



Environmental Review at the MPCA

Katrina Hapka | Environmental Review Project Manager

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Environmental Review

- Regulatory program that implements federal and/or state policy
- Applies to some future projects
- Public disclosure of all potential environmental effects in one document
- Informs government approvals



Environmental Review



- Required public process
- Moratorium on final approvals and construction
- Projects do not pass or fail environmental review – not an approval process

Minnesota Rules chapter 4410

- Defined purpose and objectives
- When review is required
- Exemptions
- Types of review
- Procedures for review
- Decision criteria



EQB



- Monitor Program effectiveness
- Provide assistance for understanding the rules
- Create guidance

Responsible Governmental Unit



- Implement procedures
- Prepare environmental documents
- Decision maker

Project Proposer



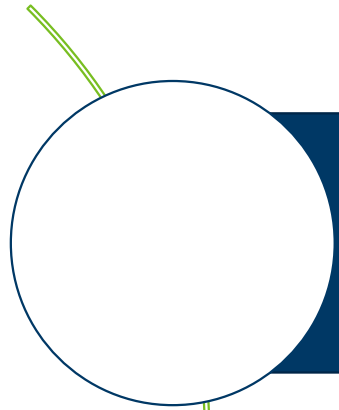
- Provide project details

Public

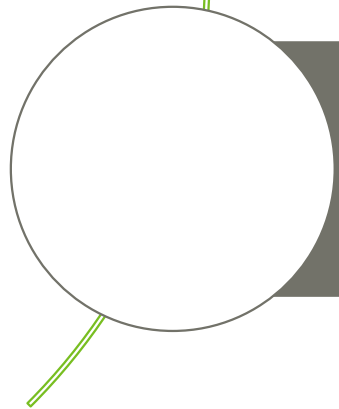


- Review environmental documents
- Provide comments

When is review required?



Mandatory Category



Discretionary Review

EAW

- Environmental Assessment Worksheet

EIS

- Environmental Impact Statement

Content:

- 13-page worksheet
- 22 standardized questions
- Discloses information necessary to decide if an EIS is needed

<https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/eaw-process>

December 2022 version

Environmental Assessment Worksheet

This most recent Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) form and guidance documents are available at the Environmental Quality Board's website at: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/> The EAW form provides information about a project that may have the potential for significant environmental effects. Guidance documents provide additional detail and links to resources for completing the EAW form.

Cumulative potential effects can either be addressed under each applicable EAW Item or can be addressed collectively under EAW Item 21.

Note to reviewers: Comments must be submitted to the RGU during the 30-day comment period following notice of the EAW in the *EQB Monitor*. Comments should address the accuracy and completeness of information, potential impacts that warrant further investigation and the need for an EIS.

1. Project title:

2. Proposer:

Contact person:
Title:
Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

3. RGU:

Contact person:
Title:
Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

4. Reason for EAW Preparation: (check one)

Required:

- EIS Scoping
 Mandatory EAW

Discretionary:

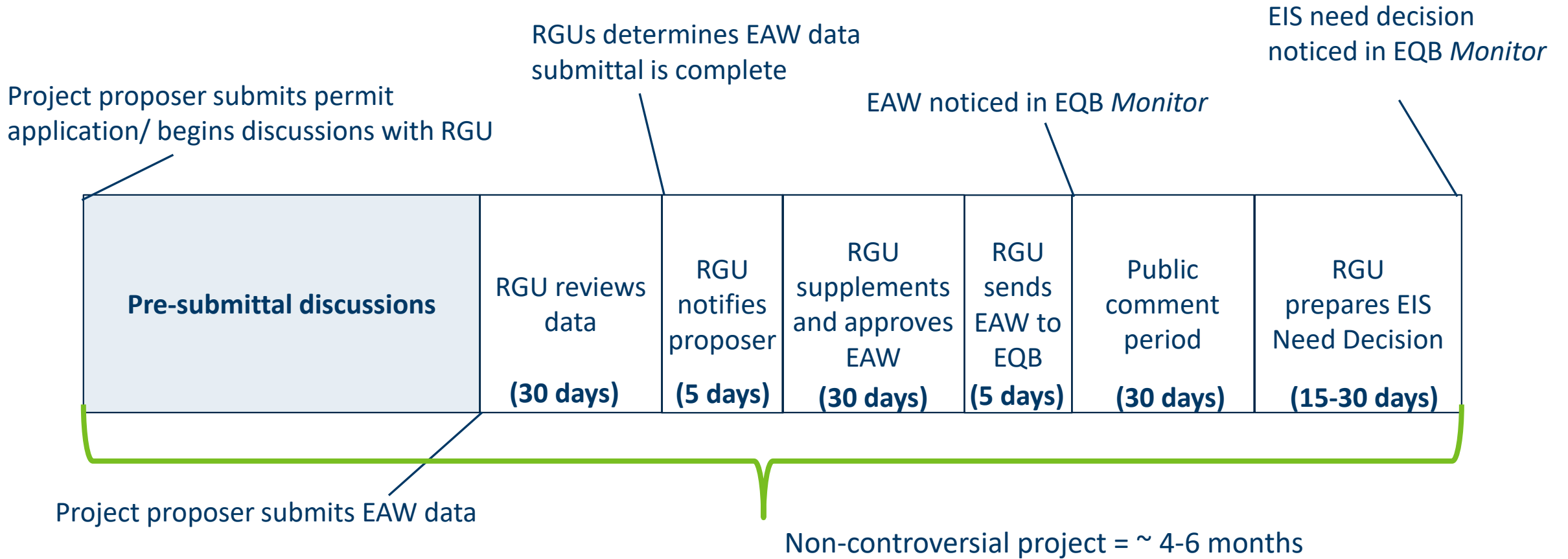
- Citizen petition
 RGU discretion
 Proposer initiated

If EAW or EIS is mandatory give EQB rule category subpart number(s) and name(s):

5. Project Location:

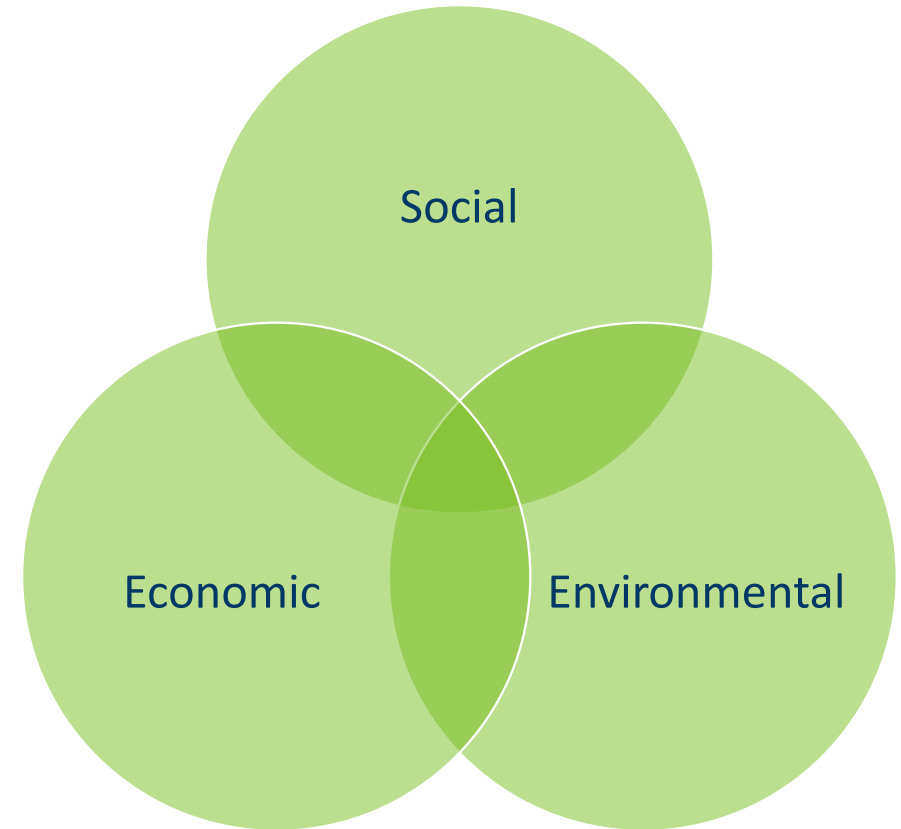
- County:
- City/Township:
- PLS Location (¼, ¼, Section, Township, Range):
- Watershed (81 major watershed scale):
- GPS Coordinates:
- Tax Parcel Number

EAW process timeline



- Type, extent, and reversibility
- Cumulative potential effects
- The extent to which the environmental effects are subject to mitigation
- The extent to which environmental effects can be anticipated and controlled

- More in-depth
- Alternatives
- Environmental, economic & social
- Mitigation of impacts



Thank you!

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katrina.hapka@state.mn.us

651-757-2418