



# **Review of Canadian Environmental Assessment Act Process**

**Presentation to the Expert Panel**  
Canadian Nuclear Association  
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# Canadian Nuclear Association

- Represents approx. 100 companies covering all aspects of the nuclear industry from mining and fuel processing, reactor design, nuclear supply chain, power generation, medical products and waste management
- \$5B a year industry, employing 60,000 Canadians
- Second largest source of non-emitting electricity generation in Canada supplying 16% of Canada's electricity including 60% in Ontario
- Our members are very proud of their environmental programs and have conducted many environmental assessments over the years

# Role of Responsible Authorities

CNSC has a strong regulatory framework for environmental protection

- Part of its mandate
- Environmental Risk Assessment process is defined in regulatory documents and renewed every 5 years
- Continuous environmental reporting
- Public information and disclosure protocols
- Full public participation in all elements of life-cycle licensing
- Indigenous Consultation a key component of CNSC EA and licensing process

# Role of Responsible Authorities

- 2012 EA changes made the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission the Responsible Authority for Environmental Assessments
- The CNSC is a full life-cycle regulator from concept or design through to the return to greenfield status
- Once EA is complete the recommendations are directly integrated into the licensing process throughout the various stages of the project
- Continuous environmental monitoring throughout the licencing process

# Role of Indigenous People

- We recognize that the area of Indigenous relationships is a very complex and historically charged subject however Canada's nuclear industry is committed to engaging with and working to continuously improve our working relationship with Canada's indigenous people
- In some cases (Cameco) our members have developed a strong and mutually beneficial working relationship. In other areas we are continuing to work on improving those critical relationships.
- Promoting early indigenous community consultation and indigenous business engagement is key to the nuclear industries success. Providing support tools, funding and a pathway to that is a key way of achieving it.
- While this is slightly outside the EA review process, our view is that federal government along with industry and Indigenous representatives need to develop an integrated long-term, multi-generational socio-economic, educational development strategy

# First Principles of Environmental Assessment (EA) - Nuclear

Environmental assessment was originally intended as a planning tool

- Nuclear is managed against its lifecycle and environmental assessment is one step in a highly regulated continuum
- EA was designed to ensure environmental impact was considered in projects at the planning stage and that impacts were evaluated and mitigating measures adopted if necessary
- Unfortunately it has become a one stop place for all issues, concerns and comments to be discussed

# Continuous Improvement for EA's

- Affirm that the purpose of project EA is to ensure environment is fully considered in planning of projects
- Where raised, policy discussions should be dealt with by appropriate bodies
- More detailed aspects can be dealt with at the permitting licensing stage
- Consider development of Regional/Strategic EA process with the provinces to consider broad policies and cumulative impact.

# Timely, Predictable and Transparent

- Continue to move towards – one project, one EA review
- Co-ordination with other agencies and provinces
- Framing projects within a known, consistent and reasonable timeframe
- Areas for consideration:
  - Enhance responsible authorities scope to include and resolve issues raised by other federal authorities in EA process to satisfy other permit requirements (e.g. CNSC MOU with DFO around Fisheries Act)
  - Continue to develop and define workable timelines that allow for full review without unreasonable delay
  - Environmental reviews already in progress should not be required to be restarted after legislative or regulatory changes

# Triggers: Risk and Performance Based

- Maintain the focus of federal EA on projects that have the potential to cause significant environmental effects
- Projects with little potential for environmental effects should be dealt with either by provinces or through licensing process
- Many nuclear projects like refurbishment are maintenance activities not a new project and should not require a new EA
- Enhance recognition of the role and value of nuclear licensing regimes in the EA process

# Thank You!

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