

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

June 7, 2023 Joint Planning Commission and City Council Meeting

KEY ACRONYMS AND TERMS

- EAW – Environmental Assessment Worksheet
- EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
- AUAR – Alternative Urban Areawide Review
- LGU – Local Government Unit
- RGU – Responsible Governmental Unit
- EQB – Environmental Quality Board
- MEPA – 1973 Minnesota Environmental Policy Act
- Connected Action- Two development projects that are connected
- Phased Action- Two or more projects to be undertaken by the same proposer under certain circumstances

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMPARISON

	EAW	EIS	AUAR
Why?	Mandatory Discretionary	Mandatory Voluntary Discretionary	Voluntary
Thresholds (4 th Class City)			
• Residential	250 attached 350 unattached	1000 unattached 1500 attached	n/a
• Warehousing/Light Industrial	300,000 sq. ft. of gross floor space	750,000 sq. ft. of gross floor space	n/a
• Other Commercial	200,000 sq. ft. of gross floor space	500,000 sq. ft. of gross floor space	n/a
Timeline			
	6 month process	1+ year process	Less than 1 year
Components			
	20+ Questions regarding Environmental Impacts	More in depth than EAW including alternatives and mitigation	Hybrid of an EAW and EIS process

KEY LINKS AND SOURCES

- [4410 - MN Rules Chapter](#)
- [Environmental Review Rules \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- [Minnesota Statutes 2022, Chapter 116D \(mn.gov\)](#)
- [Environmental Review Program | Minnesota Environmental Quality Board \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- [Environmental Review Pre-Screening Form](#)
- [EQB - Draft Revised Environmental Assessment Worksheet Form - Sept 2021 \(state.mn.us\)](#)

KEY LINKS AND SOURCES

- [Quick Reference-Environmental Assessment Worksheet](#)
- [Environmental Assessment Worksheet \(EAW\) Process | Minnesota Environmental Quality Board](#)
- [Quick Reference-Environmental Impact Statement](#)
- [Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\) Process | Minnesota Environmental Quality Board](#)
- [Quick Reference-Alternative Urban Areawide Review](#)
- [Alternative Urban Areawide Review \(AUAR\) Process | Minnesota Environmental Quality Board](#)
- [AUAR guidance \(form\)](#)