m1 MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

March 2025 Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee meeting

Wednesday, March 19 from 1 – 4:00 p.m.
Join in person or online

- In person: 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155, lower level conference rooms
- Online: For the meeting link and more information, visit the ERIS meeting webpage

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Participating in board meetings

Attending in person

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will convene its meeting in person at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency St. Paul office building. All visitors must sign in at the front desk.

Transportation options:

- Bicycle: Visit the Saint Paul Bike Map webpage for route information. Outdoor bicycle parking is available to the left of the front doors near the loading dock.
- Transit: Use Metro Transit's Trip Planner to determine the best routes and times.
- Car: You may park in a Visitor Parking space in the parking lot just outside the front door, or park in one of the visitor lots. The visitor lots are the Blue Lot (Olive St. and University Ave.) and the Jupiter Lot (on Grove St. across from the Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center); please see the parking map. Parking in these lots is free of charge. You must register your vehicle at the front desk upon arrival.

Attending virtually

Members of the public may join the meeting virtually using the Teams link at the board meeting webpage link above. Please review the Guide to Teams Participation for additional information.

Accessibility

Please contact Environmental Quality Board (EQB) staff at least one week prior to the event at info.EQB@state.mn.us to arrange an accommodation. Meeting materials can be provided in different forms, such as large print, braille, or on a recording.

Public engagement opportunities at EQB meetings

EQB encourages public input and appreciates the opportunity to build shared understanding with members of the public. The opportunities for public engagement for this meeting are below.

Public comment opportunities at EQB meetings

EQB encourages public engagement and appreciates the opportunity to build shared understanding with members of the public. There are multiple ways to engage with staff and board members. One important way is to provide public comment at a board meeting.

The public comment period(s) at a board meeting provide an opportunity for members of the public to inform the board about their views related to the specific item under discussion or something related to the board's purview or authority. Tips for providing comments:

- Ensure that your comments are relevant and specific to the topic you are addressing.
- Say what you want the board to know or consider in moving forward with a piece of work.
- Identify a specific action that you want the Board to take.

If you have a question for the board or EQB staff, it will be noted by staff who will get back to you at a later time. This ensures that we have enough time at a meeting for all commenters to provide input to the board and that your questions can be fully considered.

Oral public comment

At each meeting, the agenda will show when the board will accept oral public comment. The chair will use their discretion to direct public comment and ensure the board's ability to effectively conduct business.

Procedure for giving oral public comment:

- **Virtual:** when prompted, use the "raise hand" feature in Teams, located at the top of your screen.
- **In person:** sign up at the welcome table before the meeting starts.
- When the chairperson calls on you to speak:
    - Introduce yourself before beginning your comment.
    - Please keep your remarks to the agenda item at hand.
    - Please be respectful of board members, staff, and other meeting participants. The chair, vice-chair, or other presiding officer will not tolerate personal attacks.
- The chairperson may limit commenters' time for remarks to ensure there is equal opportunity for the public to comment. Generally, your remarks will be limited to two (2) minutes.
- The chairperson may discontinue a commenter's time to speak if the comments are not reasonably related to the agenda item at hand.

Written public comment

You may submit written comment to EQB by emailing your letter to info.EQB@state.mn.us or mailing to: Environmental Quality Board, 520 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155. Comments must be received by EQB staff **by noon the day before the meeting**.

Staff will compile letters, make them available to members and the public, and attach them to the public record. Any written comments received after this deadline will be included in the next meeting packet.

Please only submit information that you wish to make available publicly. EQB does not edit or delete submissions that include personal information. We reserve the right to not publish any comments we deem offensive, intimidating, belligerent, harassing, bullying, or that contain any other inappropriate or aggressive behavior.

Agenda

Note that all listed times are estimates and are advisory only.

1. ## Welcome and roll call (1:00 pm)

   Nancy Daubenberger – Chair, EQB; Commissioner, Department of Transportation (acting ERIS chair)

2. ## Approval of consent agenda (1:10 pm)
   - Meeting minutes from the September 18, 2024, Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee meeting on packet page 5
   - Preliminary agenda for the March 19, 2024, Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee meeting

3. ## Executive Director's report (1:15 pm)

   Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

4. ## Election of Chair (1:25 pm)

   Type of item: Decision

   Summary: Under the Committee's operating procedures, the subcommittee is to elect a chairperson at their first meeting each year. The chair presides at ERIS meetings.

   Outcome: ERIS elects a chair to serve until their first meeting in 2026.

5. ## ER Program FY25 work update (1:30 pm)

   Type of item: Informational

   Summary: The director will provide a brief update and overview of the work of the environmental review program for FY25, including what has been accomplished, is in progress, and what is still upcoming.

   Outcome: ERIS is informed about progress on key work items.

   Presenter: Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

6. ## 2024 Performance Report (2:00 pm)

   Type of item: Informational

   Summary: Environmental review program staff will provide an overview of ER program measures from 2024, and how those measures compare to past trends and help inform the effectiveness of the program. Staff will also provide updates regarding data improvements that have taken place in 2024. The Performance Report memo can be found on packet page 9.

   Outcome: The Board will be informed regarding the data representing the year of environmental review and may ask questions on how the data informs the effectiveness of the program.

   Presenters: Jesse Krzenski – Environmental Review Program Administrator, EQB;
   Sarah Lerohl – Environmental review technical assistance and energy transition communities support, EQB

Break (2:45 pm / 5 minutes)

7. **GHG Calculator Update (2:50 pm)**

   Type of item: Informational

   Summary: The Climate Calculator Tool is being created to facilitate the quantification of greenhouse gas emissions required by question 18 of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet. A draft version of that calculator will soon be available to the public. Staff will give a background on the tool's objectives and demonstrate the functionality of this draft calculator. Staff will also discuss next steps in the process of finalizing the calculator for completion in early May, as well as the accompanying guidance and training that will become available in June.

   Public comment: ERIS welcomes oral public comment on the draft Climate Calculator Tool. Please see guidance and procedures on packet page 2.

   Outcome: ERIS understands the functionality of the draft Climate Calculator Tool and our remaining project timeline, and provides feedback on its content to EQB staff.

   Presenter: Stephanie Aho – Greenhouse Gas Data Analyst, EQB

8. **Public comment (3:50 pm)**

   The board welcomes any additional oral public comment. Please see guidance and procedures on packet page 2.

9. **Closing and adjournment (4:00 pm)**

MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

September 2024 Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 | 1:00-4:00 p.m. | 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155, lower level conference rooms and online via Teams.

Minutes

1. Welcome and roll call

Chair Sarah Strommen, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, called to order the meeting of the Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee.

Members present: Joseph Bauerkemper, Nancy Daubenberger, Rylee Hince, Katrina Kessler, Paul Nelson, Sarah Strommen

Members excused: Grace Arnold, Todd Holman

Proxies present: Rachel Ganani (for Kessler), Bob Meier (for Strommen), Jenna Ness (for Arnold),

EQB staff present: Stephanie Aho, Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno, Colleen Hetzel, Hazel Houle, Jesse Krzenski, Sarah Lerohl, Priscilla Villa-Watt, Kayla Walsh

2. Approval of consent agenda

- Meeting minutes from June 12, 2024, Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee meeting
- Proposed agenda for September 18, 2024, Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee meeting

Motion: Member Kessler moved the consent agenda; Member Hince seconded. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. Executive Director's report

Colleen Hetzel – Director Environmental Review Program, EQB for Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

- EQB news

- o September 3rd: EQB staff launched the RGU survey that will go to RGUs when they submit an EAW notice for the Monitor. This is designed to help EQB track more information about project timelines and engagement.
  - o Elizabeth Batsaikhan, student worker from the Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers program did a great job pulling together some of the past year's technical assistance tracking so that EQB staff can ascertain which mandatory categories or program issues result in the most questions and continue to track this going forward. Thanks to Sarah Lerohl and Jesse Krzenski for working on this and finding good ways to track EQB's provision of technical assistance moving forward.
- Events
  - o Pollinator outreach at the State Fair on August 29th and the Minneapolis Monarch Festival on September 7th; between the two events, staff spoke to at least 1500 people.
  - o Environmental Congress next week (9/23-26). Board members should have all the logistics information.

4. Environmental Review: Mandatory Category Report draft

Presenter: Kayla Walsh – Environmental Review Program Administrator, EQB

Type of item: Informational

Summary: EQB staff shared the draft 2024 Mandatory Category Report goals, writing process, and next steps. Mandatory categories are categories of project types that require environmental review. The purpose of the Mandatory Category Report is to conduct a review of all mandatory categories and discuss any recommended changes. The report is due to the Legislature December 1, 2024. ERIS had an opportunity to discuss the draft, ask questions, and provide insights.

Discussion:

- Once staff define projects from the Mandatory Category Report recommendations, they can use the continuous improvement process as one factor in helping to prioritize what to work on next.
- Suggestion to add a summary of the recommendations and/or a quick table that would help those who are only skimming the report.

Public comment:
- Robert Hale: Suggests EQB give some feedback on the public feedback, so public commenters can know that what they're spending time writing is getting some kind of response.
- Paula Maccabee, advocacy director and counsel for Water Legacy: Asks that EQB revise rules to: clarify that an EIS is mandatory if the project has potential significant environmental effects; put an expiration date on EISs; require independent health assessments for EISs; require an EIS for diversion of Lake Superior Basin waters; and make stronger categories for mining mandatory EAWs and EISs.

- Tony Kwilas, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce: The length of time and cost of air permitting should be less, as it hurts companies' willingness and ability to invest in Minnesota.
- Kris Wegerson, Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians: Would like health impact assessments included in environmental review as previously requested.
- Joy Anderson, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy: Disappointed not to see more recommendations for changes based on the robust public input that was gathered and is concerned that the recommendations that are made are not going to get implemented. There has been a lot of discussion previously – requests that EQB actually make those changes and make those solid recommendations.
- Sylvia Patane, community engagement director for Water Legacy: Believes public comment has been deflected. None of the recommendations that Water Legacy and over 170 other commenters made were taken by the EQB.

EQB Response to comments:
- EQB has reviewed all the submitted comments for the draft report; staff are working with the co-authoring team to help make sure that ideas do not get lost and that they will be filtered into other processes in the future. EQB invites everyone to reach out to EQB staff to discuss.

Outcome: Final edits will be sent to the Board for final review at the October Board meeting, and the Board will vote for approval at the November 20, 2024, meeting.

5. Climate Calculator – Scoping Update and Data Sources

Presenter: Stephanie Aho – Greenhouse Gas Data Analyst, EQB

Type of item: Informational

Summary: The Climate Calculator Tool is being created to facilitate the quantification of greenhouse gas emissions required by question 18 of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet. Staff discussed updates made to the tool's likely scope in the past six weeks to address comments and questions from the July EQB meeting and discussed next steps in the process of finalizing the scope and beginning to build out the tool.

Discussion:

- EQB staff and ICF are still looking at data sources, but the important ones are nailed down. Staff would welcome input on any nuances that should be addressed.
- Question 18 on the EAW form can be changed if needed and if it makes sense to do so.
- For future discussion: some guidance, some benchmarks; how would the calculator final numbers inform the permitting.
- Will be including components of the Minnesota Infrastructure Carbon Estimator (MICE) within the climate calculator for projects where transportation is not the main focus but is a component of the emission sources that are required for that project. If a project can be fully contained within MICE, then MICE can be used on an EAW as the source of emissions numbers.

- Seeing the separate subgroups for the Technical Advisory Committee on this tool development, it's requested to continue to have larger convening groups like the Climate Technical Committee that established the EAW edits be involved.

Public comment: There were no comments on this item.

Outcome: ERIS understands the proposed scope of the Climate Calculator Tool, as described in the draft scoping memo, and provided feedback on its content to EQB staff. EQB staff will take the feedback, go through more rounds of edits, and then release the scoping memo in October.

6. Public comment

There were no comments.

7. Closing and adjournment

Member Kessler motioned to adjourn. Member Nelson seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned.

MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Memo

Date: March 7, 2025

To: Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee

From: Jesse Krzenski and Sarah Lerohl, EQB Environmental Review Program staff

RE: Minnesota Environmental Review Performance Report 2024

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) oversees the state's Environmental Review Program, as authorized in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116D, and implemented by Minnesota Rules, chapter 4410. Under these laws, the EQB has responsibility for monitoring Environmental Review (ER) Program effectiveness and the authority to make program improvements. The data presented in this report includes projects that followed the procedures of Minnesota Rules, chapter 4410; it does not include energy projects completed using procedures laid out in other statutes or rules.

As part of that responsibility, EQB staff regularly collect and analyze data to provide information about the program's implementation, and annually give an account of the information through this performance report.

Because state statutes and rules delegate the authority to apply the rules and complete review of individual projects to other state agencies and local governments (Responsible Governmental Units or RGUs), there are challenges to collecting data and information. EQB staff are continuing to work improve data collection to support our collective ability to evaluate the effectiveness of the ER Program and our provision of technical assistance.

Environmental Review Program data and information

The ER program has been collecting data about environmental review projects in Minnesota for many years. In 2020, EQB staff developed the first Data Management Plan (DMP), which established a standardized methodology for collecting and assessing data and information. The goal of data collection under the plan is to understand the program's effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

Annually, EQB staff compile and assess the data and information identified in the DMP and present the results to members of the Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee (ERIS). In addition to the presentation to ERIS, EQB staff now maintain a "data" website, launched in 2024.

The data website has many functions including:

- Housing the data management plan
- Serving as a library for easy access to past performance reports
- Providing links to Environmental Review Project Database and ER Interactive Map
- Providing a performance report public dashboard, which is an interactive summarization of pieces of information presented in annual performance reports

The DMP was updated in 2024 to identify additional data or analysis needed to better understand program effectiveness. Prior versions of the DMP focused heavily on basic program operation data (process tallies) as the primary measure of program effectiveness; the recent DMP identifies the need to expand the data EQB staff collect in areas of performance and results-based metrics.

In 2024, staff launched a new survey to begin collecting data to support some of these new metrics. The data achieved from this survey will help answer fundamental questions about how well environmental review is being done and whether the program is achieving its goals.

Minnesota Environmental Review Program Overview

Table 1: 2024 Minnesota Environmental Review Program Overview

Metric	2024 Summary	Yearly comparisons/trends
Frequency of ER Program process types	• EAW – 47 • EIS – 1 • AUAR – 9	EAW totals continue downward trend started in 2023; this is the lowest number of EAWs completed in 10 years.
Frequency of mandatory categories by RGU and by location	• See Appendix A and B	Sixteen different mandatory categories, six discretionary EAWs, trending the same as previous years. Variety of project types where ER is being completed not seeing a significant change.
Frequency of comment letters submitted on ER projects	• EAW average – 35 *(one project receiving 1300 comments raises the average significantly, removing that project from the calculation lowers the average to 7)* • EIS average – 3 • AUAR average – 8	Average number of comment letters within normal range compared to previous years.
Frequency of unique public participation opportunities	• 28% of RGUs held a public meeting for an EAW	New metric, lacking comparison data.
Time for completing review by ER process type (in days)	• EAW average – 86 • EIS average – 841 • AUAR average – 182	Time to complete data trending in line with previous years.
Perceptions of whether the ER process provided usable information (EAW's)	• 94% of RGUs indicated that the environmental review process was useful in identifying potential env. effects • 89% of the time RGUs indicated that the environmental review process identified mitigation measures.	Both measures have trended up over the last 3 years. 2022 – 86% useful in identifying potential env. effects; 74% identified mitigation measures 2023 – 89% useful in identifying potential env. effects; 83% identified mitigation measures
Frequency and type of technical assistance provided by EQB staff	• This was partially tracked in 2024, see Technical Assistance Tracking and Library Improvements section below.	Lacking comparison data.

2024 ER Data

Frequency of ER Program process types

This assessment provides information about the following ER Program process types:

- Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR)
- Petitions for environmental review (which may or may not result in a project undergoing review)

In 2024, RGUs completed a total of 72 processes related to proposed projects: either completing environmental review (EAW, EIS, or AUAR) or determining the need for environmental review in response to a petition. (See Figure 1)

Table 2: ER process comparison last three years

2022	2023	2024
78 EAWs	53 EAWs	47 EAWs
0 EISs	2 EISs	1 EIS
7 AUARs	6 AUARs	9 AUARs
14 Petitions	14 Petitions	15 Petitions

The frequency of environmental review completed in 2024 did see some variation compared to previous years.

The low number of EAWs completed continues the trend from 2023. The number of EAWs is the lowest it has been over the last ten years. Various factors are likely contributing to the lower number of EAWs. The lower number of EAWs could be attributed to the greater number of AUARs being completed, nine, and especially the number of large AUARs, seven. It is likely that had AUARs not been completed by RGUs there would have been certain residential, commercial, or light industrial projects that would have required their own EAW.

If we compare the combined number of projects evaluated under the residential development, industrial, commercial, institutional, and mixed-use mandatory categories, we see that 2024 and 2023 had 13 total projects of these types, while 2022 had 34 projects reviewed under these categories. Projects are likely impacted by many factors unrelated to the ER Program - such as funding and general market and economic development conditions. These outside forces likely contribute to the decrease in EAWs, but those factors have not been studied.

In 2024, the most frequent project types that required review included: nonmetallic mineral mining (6 projects); industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities (6 projects); stream diversions (5 projects); wetlands and public waters (4 projects); and highway projects (4 projects). Together, these accounted for 53% of completed EAW projects. Discretionary EAWs completed in 2024 counted for 13% of completed EAWs.

Projects outside the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area made up 62% of EAWs completed in 2024. Projects in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties) made up 38% of the EAWs completed. See Appendix A for a further breakdown of EAWs completed by mandatory category, RGU types, and location.

One mandatory EIS was completed in 2024 (Appendix B). The mandatory EIS was for a barge fleeting project under the mandatory category in Minn. R. 4410.4400, subp. 17. A local unit of government served as the RGU, and the project was located outside of the metro area.

Figure 1: Environmental review trends over years by environmental review process type

Frequency of ER by process type
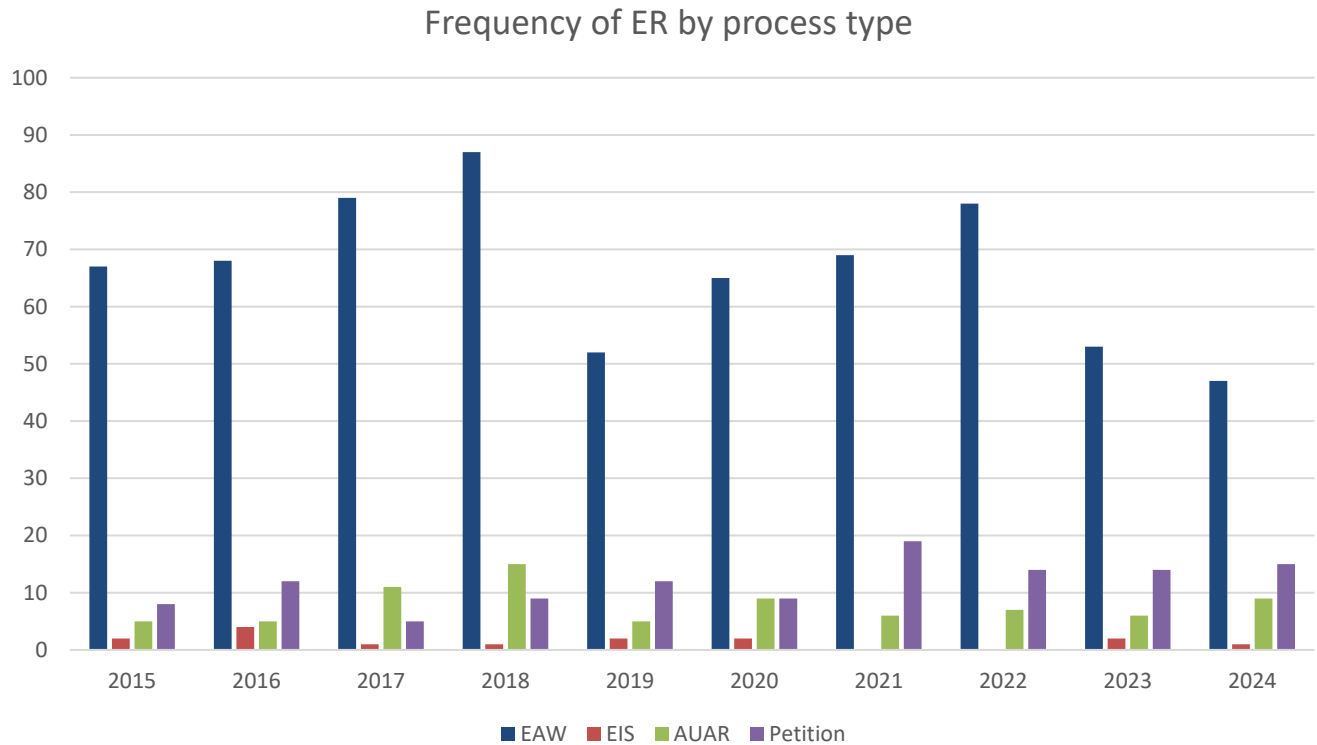
Frequency of mandatory categories by RGUs and geographic location

In 2024, 34 unique RGUs completed mandatory and discretionary EAWs for 47 proposed projects. Local units of government completed 72% of EAWs, while state agencies completed 28% of the EAWs in 2024 (Figure 2). Local RGUs may include watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, counties, towns, cities, port authorities, and housing authorities.

Figure 2: RGUs conducting environmental review in 2024
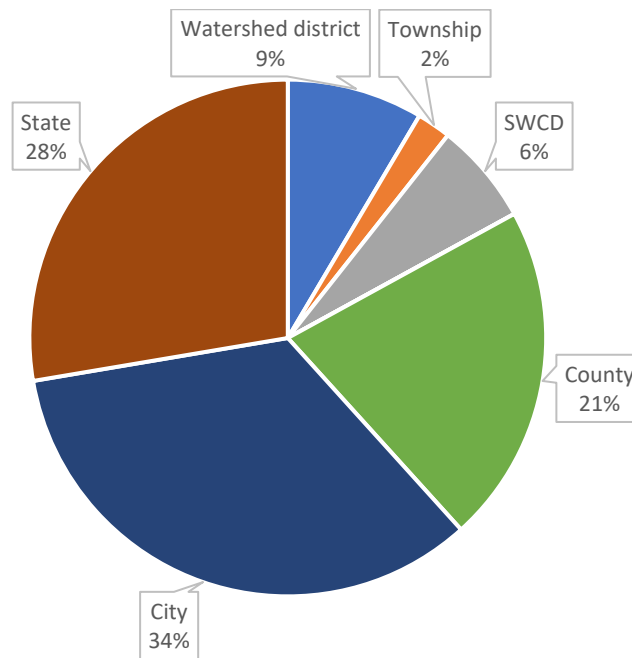
Frequency of petitions

In 2024, 15 complete petitions were submitted – they included the required components laid out in Minn. R. 4410.1100, subp. 1 and 2 – and EQB staff assigned them to an RGU (Figure 3). It is important to note that of the 15 total complete petitions, nine required more than one submittal to the EQB as the original submittal was missing at least one of the required components. One project deemed incomplete followed up with a new submittal in 2025. This is a continuing trend of a high percentage of incomplete submittals and supports the need for updated guidance regarding petitions, which EQB staff intend to complete in 2025.

Figure 3: Number of projects petitioned for by year vs the percent proceeding to an EAW
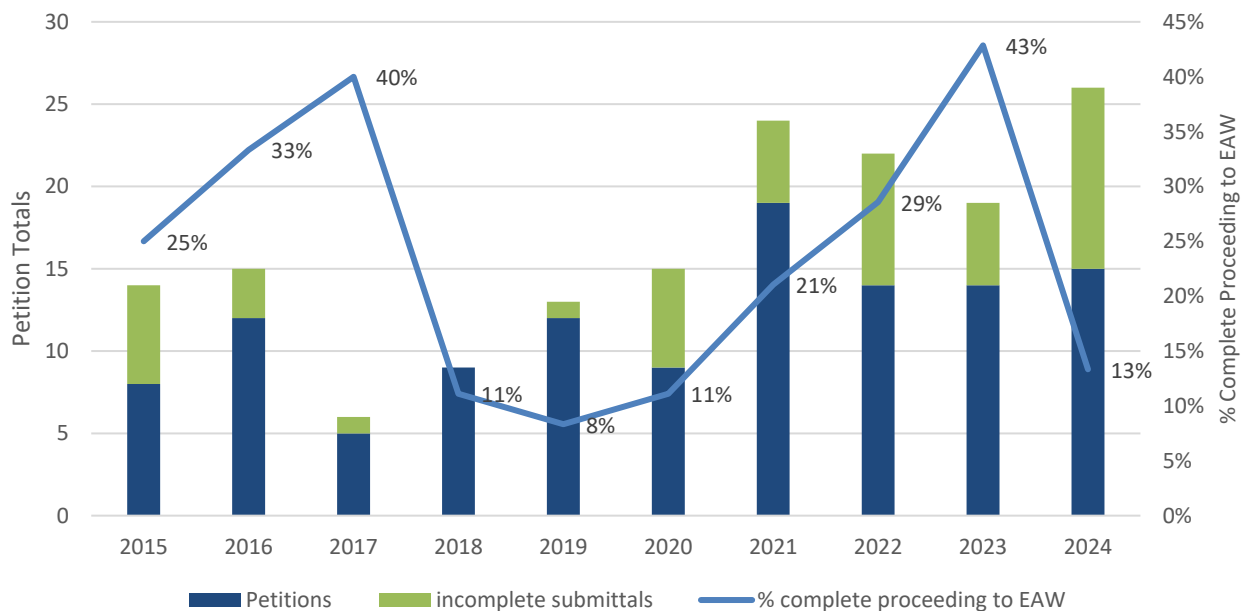
Table 3 depicts the project type of each complete petition as it would best align with a mandatory category, as well as the number of projects that proceeded through the petition process and resulted in an EAW being ordered. A petition may conclude with approval (positive declaration on the need for an EAW), denial (negative declaration on the need for an EAW), or be placed on hold (no pending government approval for the project.). An RGU may order a discretionary EAW at the request of the proposer, or an RGU can deny a petition and still order a discretionary EAW.

In 2024, two of the complete petitions resulted in an EAW being ordered for a project. See Figure 3 for representation of percent of complete petitions resulting in an EAW being required by year. Approved petitions are not necessarily reflected in the completed EAW count as the project may not have completed the EAW the same year the EAW was ordered. Projects may also change or withdraw permit applications after an EAW is ordered. One petitioned project resulted in an order for an EAW, but the project proposer significantly altered the proposal and submitted new permit applications. The new, altered project was petitioned again, and the second petition was denied by the RGU.

Table 3: 2024 Petitions by project type and outcomes

Project type petitioned based on mandatory category reference	Number of complete petitions	Number of complete petitions resulting in an order for an EAW	Number of complete petitions on hold
Subp 5. Fuel conversion facilities	1		
Subp 5. Fuel conversion AND Subp. 29 Animal feedlots	1	1	
Subp. 12. Nonmetallic mineral mining	1		
Subp. 14. Industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities	1		1
Subp. 15. Air pollution	1		1
Subp. 19. Residential development	3		1
Subp. 19a. Residential development in shoreland outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area	2		
Subp. 20a. Resorts, campgrounds, and RV parks in shorelands	2		1
Subp. 29. Animal feedlots	1	1	
Subp. 34 Event facility	2		
Total	15	2	4

Opportunities for public participation in the ER Process

RGUs submitted 47 notices in 2024 of final decisions on environmental assessment worksheets and reported the number of comment letters received for each project. RGUs reported receiving a minimum of zero and a maximum of 1,300 comment letters on environmental review documents, with an average of 35 per project. The average number of comment letters received per project are skewed by one project which received 1,300. If you remove that project from the calculation, then the number falls to an average of seven comment letters per project. RGUs also held a public meeting for 28% of EAWs that were completed in 2024. Public meetings are not a requirement for an EAW process.

EQB Actions

EAW survey

The 2024 DMP identified new metrics that would serve as better program effectiveness indicators and help EQB better understand program implementation. Staff implemented a survey system in 2024 to collect additional information from RGUs as they published EAW availability notices. Staff narrowed the focus of the survey to certain metrics identified in the DMP that were well-suited for the survey format and the EAW process. The results of the survey will ultimately inform about the interactions between project proposers and RGUs prior to an EAW being deemed complete while also better informing the time it takes to develop an EAW. The survey also looks to gain additional information regarding any early engagement efforts that may be taking place.

The survey was launched in September 2024. EQB staff wanted to use the period late in 2024 to see if the survey was viable to support future data collection. The survey has not yet received enough responses (a 23% response rate to twenty surveys sent) to analyze the results, but it is promising for future data collection. EQB staff will work to continue to increase the response rate via direct contact with RGUs and using EQB outreach methods (EQB Monitor, newsletter) to increase the awareness of the survey for future RGUs submitters.

Technical Assistance Tracking and Library Improvements

EQB engaged intern Elizabeth Batsaikhan through the Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC) program to create a data taxonomy and index for technical assistance call logs. Elizabeth analyzed existing call logs from previous years as they had been recorded by EQB staff. Technical assistance inquiries from the logs were assigned topics, sub-topic, mandatory category, and RGU information. The application of the taxonomy allows staff to understand the general nature of calls/callers and helps identify trends and gaps in understanding of practitioners and the public.

Staff incorporated the taxonomy and added a new category to the call log in September 2024 to include EQB responses, creating a library of technical assistance information that will enable consistent replies to inquiries over time and aid in staff training. Figure 4 provides a "snapshot" of the new taxonomy applied to calls received September through December 2024, and Figure 5 further explores the topic "ER process" with applicable subtopics.

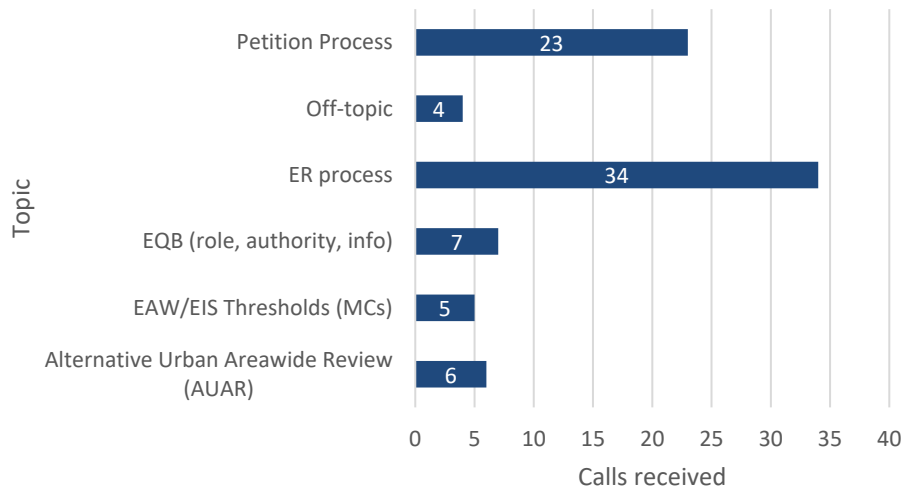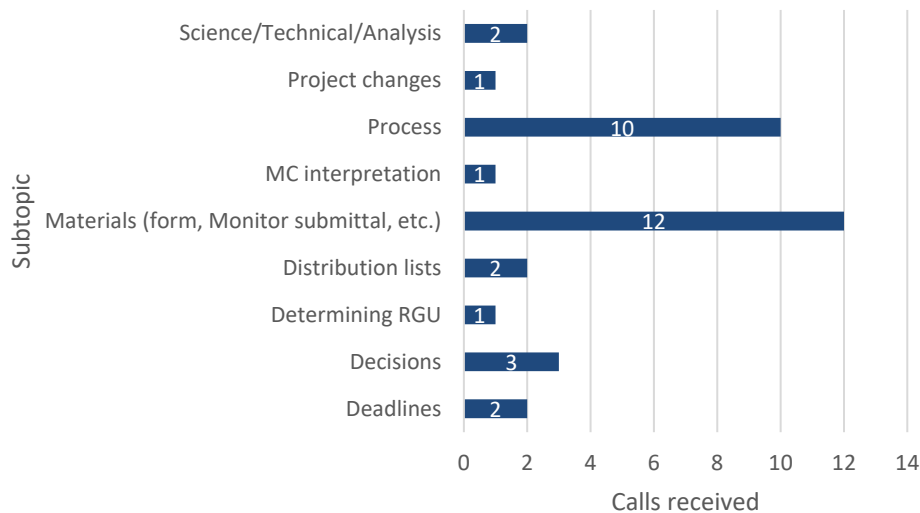**Figure 4. Total technical assistance calls by topic area, Sept. - Dec. 2024**

Figure 5. "ER process" questions by subtopic, Sept. - Dec. 2024

Completion rates for EAW climate & greenhouse gas questions

EQB staff conducted a review of 90 EAWs submitted in 2023 and 2024 to understand usage of the new EAW form adopted in December 2022. The form includes a question on considerations for climate adaptation and resilience (Question 7) and a question on the greenhouse gas emissions/carbon footprint (Question 18) of proposed projects. Overall, users have broadly adopted the new form; 94% of the 90 EAWs submitted used the updated form (Figure 6), and 98% of new form users completed questions 7 a., 7b. and 18 (Figure 7). Analysis of citations indicate the resources provided in EQB guidance are being cited and practitioners are also sourcing information independently.

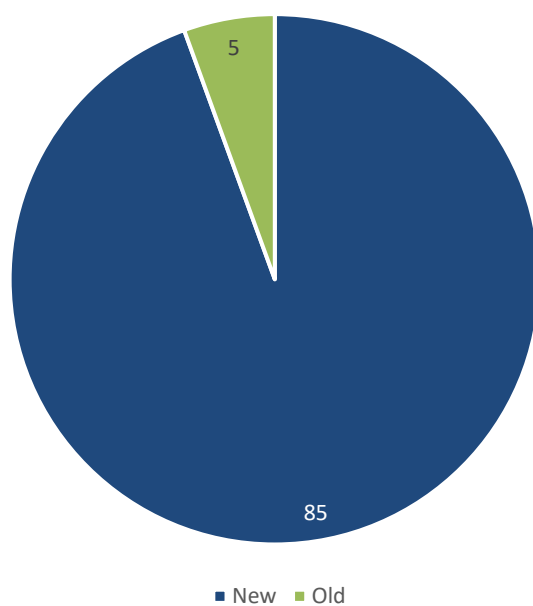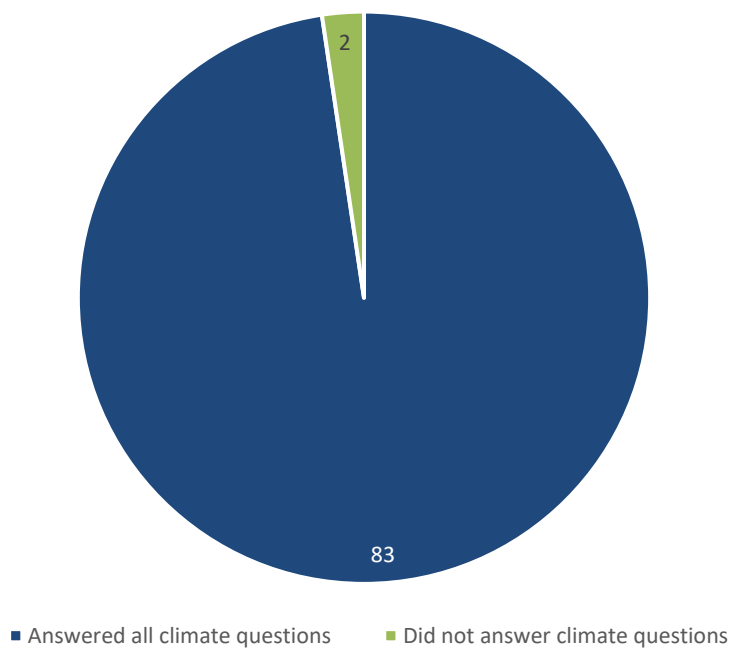**Figure 6. Number of users submitting the new EAW form 2023-2024**

Figure 7. Number of new EAW form users completing climate questions 7 & 18

Appendix A: 2024 Environmental Assessment Worksheet Mandatory Categories

EAW Mandatory Category reference (MR 4410.4300)	Number of Projects	State RGU # of Projects	Local RGU # of Projects	Located in Greater MN	Located in Twin Cities Metro
Subp. 3. Electric-generating facilities	1	0	1	1	0
Subp. 5. Fuel conversion facilities	1	1	0	0	1
Subp. 10. Storage facilities	2	2	0	1	1
Subp. 12. Nonmetallic mineral mining	6	0	6	4	2
Subp. 14. Industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities	6	0	6	3	3
Subp. 17. Solid waste	1	1	0	0	1
Subp. 19. Residential development	3	0	3	1	2
Subp. 19a. Residential development in shoreland outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area	2	0	2	2	0
Subp. 22. Highway projects	4	3	1	3	1
Subp. 25. Marinas	1	0	1	1	0
Subp. 26. Stream diversion	5	2	3	5	0
Subp. 27. Wetlands and public waters	4	1	3	1	3
Subp. 32. Mixed residential and industrial-commercial projects	2	0	2	1	1
Subp. 34. Sports or entertainment facilities	1	0	1	0	1
Subp. 36. Land use conversion, including golf courses	2	0	2	2	0
4410.1000 Subp. 3. Discretionary	6	3	3	4	2
Sub-Total		13	34	29	18
Total	47				

Appendix B: 2024 Environmental Impact Statement Mandatory Categories

EIS Mandatory Category reference (MR 4410.4400)	Number of Projects	State RGU # of Projects	Local RGU # of Projects	Located in Greater MN	Located in Twin Cities Metro
Subp. 17. Barge fleeting activities	1	0	1	1	0
Total	1	0	1	1	0