

# Environmental Review and Climate

## Listening Session Discussion Guide

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Dec. 18, 2019 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm | Lower Level Conference Room, 520 Lafayette Rd N | St. Paul, MN

### Meeting Purpose

The Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee (ERIS) is considering ways to better integrate climate-related information into the State Environmental Review (ER) Program. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for further public input and dialogue on the topic of incorporating climate-related information into the environmental review program. This builds on actions we have identified in the current EQB work plan.

### Discussion Framework and Questions

The meeting will be an open forum discussion, hosted by the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and ERIS Chairs for 90 minutes (1:00-2:30 pm). Background on this topic was presented by staff at the October 16, 2019 ERIS meeting. The audio and relevant documents are available on the EQB website: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/environmental-review-implementation-subcommittee-eris#>.

The following questions are proposed to better understand opportunities for meaningful engagement during ERIS meetings and to support informed decision-making on climate-related issues.

### General Discussion Questions

**1. How would you like to inform the work of the ERIS?**

*The ERIS has public meetings scheduled quarterly, with time set aside for public comment. Any recommendations developed by the Subcommittee would then go before the EQB, also including time for public participation.*

**2. What topics would you like ERIS to address?**

*The 20-21 EQB Work Plan identifies climate and health as two areas of focus for ERIS. As ERIS makes progress on its agenda, time may become available for other topics.*

### Climate and Environmental Review Questions

**3. What problem are we trying to solve? Is the following problem statement adequate?**

*Environmental Review documents do not consistently provide sufficient climate-related information necessary to inform decision-making on proposed projects that may have the potential for significant environmental effects.*

**4. What climate-related information is missing in Environmental Assessment Worksheets and Environmental Impact Statements?**

- How will you use this information?

### Meeting Follow Up

Input from the meeting will be compiled and summarized for consideration during a future ERIS meeting. They will also be posted on the ERIS web page.