

DNR News Release

For Immediate Release:
Oct. 12, 2020

DNR seeks comments on environmental review topics for proposed Grindstone Dam removal

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comments through Nov. 12 on topics to be included in an environmental impact statement for the proposed removal of the Grindstone Dam in Hinckley. The EIS will describe the potential environmental effects of the proposed dam removal.

The DNR proposes to remove the dam on the Grindstone River and reconnect the river channel above and below the dam. The 26.6-acre Grindstone Reservoir, which is a public water basin, would be permanently removed.

The dam is in poor condition, presents a safety hazard, and is a barrier to the passage of fish and other aquatic wildlife in the Grindstone River. The dam also impairs natural sediment transport and natural stream features and habitat diversity.

The scoping documents available for public comment provide information about the proposed topics for the EIS. The documents include a scoping environmental assessment worksheet (SEAW) and a draft scoping decision document (DSDD). Copies of both are available on the [project page](#).

An online informational meeting and comment opportunity will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 5. The DNR will also host an opportunity for up to six individuals without a device or internet connection to participate in the informational meeting in-person.

Copies of the documents are available for public review at:

- East Central Regional Library, 244 South Birch St., Cambridge.

Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-5122.

How to comment

The DNR will accept written comments until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12. Written comments on the SEAW and DSDD may be submitted using the following methods and should include "Grindstone EIS" in the subject line: