

## EQB Monitor: 2021 Updates

- Series of updates to the *EQB Monitor* in 2021
- Starting January 5, 2021 – *EQB Monitor* publication date changes to **Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.**
- For additional information about updates visit:  
<https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/eqb-monitor>
- For questions contact Katrina Hapka at 651-757-2873 or  
[Env.Review@state.mn.us](mailto:Env.Review@state.mn.us)



## DRAFT Recommendations: Integrating Climate Information into MEPA Program Requirements

Denise Wilson | Director, Environmental Review Program

[Denise.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:Denise.wilson@state.mn.us)

651-757-2523

## Interagency Environmental Review Climate Technical Team

- Agriculture: Steve Roos, Steve.Roos@state.mn.us
- Commerce: Louise Miltich, Louise.Miltich@state.mn.us
- Health: David Bell, David.Bell@state.mn.us
- Metropolitan Council: Eric Wojchik, Eric.Wojchik@metc.state.mn.us
- Natural Resources: Kate Fairman, Kate.Fairman@state.mn.us
- Natural Resources: Jill Townley, Jill.Townley@state.mn.us
- Pollution Control: Peter Ciborowski, Peter.Ciborowski@state.mn.us
- Pollution Control: Melissa Kuskie, Melissa.Kuskie@state.mn.us
- Pollution Control: Laura Millberg, Laura.Millberg@state.mn.us
- Transportation: Katherine Lind, Katherine.Lind@state.mn.us
- Transportation: Jeff Meeks, Jeffrey.Meek@state.mn.us
- Transportation: Deb Moynihan, Debra.Moynihan@state.mn.us
- Transportation: Peter Wasko, Peter.Wasko@state.mn.us

## Presentation Overview

- Climate Change is an important issue for the Environmental Review Program
- Environmental Review Program and how it relates to climate
- Discussion of DRAFT recommendations and engagement plan



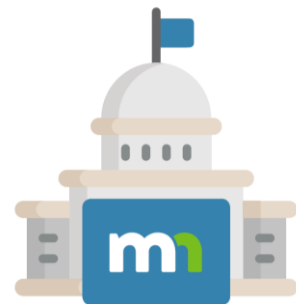
## Questions for ERIS and Public Reflection

1. Changes to recommendations?
2. Changes to Engagement Plan?
  - additional key audiences?
  - other methods of engagement?
  - other questions?

## Climate Change Importance

*“To fulfill Minnesota's statutory goals, avoid the severe economic, health, and ecological impacts associated with a changing climate, and fully realize the benefits of a healthy, sustainable, and resilient state, our state government must work across the enterprise in a coordinated approach to develop equitable strategies that will mitigate climate change and achieve greater resilience.”*

*Executive Order 19-37*



## Climate and Environmental Review Program Improvement Highlights

- 2017 - 2018
  - Convened Environmental Review Advisory Panel
- 2019
  - September: Approved EQB work plan – climate as focus
  - November: Convened Interagency Technical Team
  - December: Listening Sessions to discuss climate and Environmental Review Program
- 2020
  - Discussed progress at January and July Board meetings

## Environmental Review Program and How it Relates to Climate

### 2016-2019 Total Projects: 282

<u>Most Frequent Project Types</u>	<u>Percent of total Projects</u>	<u>Contributes GHG Emissions</u>
Highway projects	14%	yes
Animal Feedlots	13%	yes
Residential development	12%	yes
Wetlands and public waters	11%	minimal/construction
Nonmetallic mineral mining	10%	yes
Industrial, commercial	7%	yes
	<b>66%</b>	

## Environmental Review Program Focus Areas

- What climate information is needed
- Criteria used to make Environmental Review Program decisions
- When review is mandatory



## Board authorities for Environmental Review Program change

- Rulemaking (MS 116D.04, subd. 2a(a) and 5a; 116.045)
- Revise Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) Forms (MS 116D.04, subd. 14 and MR 4410.1300)
  - Standard Form
  - Custom Form (Feedlots)
- EQB Guidance Documents and Technical Assistance

## Recommendations (page 9): CA1-CA5 GHG Quantification and Assessment/Adaptation and Resilience

### Change:

- Revisions to the EAW Form (Appendix A: page 14)
- Guidance
  - Developing a Carbon Footprint (Appendix B1: page 24)
  - Climate Adaptation and resilience (Appendix B2: page 48)

**Can be approved by EQB chair or Board**

## Recommendation (Page 10): DC1 Decision Criteria

**No change** to MR 4410.1700.

- Most greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are not reversible; and all GHG emissions contribute to cumulative climate change impacts on a global scale
- Existing decision criteria did not anticipate the unique nature of climate effects
- Responsible Governmental Units should consider climate information in a similar manner to other types of potential effects that are minimally regulated

## Recommendations (page 11): MR1 and MR2 Mandatory Review

**No change:** Mandatory EAW categories (Appendix C)

**Change:** New mandatory Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) category for GHG emissions:

- Below existing thresholds/greater than 100,000 TY CO<sub>2</sub>e
- No existing project type/greater than 100,000 TY CO<sub>2</sub>e
- No permitting/review requirements with GHG assessment
- No GHG reduction Plan

**Requires rule change**

## Not Included in Recommendations

- Cost, time and value for Responsible Governmental Units and project proposers
  - Calculators and tools designed for MN Environmental Review requirements
- Social cost of carbon
- Ecosystem services

## Proposed Engagement Plan Tools (page 5)

- Sample of Environmental Review Program Participants - conduct one-on-one interviews
- Sample of Environmental Review Program Participants - send an electronic survey
- Opportunities through a 30-day public comment period
- At least one listening sessions open to everyone



## Targeted Groups

- Open request to all interested Minnesotans through notices
- Project proposers
- Responsible Governmental Units (approve ER documents)
- Consultants and technical experts
- Government decision-makers (e.g. permit approvals etc.)
- Tribal environmental experts
- Environmental Justice experts





## Engagement Timeline



January - March

- Outreach
- Engagement



April - May

- Summarize
- Review
- Revise
- Post Input



June - July

- ERIS Approval
- Board Approval

## Questions for ERIS and Public Reflection

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2. Changes to Engagement Plan?
  - additional key audiences?
  - other methods of engagement?
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**Thank You!**

**Denise Wilson**

**Director, Environmental Review Program**

[Denise.wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:Denise.wilson@state.mn.us)

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