



# Canada's Environmental Assessment Process

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# About APEGBC

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- Regulatory body established under the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*.
- Has the mandate to establish, maintain and enforce standards of practice for its over 24,000 practising engineers, geoscientists, and licensees.



# APEGBC's Interest

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- This response has been prepared with input from:
  - APEGBC's Climate Change Advisory Group,
  - Sustainability Committee and
  - the Division of Environmental Professionals,who are directly or indirectly involved in the environmental assessments and whose professional practice could be influenced by the changes to the Environmental Assessment Process.



# Position on Climate Change

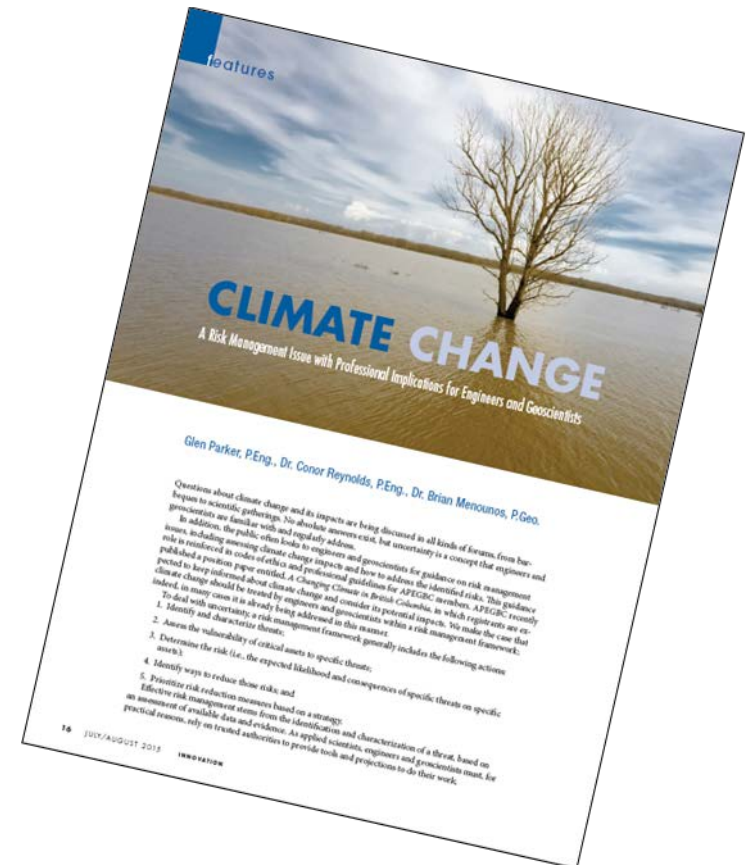
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- APEGBC commits to raising awareness about the changing climate and to provide members with information for managing the implications on their professional practices.
- APEGBC accepts that there is strong evidence that human activities, in particular activities that emit greenhouse gases, are contributing to global climate change.
- APEGBC Registrants have the potential to influence greenhouse gas emissions through their professional activities and are expected to consider the impact of their work on the climate.



# APEGBC's Climate Action

- Professional Practice Guidelines on adaptation and mitigation:
  - Legislated Flood Hazard Assessments in a Changing Climate in BC
  - Climate Change Resilient Designs in the Design of Highway Infrastructure in BC
  - Building Energy Modelling Guidelines (in progress)
- Climate Change Information Portal
- *Innovation* articles
- Continuing Professional Development Events



# Climate Change and EAP

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- Include the climate change impacts and the climate change risks on projects; in other words, it should include provisions for both **mitigation** of greenhouse gases and **adaptation** to the impacts of climate change.
- Account for cumulative environmental effects, both geographically and temporally. **To the extent reasonably possible, downstream greenhouse emissions should be included, whether they occur in Canada or outside the country.**
- Make provision for “**no net loss**” of habitat/natural landscapes over the life of the project. Including provision for future habitat anticipated to be lost due to climate change. For example, provision for additional habitat to off set future losses due to **sea level rise** or **flooding** due to climate change.

# Addressing Public Perception

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- **Legacy sites**, including sites not subjected to an EAP, that the public perceives to have been not adequately decommissioned or restored, should be in scope. Enhanced industry orphan funds, linked to new projects, should be considered to address legacy sites. Ensure that **decommissioning** and **restoration** is consistently completed to increase public trust.
- Public perception that compliance with existing regulations or permits is inadequate should be a focus. The EAP should specifically address the issues of **compliance and enforcement**, ensuring that adequate resources are available.
- Require **ongoing monitoring** of environmental impacts and take remedial action should the impacts exceed those agreed upon.

# Improving Efficiency

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- Provide for a single comprehensive assessment process that is a **multi-jurisdictional** process and considers climate change.





# Wrap Up

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- APEGBC thanks you for this opportunity to present to the Expert Panel
  - For further information or any questions with regards to this submission please contact:

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