



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

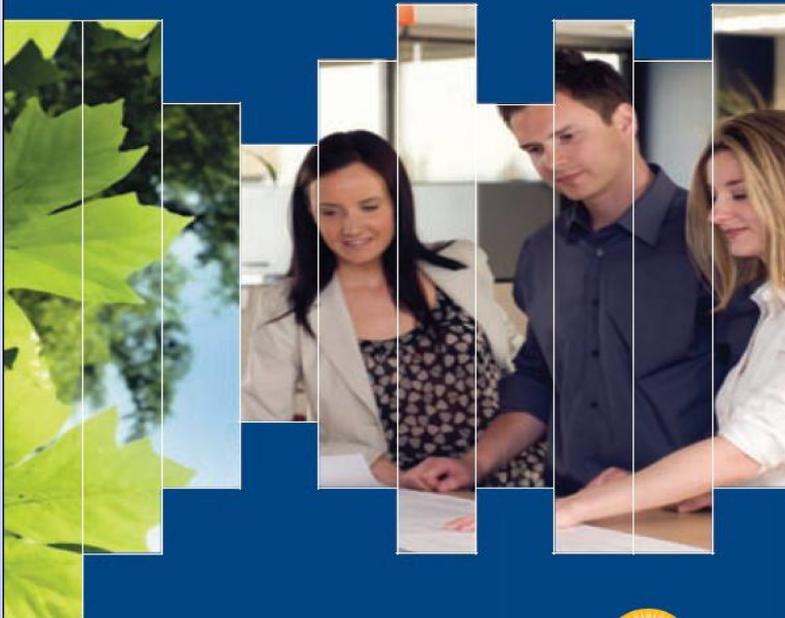
- Significance of environmental effects of the project, including:
 - Accidents and malfunctions
 - Cumulative effects
- Public comments
- Mitigation measures
- Potential to consider need for and alternatives to the project

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:

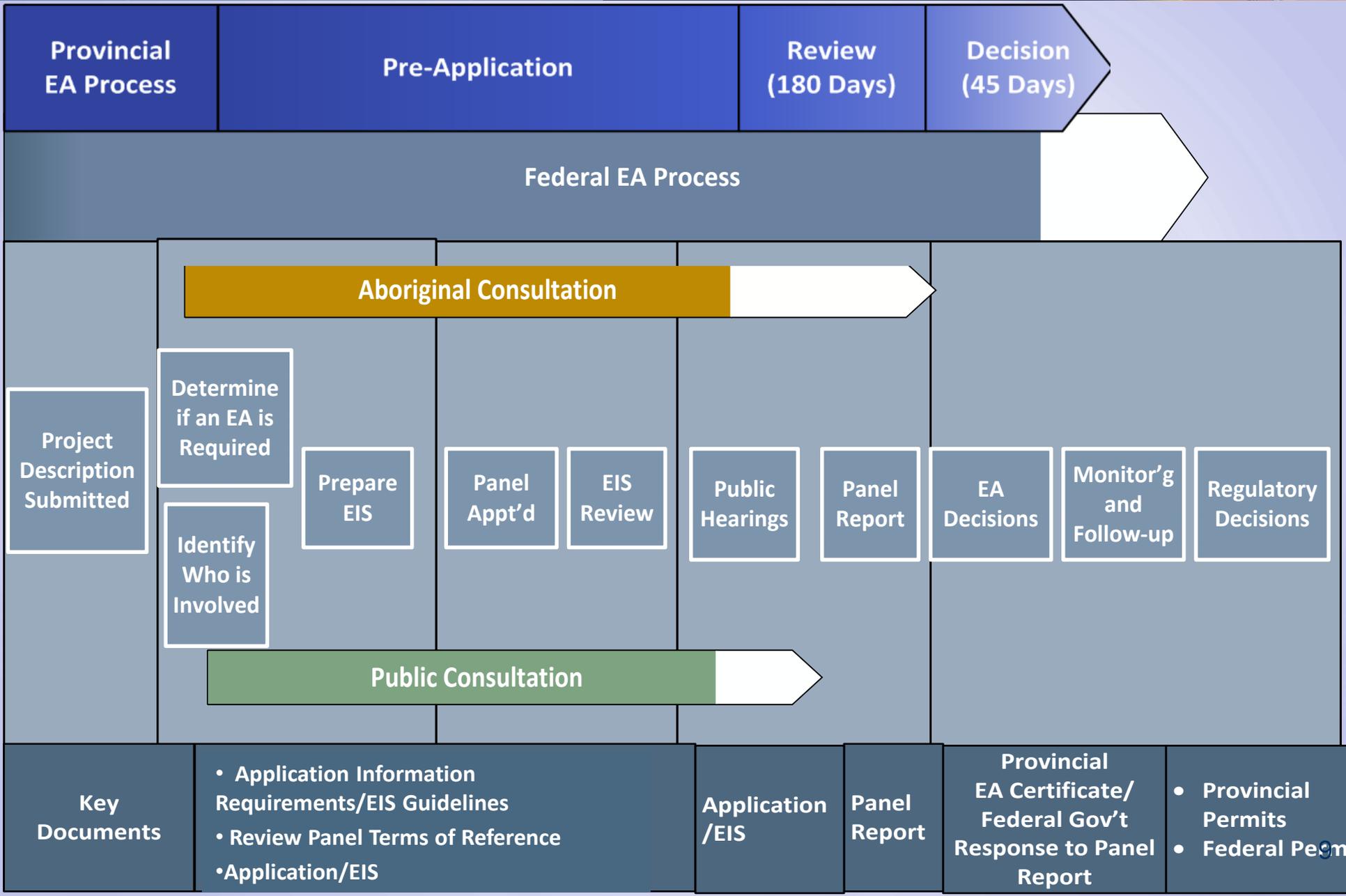
Fairness

Transparency

Inclusiveness

Comprehensiveness

Efficiency





Key Participants in the BC Environmental Assessment Process





Comments and questions?

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