



*Environmental Assessment
in Nova Scotia*

Presentation Overview

- What is EA?

- Why and when would EA's be required?

- Who is involved?

- Types of projects requiring EA – Class I and Class II

- What happens before a project registers?

- Steps in the Class I EA process once a project registers

- Factors the Minister considers when making a decision

- What happens after the decision?

What is Environmental Assessment?

- Environmental Assessment (EA) is a planning, engaging and decision-making tool to promote sustainable development.
- EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of a project to determine if and how it can proceed.



Why and when are EA's required?

WHY?

It is required by the following legislation:

- Part IV of the [Environment Act](#)
- Environmental Assessment Regulations

WHEN?

- If a project is included in Schedule “A” of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, it is subject to the EA process.
- This can include modifications and rehabilitation of an undertaking

Who is involved?

Provincial Departments:

- Environment and Climate Change
- Lands and Forestry
- Office of L'Nu Affairs
- Inclusive and Economic Growth
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Energy & Mines,
- Agriculture
- Transportation and Active Transit
- Communities Culture and Heritage
- Municipal Affairs and Housing

Federal Departments:

- Health Canada
- Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- Env. and Climate Change Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Transport Canada

Other Groups:

- Municipal Government
- MLA's,
- First Nations
- Nova Scotia Environmental Network
- Ecology Action Centre

Public



EA Branch

Minister Environment and Climate Change

Types of projects requiring EA

Schedule A – Environmental Assessment Regulations - designates “Class I and Class II Undertakings” [Environmental Assessment Regulations - Environment Act \(Nova Scotia\)](#)

Class I

- Projects usually **smaller in scale**.
- may or may not cause significant environmental impacts or be of sufficient concern to the public.
- Ex: mines, certain highways and waste dangerous goods handling facilities

50
days

Class II

- Projects **larger in scale**
- potential to cause significant environmental impacts and concern to the public.
- Ex: solid waste incinerators, petrochemical facilities and pulp plants.

~275
days

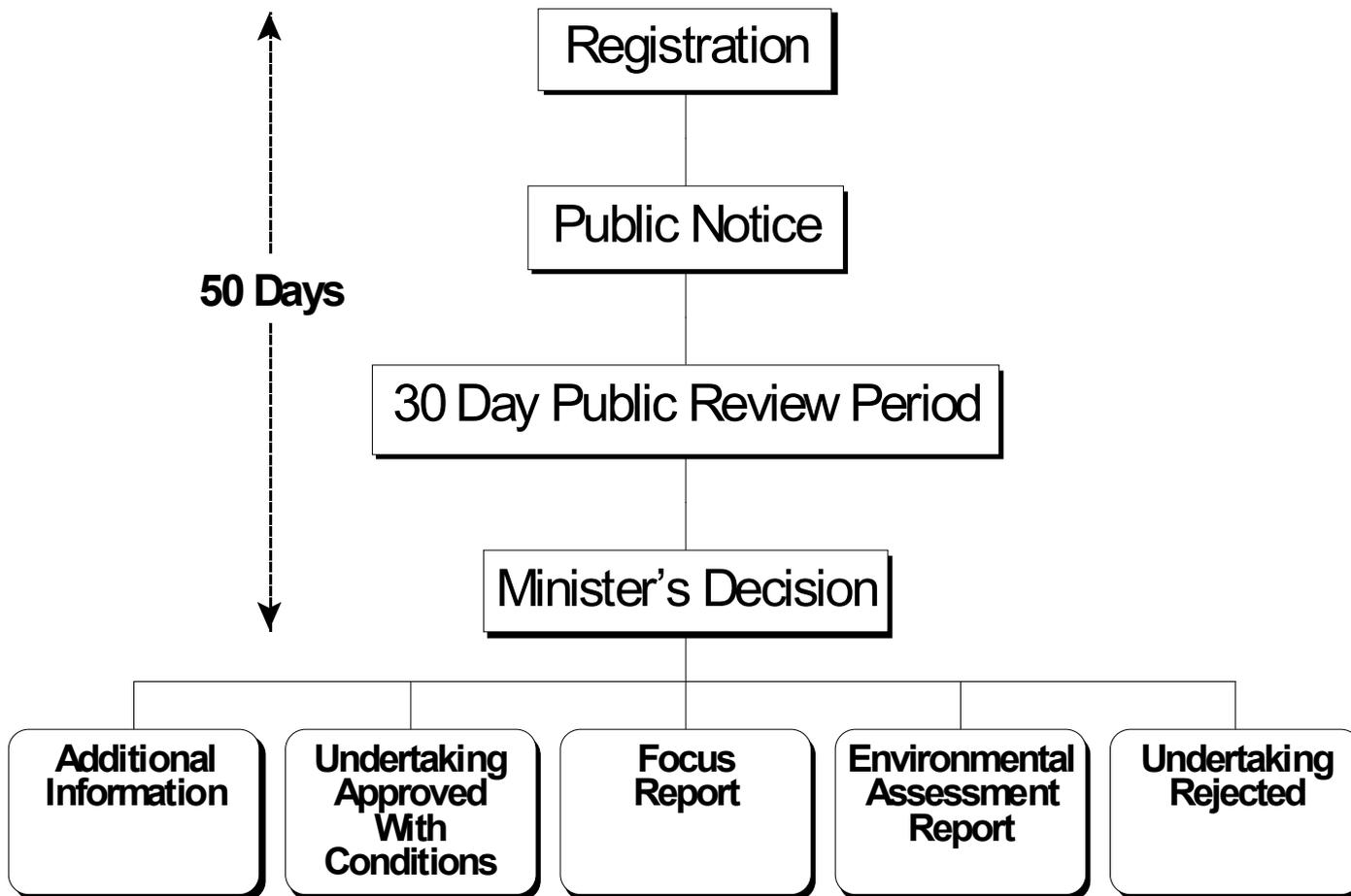


What happens before a project registers?

EA Branch meets with Proponent to:

- Ensure project is understood.
- Discuss regulatory process
- Identify issues and provide initial feedback
- Identify non-governmental and governmental contacts
- Ensure proponent understands importance in engaging with the public and First Nations in early stages of the project. This is to be reflected in their Registration submission.

Steps in the Class I EA Process





Minister's decision factors

- Location of the undertaking/sensitivity of surroundings
- Concerns expressed by public and aboriginal people and steps taken to address those concerns
- Whether environmental baseline information is sufficient to predict environmental effects
- Potential adverse or environmental effects
- Project schedules
- Planned/existing land use or other undertakings in the area
- Whether compliance with licenses, certificates, permits, approvals required by law will mitigate the environmental effects
- Such other information as the minister may require.



What happens after the decision?

If the Project is Approved, the EA Branch meets with Proponent to:

- Review terms and conditions with the proponent
- Proponent is responsible for meeting conditions and acquiring any additional authorizations
- ECC is responsible to ensure ongoing compliance



Want more information?

EA Branch website: <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea/>

- Legislation – Act and Regulations
- Publications including Guides to EA preparation
- All EA Registration Documents filed since 2000, including comments for the most recent registrations
- EA Mailing list: join-ea@lists.gov.ns.ca

Questions?

