



Quick Reference: Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR)

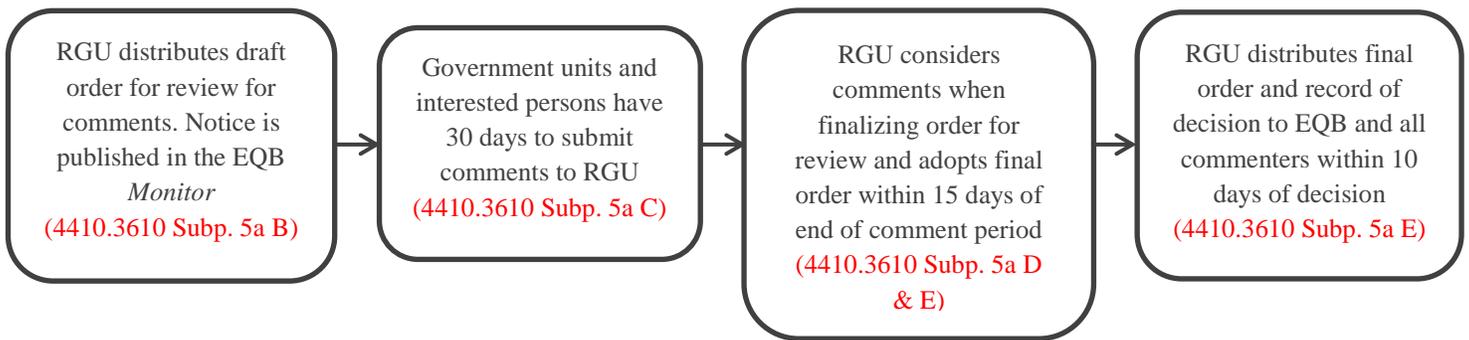
The AUAR process is a hybrid of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) review processes. Responsible Governmental Units (RGU) can use an AUAR as a planning tool to understand how different development scenarios will affect the environment of their community before the development occurs. The process is designed to look at the cumulative impacts of anticipated development scenarios within a given geographic area. The AUAR document uses a list of questions adapted from the EAW form, but provides a level of analysis of typical urban area impacts comparable to an EIS. Environmental analysis information from an AUAR can be used to inform local planning and zoning decisions. This quick reference guide is meant to provide a brief overview of the AUAR process and the steps required to successfully complete an AUAR. For more detailed guidance on properly preparing an AUAR, please see the [Recommended Content and Format Guide](#) on the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) website.

Please note that this quick reference guide is not intended to substitute for [Minnesota Rules 4410](#). It is designed to help RGUs and others implement the environmental review process more effectively and efficiently. The guide does not alter the rules or change their meaning; if any inconsistencies arise between this guide and the rules, the rules take precedent. Please contact EQB Staff with any questions at Env.Review@state.mn.us or 651-757-2873.

Additional First Steps in AUAR Process for Certain Specific Large Projects (Minnesota Rules 4410.3610, Subpart 5a)

Note: If you do not have a large project that meets the criteria described below, please see the AUAR Process Steps on page two.

The 2009 Minnesota Rule amendments added additional required steps at the beginning of the AUAR process if the review will cover any specific projects that meet mandatory Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requirements or comprise at least 50 percent of the geographic area to be reviewed. These steps include a public comment period on the scope of the AUAR review, specifically on the development scenarios and relevant issues to be covered. These steps must occur before a final order for review can be adopted.

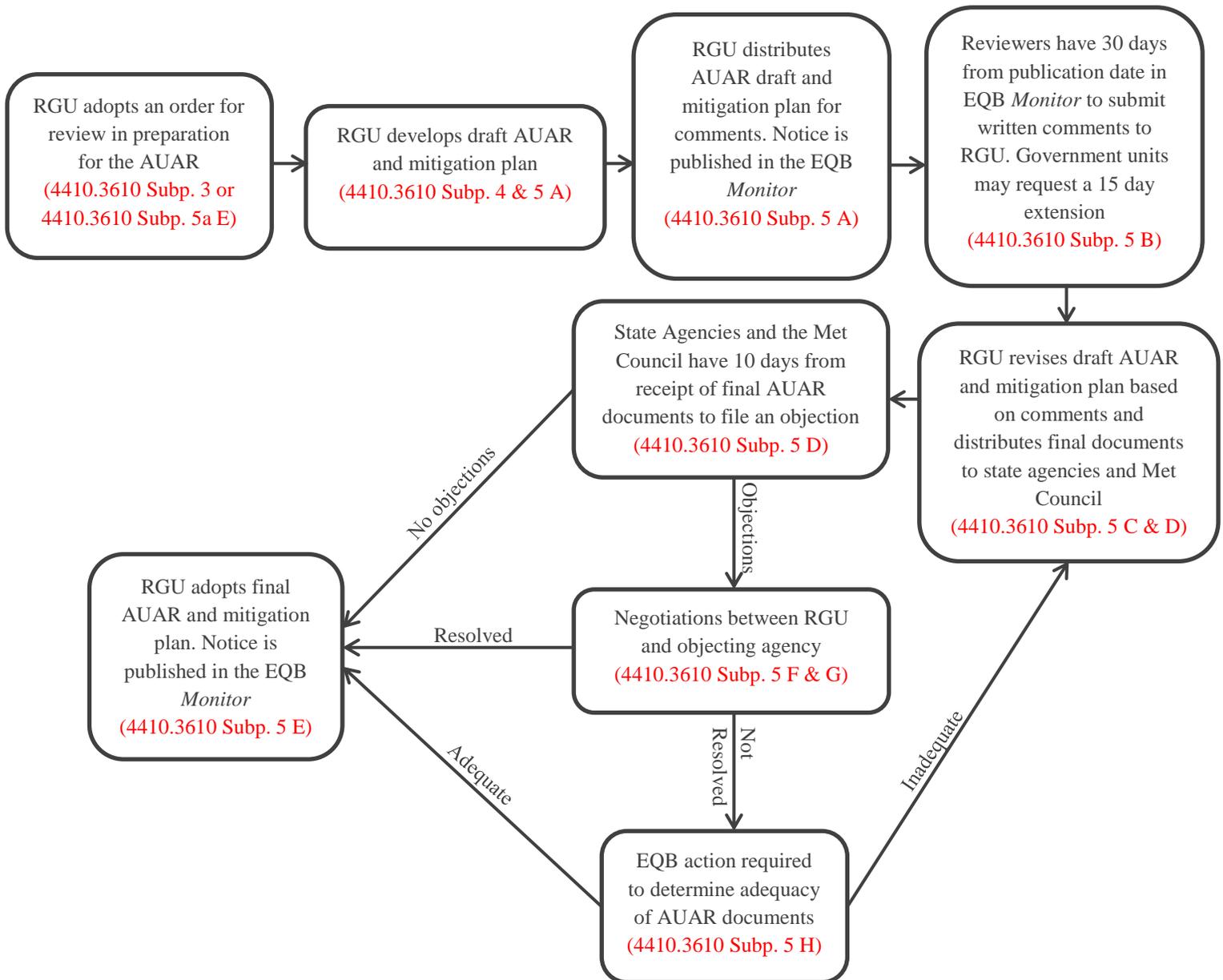




AUAR Process Steps

(Minnesota Rules 4410.3610, Subparts 3-5)

Unless the AUAR includes additional first steps due to a large specific project as detailed on page one, the first step of the AUAR process is the adoption of an order for review by the RGU. The draft and final AUAR, along with the mitigation plan, are prepared and distributed for comments to ensure adequate review. A process for appeal to the EQB can be invoked by state agencies and the Metropolitan Council.



AUAR Update Process Steps

(Minnesota Rules 4410.3610 Subpart 7)

Minnesota Rules provide guidance on the circumstances that require an AUAR update. Regardless of any significant changes, the AUAR must be updated every five years until all of the development in the area has been approved. An AUAR update is generally a faster process than starting a new AUAR since the update process does not require a complete revision of the AUAR document. Instead, the update process requires that the AUAR document, along with the mitigation plan, be updated to the extent necessary to reflect the changes that have occurred in the area included in the review. The updated documents are distributed in a manner similar to a final AUAR except that the documents must be sent to all parties listed on the EAW distribution list and a notice must be published in the EQB *Monitor*. The process for appeal to the EQB can still be invoked by state agencies and the Metropolitan Council as in the normal AUAR process.

