



BC Environmental Assessment – Now and in the Future

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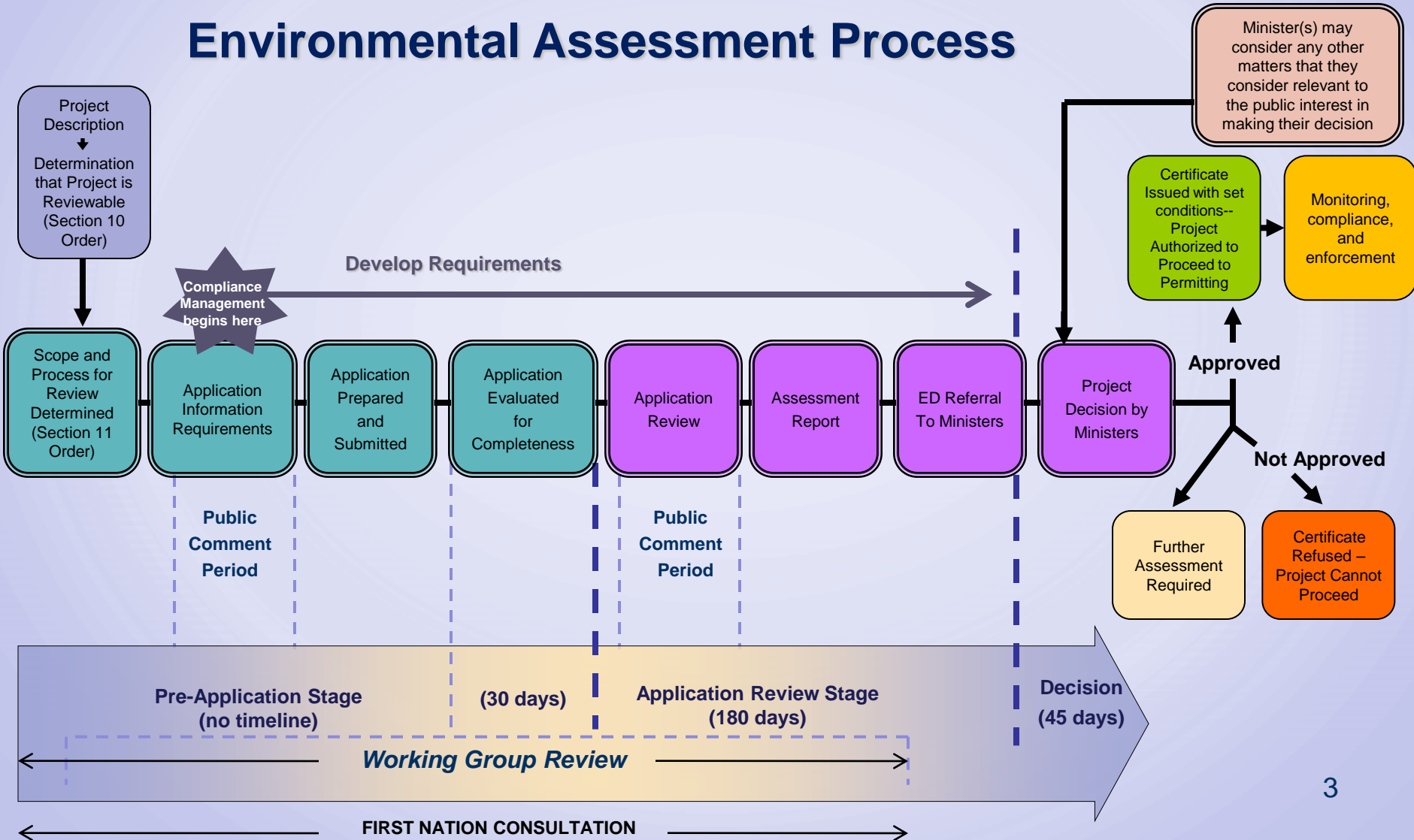
BC Environmental Assessment Office

Vision: Vibrant communities, healthy environment and a prosperous economy.

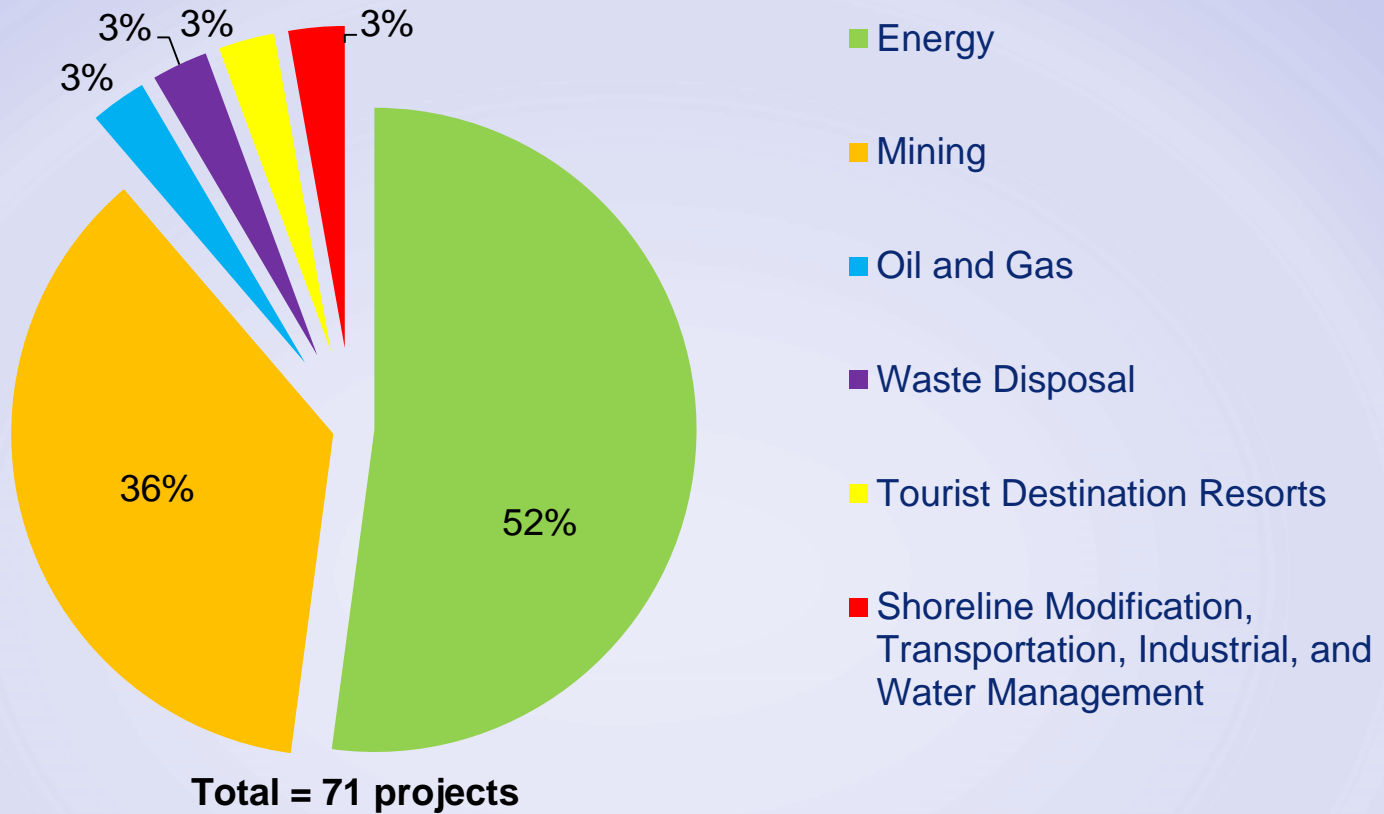


Mission: EAO leads an objective and respected environmental assessments which are inclusive and transparent and contribute to BC's social, economic and environmental well-being.

Environmental Assessment Process



Project Overview (as at Nov '12)



- Potential capital investment for projects currently in EA: \$35 billion.
- Of the 71 projects undergoing EA, 36 are currently active.
- The energy (52%) and mining sectors (36%) continue to represent the majority of projects.
- Of the 26 mining projects undergoing EA, the majority are early in the EA process.
- Approximately 2/3 of all projects are also reviewed by the federal government in a coordinated manner.

Increasing Number of Projects Entering EA

- Significant increase in demand predicted over the next 12-18 months
- Demand concentrated in the oil & gas, mining and energy sectors
- Working with other NR sector agencies to coordinate
- EAO developing strategies to respond:
 - Organizational restructuring
 - Review of complete EA process (e.g. new EA certificates)
 - New compliance and enforcement team
 - Emphasis on stakeholder engagement and communications

BC's View: Improvements to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

- Substitution and equivalency provisions;
- Beginning to end timelines;
- Delineation of three responsible authorities to conduct the majority of federal EAs;
- Eliminating the need for EA on smaller projects (screenings);
- Creating a project list for federal EA triggers; and
- Introduction of compliance and enforcement mechanisms.



BC's View: Pursue Substitution Now, Equivalency Later

- Substitution = one EA (provincial) and two decisions (federal and provincial).
- Equivalency = one EA (provincial) and one decision (provincial).
- BC interested in pursuing substitution in the near future and EAO has been working with the CEA Agency to scope out approaches for implementing this provision.
- BC is interested in pursuing equivalency in the future, once it has gained experience with substitution.



Response to the Office of the Auditor General Report

EAO Compliance and Enforcement Program Goal:

- EAO is independently and objectively confident that Certificate conditions are being met.

EAO's Program focuses on:

- Ensuring compliance with EA certificates
- Continual improvement of EA effectiveness

Compliance and Enforcement Program

Key progress has been made through:

- Hiring an Executive Director of Policy and Quality Assurance and dedicated compliance staff;
- Coordination with other ministries on developing the program to take advantage of compliance and field expertise;
- Conducting compliance inspections and improving the language used in EA certificate conditions; and
- 2 new service plan measures: # of inspections; timely response to compliance reports from Certificate holders.



Tips for EA Consultants

1. Be familiar with the EA process, Act and Regulations
2. Communicate often with EAO and other regulatory agencies
3. Start engaging with First Nations and the Public early
4. Be flexible and creative
5. Ensure there are clear roles and responsibilities for the consultants and the company and that there is a company lead who understands and supports the process
6. Apply project management – work planning/ schedules
7. Guard professionalism/ credibility



Contact Information

- Further information on the EAO process and this project is available at: www.eao.gov.bc.ca
- Comments & questions can be forwarded to:
Email: eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca
- Trish Balcaen – (250) 952-6507



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