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# Review of the Federal Environmental Assessment Process

Presentation to the Expert Panel

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# Cameco

## A National Leader in Sustainability

- Experienced proponent of multiple federal and multi-jurisdictional environmental assessments
- Leader in Indigenous partnerships and employment
- Subject to strong regulatory oversight by provincial and federal life cycle regulators
- Part of the solution to climate change



# ▶ Principles for Environmental Assessment

1. Ensure a science-based process that is timely, predictable and transparent
2. Project-level assessments triggered by new projects or major expansions
3. Encourage risk and performance based assessment of environmental outcomes

# ▶ Timely, Predictable and Transparent

## Working well:

- CNSC has the experience and mandate to regulate the nuclear industry, lead the federal EA process and coordinate federal agencies.
- Harmonized multi-jurisdictional process between provincial and federal governments.

## Could be improved:

- Integration of federal legislation, such as *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with *Species at Risk Act* to coordinate EAs with other authorizations.
- Enhance responsible authorities' scope to resolve issues raised by federal authorities in the EA process to satisfy other authorizations.

# ▶ Timely, Predictable and Transparent

## Working well:

- Conduct of EA is consistent with Canada's constitutional and legal framework.
- Regional environmental studies are limited to the jurisdiction of federal lands or transboundary issues.

## Could be improved:

- Ensure desired outcomes are informed by risk to the public, workers and the environment.
- Recognize that implementation of best available technology must be economically achievable.

# ▶ New Project or Major Expansions

## Working well:

- Recognizes provincial and federal licensing regimes.
- Minimizes jurisdictional and administrative duplication.
- Avoids unnecessary EA process for administrative decisions.

## Could be improved:

- Enhance recognition of licensing regimes
  - Not all activities that may trigger would represent a significant change to the effects that had been previously assessed and approved.

# ▶ Risk and Performance Based Assessment

## Working well:

- Recognizes the importance of risk assessment in integrating environmental effects to predict environmental outcomes on valued components.
- Recognizes and accommodates facility changes within previously predicted environmental outcomes of the EA without requiring new EA process.

## Could be improved:

- Risk-based approaches are not uniformly implemented among federal authorities.



# ▶ Questions

Thank you



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