



Association
for Mineral
Exploration

Expert Panel on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Process

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Vancouver, BC

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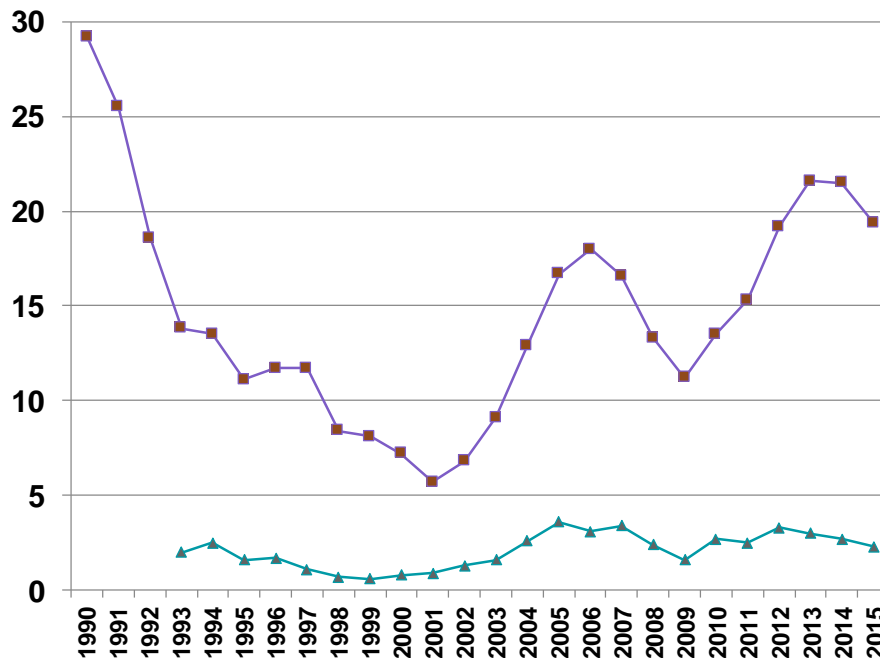
About AME



- Industry association since 1912
- Over 4,200 individual and 400 corporate members
- Not for profit association funded by industry, not government
- Non-partisan advocates for successful and socially responsible exploration and development
- Proud host of AME Roundup

State of the Exploration Industry

- More than 100 active exploration projects in BC
- Exploration expenditures down to \$272 million in 2015 from high of \$680 million in 2012



**BC percentage of
Canada , 19.4% in 2015**

**BC percentage of world,
2.3% (est.) in 2015**

BC Mineral & Coal Projects in EA process

- 13 mineral & coal development projects in BC are preparing for, or are in, the EA process
- These projects represent over \$15 billion of potential capital investment into the BC and Canada economy
- Six of the 13 projects are in the pre-application stage and seven are in the review stage
- Two projects are in the substituted process

Current EA Review Process in BC

- Important MOU was signed in 2013 between Canada and British Columbia on Substitution of Environmental Assessments
- Since then, Canada has approved substitution for 14 Environmental Assessment reviews in BC
- Substitution enables CEAA and BC EAO to effectively and efficiently fulfill respective agency requirements without dual processes
- AME advocates retaining the substitution approach while considering opportunities for improvement

One Project – One Review Process

- Having a single review process that fulfills the legal requirements of CEAA and the BC EAO can enhance both public and industry confidence
- Overlapping, duplicative processes do not result in better, more informed decisions – in fact they often waste limited resources and typically frustrate interested parties, communities, proponents and reviewers alike
- AME believes that a single coordinated assessment process results in a more robust review of relevant project information and data

One Review Process Benefits

One review process benefits include:

- ✓ A focused conversation - rather than multiple discussions
- ✓ Improved consultation and coordination between all parties – and increases confidence in the process
- ✓ A more comprehensive assessment and consideration of all the facts, while retaining separate decision-making authority

AME believes the substituted BC-Canada process is rigorous & effectively assesses potential significant effects

Multiple Review Process Issues

Multiple review processes:

- ❖ Create agency conflict and scope of project questions at critical EA decision stages
- ❖ Require extensive replication of information and data, which is costly, error prone and time consuming
- ❖ Reduce overall review effectiveness and undermines public and industry confidence
- ❖ Frustrate the public and proponents

Improving EA Process

- BC is wholly responsible for permitting mineral exploration and development in the Province
- The federal EA process could be improved by focusing on information needed for Federal jurisdiction permits (e.g., *Fisheries Act* authorizations)
- Federal reviews should consider critical project elements and avoid scope creep into other issues, such as broader cumulative effects assessments
- AME notes that mineral & coal projects are commonly assessed on matters beyond their influence

Improving EA Process

- Additional improvements could include removing Independent Panel Reviews which are too often: logistically and technically challenging, difficult to fulfill agency mandates, and confrontational
- The Federal government should continue to provide support to indigenous communities to meaningfully participate in environmental assessment processes
- AME also supports evolving the substitution process and implementing the equivalency tool in the future
- Equivalency would further reduce regulatory overlap and improve public and industry confidence

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Thank you!



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