



SEQRA BASICS

Westchester Municipal Planning Federation
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What is SEQRA?

- 1975 – NYS Legislature adopted Article 8 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law (State Environmental Quality Review Act)
- 1976 – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation adopted regulations to implement SEQRA – 6 NYCRR Part 617
- Requires all State and local agencies to assess environmental effects of discretionary actions before deciding to fund or approve the action (unless the action is exempt from SEQRA review)



Purpose/Intent

- Incorporate consideration of environmental factors into the application review process at the earliest possible time by identifying the environmental impacts and determining whether the application must be modified to avoid or mitigate the impacts.
- Environmental factors must be **balanced** with social and economic considerations.



Compliance

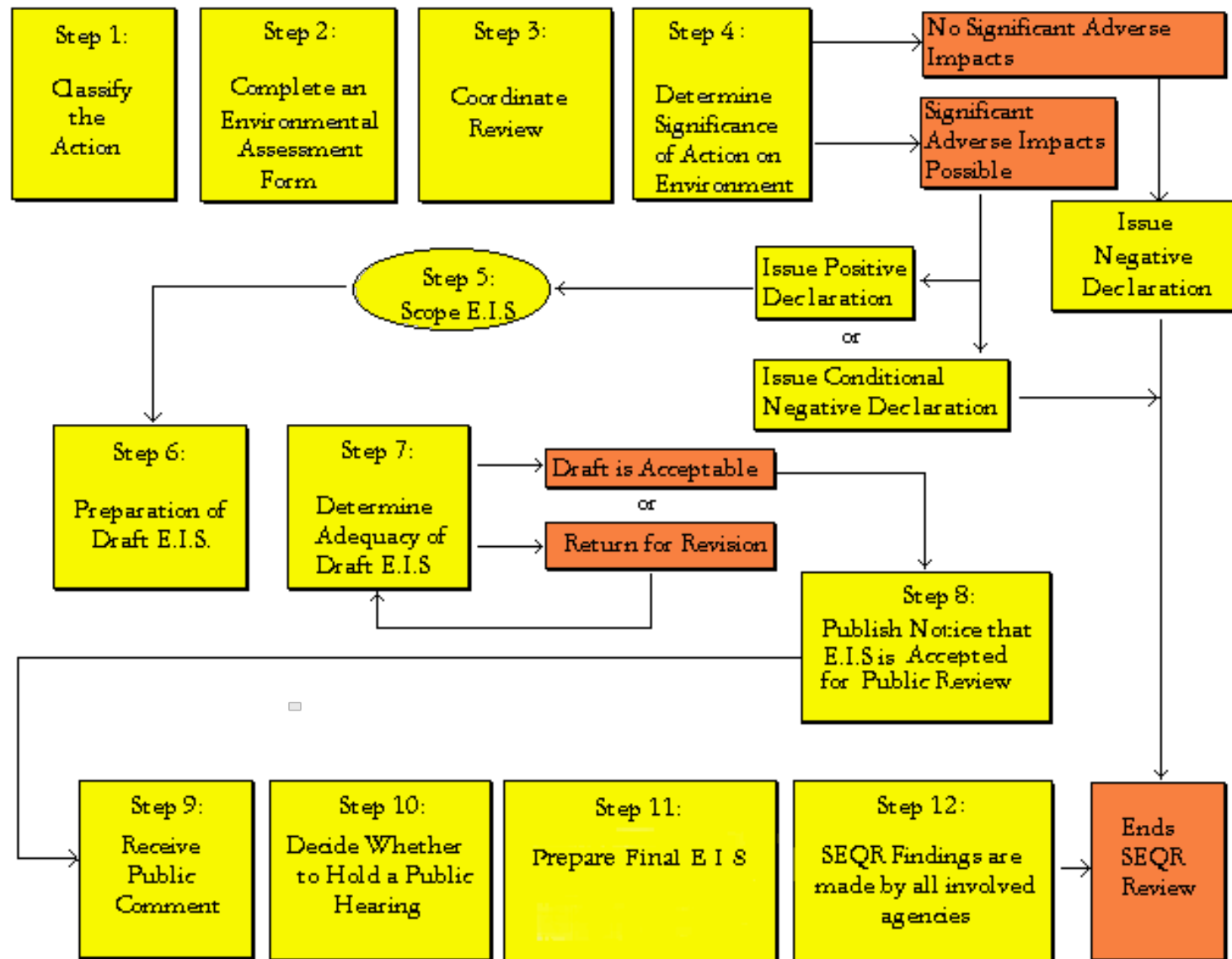
- **Procedural**

- Strict compliance required

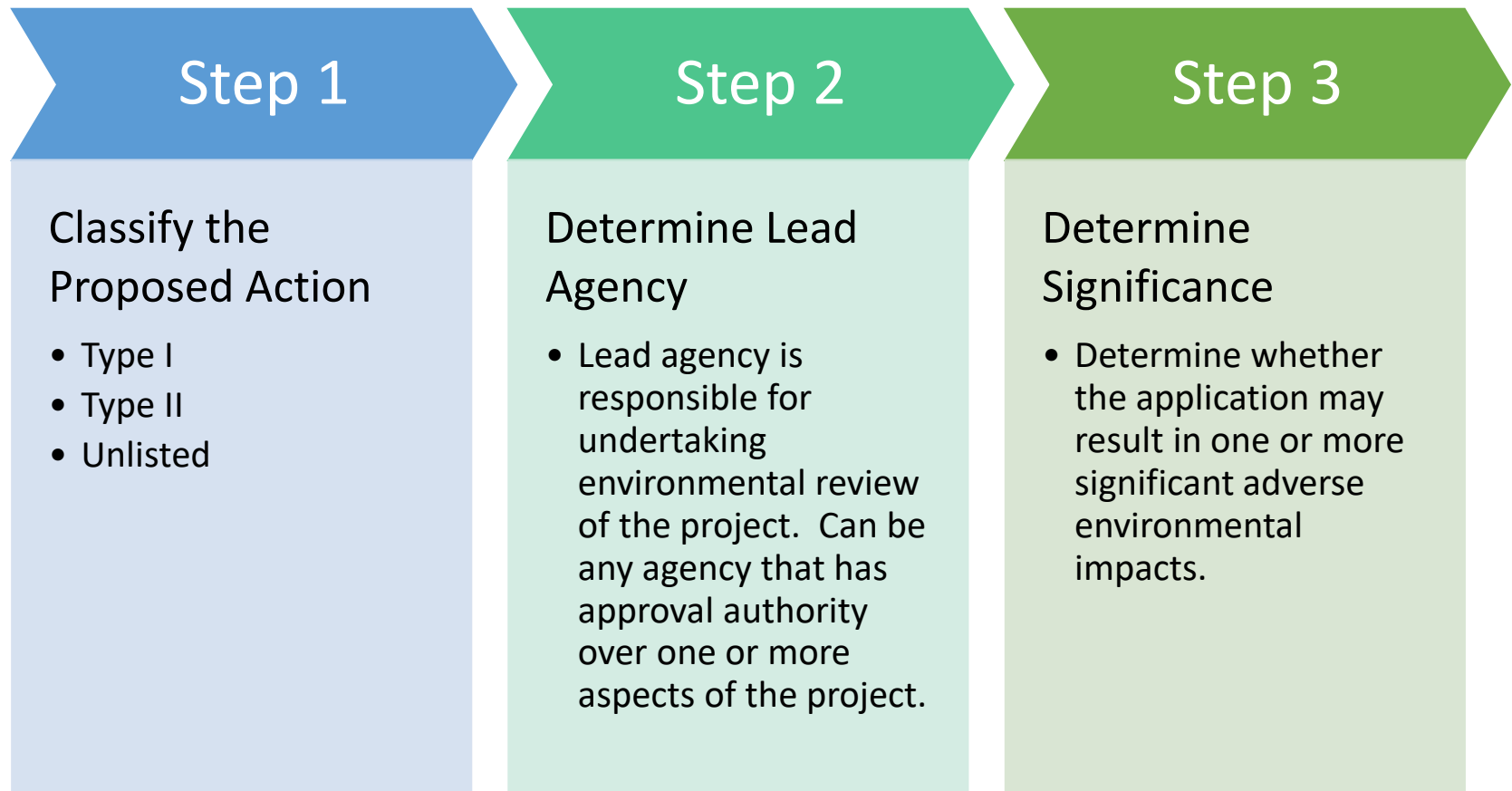
- **Substantive**

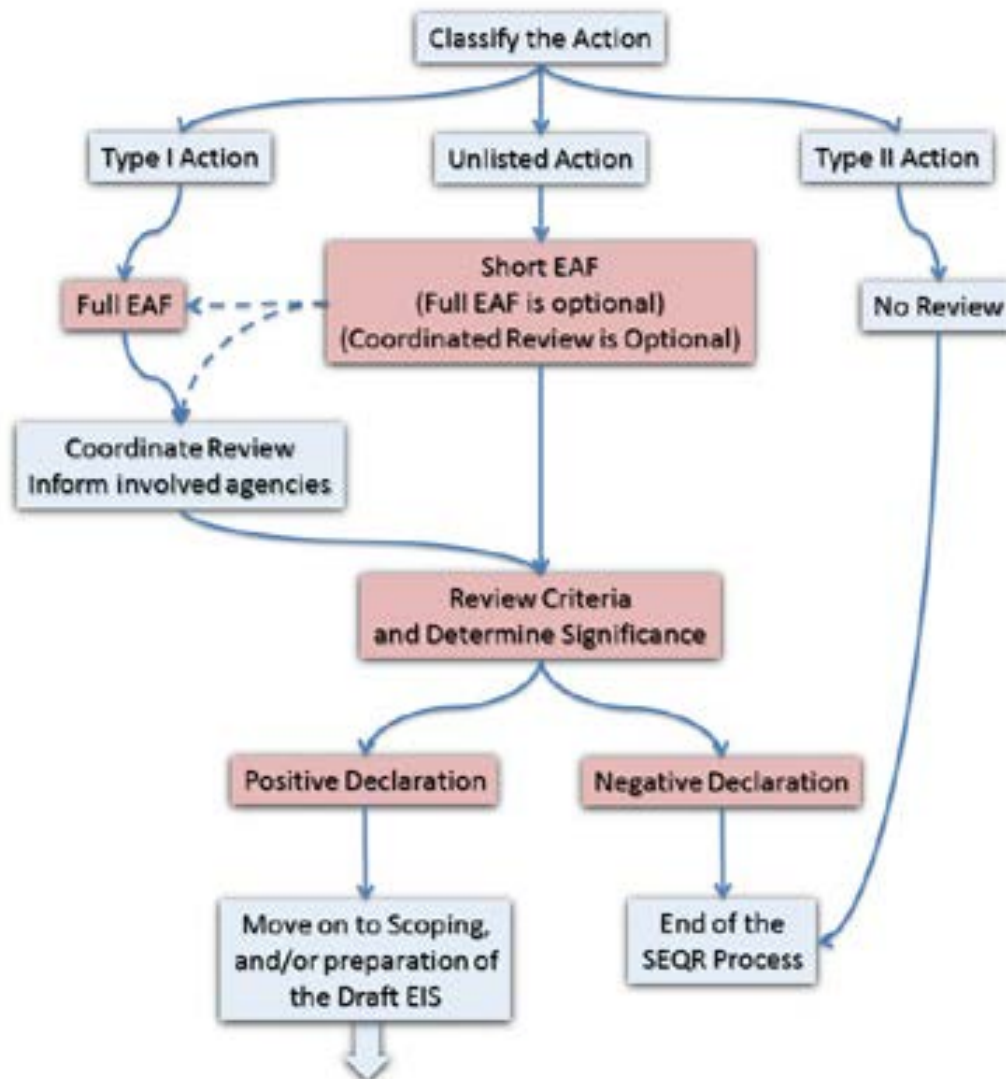
- Courts will review whether the Board identified the relevant standards of environmental concern, took a “hard look” and made a reasoned elaboration for its determination.

Stepping Through the SEQR Process



Basic Framework of SEQRA





Basic Framework of SEQRA

Step 4

Scoping

- Mandatory as of January 1, 2019

Step 5

Preparation of the DEIS

- DEIS will examine the nature and extent of all potentially significant adverse environmental impacts, including alternatives and mitigation measures to avoid or minimize such impacts.

Step 6

Preparation of the FEIS

- The lead agency is responsible for the adequacy and accuracy of the final EIS, regardless of who prepares it.

Step 7

The Completion of SEQRA

- ***Findings Statement***

- Provides the rationale for the Lead Agency's determination and certifies that the action avoids or minimizes the adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating identified mitigation measures.





Department of
Environmental
Conservation

The SEQR Handbook

FOURTH EDITION, 2020

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor | Basil Seggos, Commissioner



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Thank you!
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