



Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale



Environmental
Assessment Office



Environmental Assessment in British Columbia

This presentation discusses the environmental assessment process in generic terms . No decisions have yet been made about the Site C environmental assessment process.

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Environmental Assessment

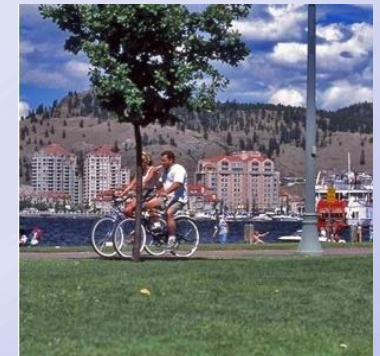
IMPORTANT PLANNING TOOL:

- Impacts considered carefully in order to eliminate, reduce or mitigate adverse effects



SUPPORTS:

- Sustainable development





Canada – BC Cooperation Agreement on Environmental Assessment

ONE PROJECT, ONE ASSESSMENT

- Harmonization of federal and provincial reviews
- One process satisfies requirements of both federal and provincial legislation
- Meaningful consultation with Aboriginal groups
- Meaningful public participation



BC Environmental Assessment Act

- Legal framework for proposed major projects in the province's EA process
- Supported by several regulations, including the Reviewable Projects Regulation, and a variety of policy, procedure and technical guidelines

Reviewable Projects in BC

- Meets Reviewable Projects Regulation threshold
- Designated by Minister of Environment
- Proponent applies for review



Identifying and Avoiding Effects

First Nations
Aboriginal Rights and Title



The Environment
Air & Water Quality
Fish, Wildlife, Plants
Archaeology



*Construction
Operation
Closure*

Communities
Economy, Health,
Services, Safety
Recreation





Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

APPLIES WHENEVER A FEDERAL AUTHORITY

- Proposes a project
- Sells, leases, or transfers land for a project
- Provides financial assistance to a project
- Issues a regulatory approval (*eg Fisheries Act, Navigable Waters Protection Act*)
- Other triggers possible

FOUR TYPES OF FEDERAL EA

- Screening
- Comprehensive Study
- Review Panel
- *Mediation (never used)*



Factors Considered in Federal Environmental Assessments

ALL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

- Significance of environmental effects of the project, including:
 - Accidents and malfunctions
 - Cumulative effects
- Public comments
- Mitigation measures
- Potential to consider need for and alternatives to the project

COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES AND REVIEW PANELS

- Purpose of the project
- Alternative means
- Follow-up program
- Capacity of renewable resources



*ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE »
FAIRNESS AND SERVICE CODE*



Guiding principles:

Fairness

Transparency

Inclusiveness

Comprehensiveness

Efficiency



Provincial
EA Process

Pre-Application

Review
(180 Days)

Decision
(45 Days)

Federal EA Process

Aboriginal Consultation

Determine
if an EA is
Required

Identify
Who is
Involved

Prepare
EIS

Panel
Appt'd

EIS
Review

Public
Hearings

Panel
Report

EA
Decisions

Monitor'g
and
Follow-up

Regulatory
Decisions

Public Consultation

Key
Documents

- Application Information Requirements/EIS Guidelines
- Review Panel Terms of Reference
- Application/EIS

Application
/EIS

Panel
Report

Provincial
EA Certificate/
Federal Gov't
Response to Panel
Report

- Provincial Permits
- Federal Permits



Key Participants in the BC Environmental Assessment Process





Comments and questions?

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