



Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR)

The AUAR is a planning tool that local governments can use 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. Environmental analysis information from an AUAR can be used to inform local planning and zoning decisions

The AUAR process:

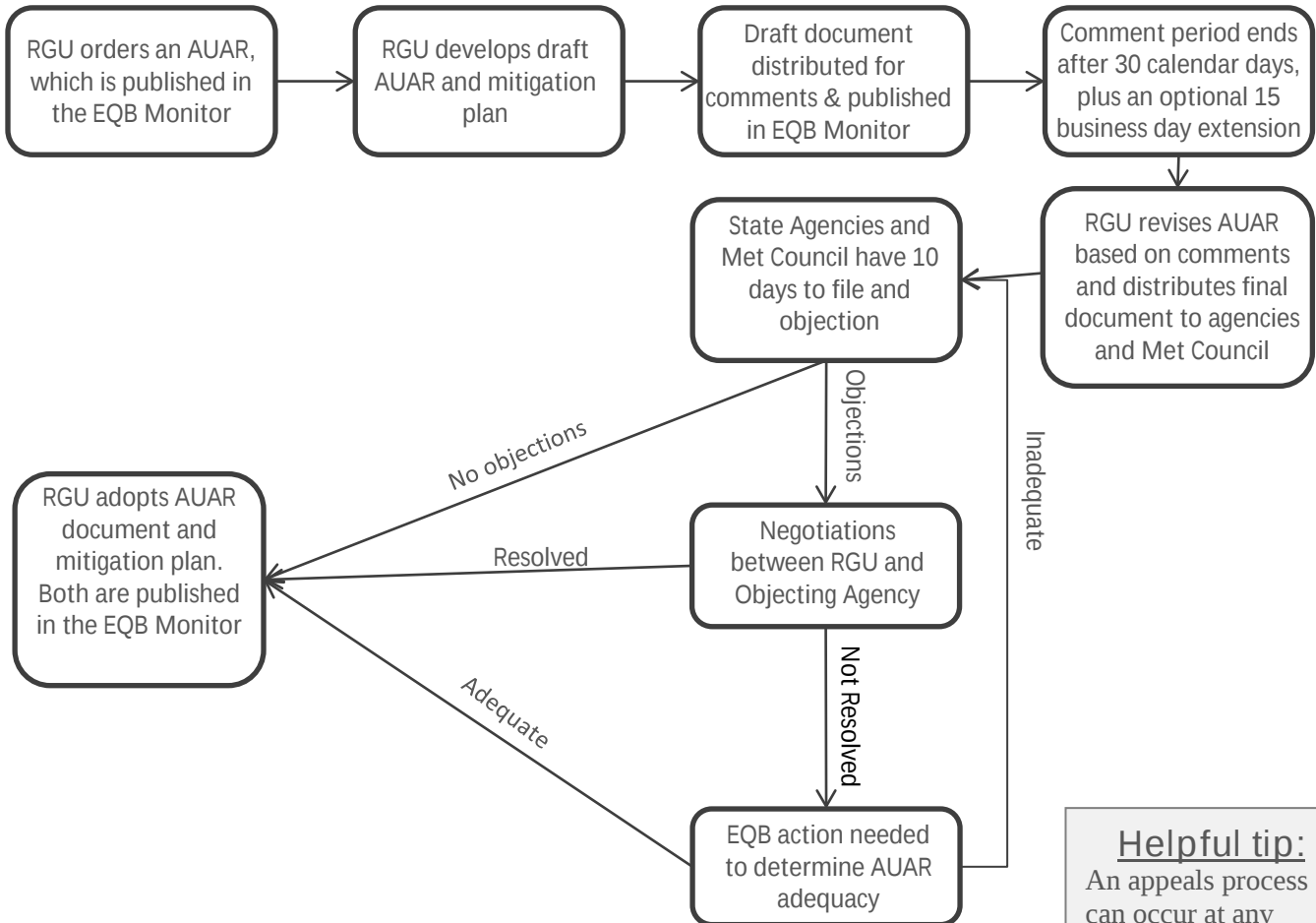
The AUAR starts with an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). Future development scenarios are reviewed using the EAW to analyze environmental impacts resulting from development choices as well as ways to reduce or eliminate those consequences, (called “mitigations”). Once the AUAR review process is complete, future projects within the AUAR geographic boundary will not require individual EAW and EIS documents as long as these future projects are consistent with the development scenarios analyzed in the completed AUAR, and project proposers implement the mitigation measures required by the AUAR Mitigation Plan. The AUAR is the only environmental review document that must be periodically updated to stay relevant. There are situations where the AUAR cannot be used as a substitute for an EAW or EIS. This information can be found in MN Rules 4410.3610.

Relationship to projects:

For projects requiring an EAW or EIS that are proposed within the boundaries of an area where an AUAR is in progress but not yet completed, the RGU may review these projects through either the AUAR or EAW procedure. For projects that do not require an EAW or EIS, but are within the geographic boundary of an AUAR, the RGU may exclude it through following a special process, described in Minnesota Rules. Projects proposed that include more than half of the AUAR geographic area or would otherwise require an EIS must go through additional procedures. These additional steps are explained in Minnesota Rules 4410.3610 subpart 2.



AUAR process steps:



Helpful tip:
An appeals process can occur at any decision point.

AUAR update process steps:

