280 days after notice of its preparation unless the time is extended by 12.19 consent of the parties or by the governor for good cause. The responsible governmental 12.20 unit shall determine the adequacy of an environmental impact statement, unless within 60 12.21 days after notice is published that an environmental impact statement will be prepared, 12.22 12.23 the board chooses to determine the adequacy of an environmental impact statement. If an environmental impact statement is found to be inadequate, the responsible governmental 12.24 unit shall have 60 days to prepare an adequate environmental impact statement. 12.25

12.26 (i) The proposer of a specific action may include in the information submitted to the responsible governmental unit a preliminary draft environmental impact statement under 12.27 this section on that action for review, modification, and determination of completeness and 12.28 adequacy by the responsible governmental unit. A preliminary draft environmental impact 12.29 statement prepared by the project proposer and submitted to the responsible governmental 12.30 unit shall identify or include as an appendix all studies and other sources of information 12.31 used to substantiate the analysis contained in the preliminary draft environmental impact 12.32 statement. The responsible governmental unit shall require additional studies, if needed, 12.33 and obtain from the project proposer all additional studies and information necessary for 12.34 the responsible governmental unit to perform its responsibility to review, modify, and 12.35 determine the completeness and adequacy of the environmental impact statement. 12.36

APPENDIX Article locations in H2095-2

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ARTICLE 2	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW	Page.Ln 8.18