



*June 8, 2021*

On May 25, 2021, the City of Minneapolis released the draft Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) for the Upper Harbor Terminal development project. This is the environmental review CMEJ and MCEA pressed the City to complete prior to voting on the Coordinated Plan for the Upper Harbor Terminal site.

## **What is Environmental Review?**

Under Minnesota law, environmental review is undertaken in order to analyze the environmental impacts of a project before it is voted on or permitted by the government. The basic idea is that putting all environmental aspects of a project into one document makes it easier for government officials to make good decisions and for the public to be part of the process.

One of the main points of environmental review is to have a process for people to learn about the project's details and be involved. Also, environmental review is designed to eliminate proposals that are bad for the environment.

## **What does the AUAR for the Upper Harbor Terminal cover?**

The AUAR is a 300 page document that analyzes the environmental effects of three development scenarios: the No Build Scenario, the Coordinated Development Plan favored by the City (Scenario 1), and the Maximum Density plan (Scenario 2).

The AUAR describes the current conditions on the site, as well as the impacts of all three scenarios, including: how stormwater and erosion will be managed, the expected noise levels from the performing arts center, impacts on animal habitat and species, visual impacts of the new buildings, and traffic (volume, noise, and emissions).

## What is missing from the AUAR?

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy plans to comment that the AUAR fails to meet legal requirements in at least two ways:

- **Cumulative Potential Effects.** This section is designed to analyze the effects of the proposal when added to existing, and/or future projects and pollution. The AUAR ignores the existing pollution and environmental effects in the area, including, GAF, and traffic on 94.
- **Climate.** The AUAR ignores the project's contributions to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions, such as vehicle emissions, construction (including climate impacts of concrete production) and eventual operation of the facility (for example, fracked gas heating).

## Should Community Members comment?

Yes! You should definitely comment on what in the AUAR is important to you (or what's not discussed in the AUAR).

## How to Comment:

Comments can be emailed to Hilary Dvorak, Principal City Planner, at [hilary.dvorak@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:hilary.dvorak@minneapolismn.gov).

**Comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2021**

The Draft AUAR is available here: <http://upperharbormpls.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-05-17-Draft-UHT-AUAR-with-Appendices.pdf>



Distributed and produced by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Contact: Evan Mulholland, Staff Attorney  
[emulholland@mncenter.org](mailto:emulholland@mncenter.org), (603)-219-5850