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Environmental Assessment Screening Process at CNSC

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Environmental Assessment Screening Process at CNSC

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DEFINITIONS

Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR)

An information system established in accordance with the Act to facilitate public access to records relating to environmental assessments conducted under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* or its regulations.

The Registry consists of an Internet site and a project file. The Registry must be maintained throughout the duration of an environmental assessment.

The purpose of the Registry is to centralize information about the conduct of environmental assessments (EAs), and to ensure that the information is accessible to the public in a timely and convenient manner. (*Registre canadien d'évaluation environnementale*)

Complex Screening

A complex screening is carried out for projects that require an important number of technical studies to be conducted - and which, typically, attract a fair amount of public scrutiny or questioning. These projects do not fall in the category of "simple screenings", as per established criteria (see section 3.1 of this document).

Complex screenings include a higher level of public participation during the EA, and a Public Commission Hearing to consider the EA Screening Report and the licence application document. (*Étude préalable complexe*)

Commission Member Document (CMD)

Submissions to the Commission, filed with the CNSC Secretariat, from either CNSC staff, intervenors or proponents/applicants are referenced as CMDs. They are used during hearings of the Commission, either for EA Reports or for licensing considerations. (*Document des membres de la Commission*)

Environmental Assessment Decision

The EA decision is the responsible authority's (RA) determination concerning the likelihood of a project having significant adverse environmental effects.

Although CNSC staff makes a recommendation in the Screening Report, the Commission makes the final EA decision for projects where it is also responsible for making a licensing decision.

The decision is made based on the findings of the EA and any relevant comments from the public. It determines a course of action that the CNSC can take: proceeding to licensing or not. (*Décision d'évaluation environnementale*)

Expert Federal Authority

A federal authority (FA) that, upon request from a responsible authority, a mediator or a review panel, has the obligation to make available any specialist or expert information or knowledge that it possesses with respect to a project.

This expertise can be used during any stage of the EA, from its commencement to the implementation of mitigation measures and follow-up program. (*Autorité fédérale experte*)

Federal Authority (FA)

Under the CEAA, an FA can be:

- A Minister of the Crown in right of Canada.
- An agency of the Government of Canada.
- A parent Crown corporation, as defined in subsection 83(1) of the *Financial Administration Act*.
- Any other body established by or pursuant to an Act of Parliament that is ultimately accountable to Parliament, through a Minister of the Crown in right of Canada, for the conduct of its affairs.
- Any department or departmental corporation set out in Schedule I or II to the *Financial Administration Act*.
- Any other body that is prescribed pursuant to regulations made under paragraph 59(e). (*Autorité fédérale*)

Federal Coordination

Activities to ensure that an EA involves the appropriate federal authorities and other parties, and that the participation of all parties is carried out in a manner that is efficient, coordinated and cooperative. (*Coordination fédérale*)

Intervenor

A person or group who is permitted to intervene at a public hearing of the CNSC Commission. (*Intervenant*)

Project Workplan

A document that is drafted at the beginning of an EA to lay out the steps, milestones and timelines for each phase of the EA and licensing, including the Commission Hearings and the public participation opportunities.

Project workplans are drafted in conjunction with other RAs and/or provincial authorities, as appropriate in the circumstances. Timelines are based on the values outlined in Appendix A of this document. (*Plan de travail*)

Responsible Authority (RA)

A Responsible Authority is any federal authority that is required to ensure that an EA is conducted in relation to a project, pursuant to subsection 11(1) of the CEAA.

When a federal authority becomes “responsible” for ensuring that an EA of the project is conducted, the federal authority is called a Responsible Authority (RA). (*Autorité responsable*)

Simple Screening

Some proposed smaller and/or lower-risk projects have very few project-environment interactions. Therefore, a screening-level EA for such small projects requires very few, if any, technical studies to be conducted, and requires less time for CNSC staff to review the technical information. A simple screening is conducted when a project falls within set criteria (see section 3.1). (*Étude préalable simple*)

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

After an EA program review identified the areas where efficiencies could be implemented (while ensuring the continued transparency and openness of the EA process), CNSC staff produced a draft document titled *Process Improvement Initiatives for Screening Environmental Assessments at the CNSC*. The document was posted on CNSC's Web site for public consultation.

All comments were taken into account before presenting the Commission Tribunal with the proposals to help streamline screening EAs and the ensuing licensing process at CNSC.

The Commission considered staff's proposals in a Commission Meeting held in late August 2008, along with every comment received on this initiative, and accepted the proposed EA screening and licensing process. CNSC staff was given direction from the Commission Tribunal to begin implementing its new screening-level environmental assessment (EA) and licensing process.

Intent of this Document

This document aims to provide all the interested parties with a set of clearly defined processes for the effective and efficient completion of a screening EA and the ensuing licensing process at CNSC.

Typically, when an EA is triggered under the CEAA:

- a. the screening process is initiated; or
- b. the comprehensive study process is initiated.

For the purposes of this document, only the screening process will be addressed.

New EA and Licensing Process for Screenings

The new process for proposed projects requiring a screening EA at CNSC is intended to:

- Help adjust the CNSC's screening EA process and ensuing licensing process, such that they are commensurate with the complexity and risk level of the proposed project.
- Ensure a consistent and predictable process for screening EA.
- Promote the efficient use of time and resources for CNSC staff, the Commission, proponents and other stakeholders.
- Align the CNSC's decision-making process for EA screenings with the decision-making process of other federal government departments and agencies (including those with a tribunal) who are also Responsible Authorities under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA).
- Enable CNSC to fulfill the requirements of the Government of Canada's directives on streamlining regulation, and meet its timeline commitments to the Major Projects Management Office (MPMO) for multi-jurisdictional screenings.

2. CNSC'S SCREENING PROCESS

Integration of EA Screening and Licensing Processes

The integration of CNSC's EA screening and licensing processes focuses mainly on the concurrent or parallel review of the proponent's technical EA information and licensing documentation, and CNSC staff's presentation of EA and licensing information to the Commission in one hearing.

Typically, EA and licensing processes have the following elements in common:

1. The proponent submits technical documents in support of the proposal.
2. The effects of the project on the environment and the health and safety of people must be described, and mitigation measures must be identified for each potential effect, under both the CEAA and the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA).
3. A technical review of this information is conducted, to determine the likelihood of significant adverse environmental effects, and the protection of the health and safety of people and the environment.
4. The findings and recommendations of CNSC staff are presented to the Commission, for decisions.

Conducting reviews of the EA and licensing documents in a strategic and coordinated manner, in order to support decisions under both the CEAA and the NSCA, represents a more efficient and effective use of resources, for both simple and complex screenings.

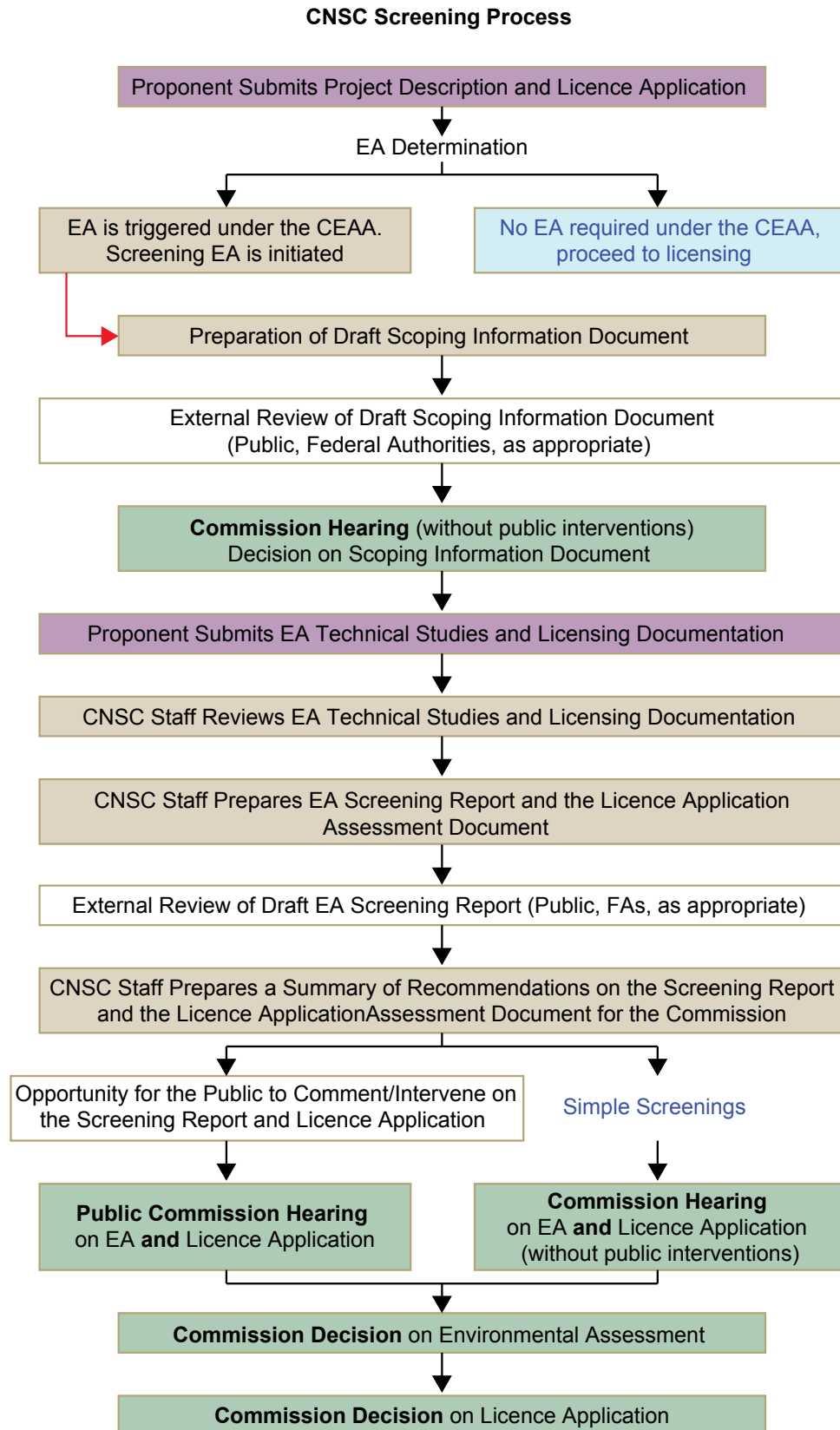
Sequential EA and Licensing

In some cases, sequential EA and licensing processes may be required for assessing a project. For example, sequential processes could be applied when the EA is used by a proponent to determine the feasibility of a project from an economic, environmental, or health and safety point of view.

In such cases, a project workplan (to be developed by CNSC staff at the onset of the EA) will reflect the sequential nature of the processes required for the Commission to make decisions under the CEAA, and later under the NSCA.

Furthermore, in cases where the Commission deems that the information presented in an integrated EA and licensing hearing is not sufficient to support an informed licensing decision, subsequent proceedings could be scheduled.

2.1 Process Diagram for CNSC Screenings



2.2 Steps of a Screening EA at CNSC

Overview

There are a number of activities to be conducted over the course of a screening EA. The steps outlined below provide an overview of the typical work involved in the screening EA and licensing of a proposed project:

Step	Action
1	Application and Project Description
2	Determining if an EA is required
3	Federal Coordination
4	Draft Scoping Information Document
4.1	Project Workplan
4.2	External Review Period
4.3	Commission Hearing (no public participation) on Scoping Information Document – Commission Decision
4.4	Finalization of Scoping Information Document
5	Proponent Conducts EA Technical Studies (if delegated)
6	Proponent Completes Licensing Documentation
7	CNSC Technical Review of Proponent Submissions
8	External Technical Review (Other Responsible Authorities and/or Federal Authorities)
9	Draft Screening Report
10	Public Review of Draft Screening Report
11	Draft Licensing Application Assessment Document
12	Submission of recommendations on Screening Report and licence application
13	Commission Hearing (with or without public participation)
14	Commission Decision on EA
15	Commission Decision on Licensing

An overview of each step follows below.

1. Application and Project Description

The proponent submits a Licence Application and a Project Description (outlining the project and/or activities that are being proposed) to CNSC, for regulatory consideration and decision.

2. Determining if an EA is required

CNSC staff makes an EA determination, based on the proponent's complete project description, as follows:

- If no EA is required under the CEAA, proceed to licensing process.
- If an EA is triggered under the CEAA:
 - a. the screening process is initiated; or
 - b. the comprehensive study process is initiated.

Only the screening process will be addressed below.

CNSC staff issues an EA Determination Memo, within 14 calendar days of the receipt of a proponent's complete project description, which includes an initial assessment of the track of the screening (simple or complex).

A "Notice of Commencement" is posted on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR), as well as on CNSC's site, indicating what the project is about, the type of screening that was triggered, and the next steps in the process. At this stage, the EA is given a CEAR number.

3. Federal Coordination

Once it is determined that an EA is required, CNSC staff initiates federal coordination, as per the requirements of the CEAA. This enables CNSC to determine whether other Federal Authorities (FAs) have responsibilities with regard to the proposed project.

Other Responsible Authorities (RAs) and potential expert FAs have 30 calendar days to inform CNSC if they will be involved in the EA. In cases where other RAs are involved in the conduct of an EA, subsequent documents are jointly drafted to meet the requirements of each RA involved in the assessment of the project.

At this stage, CNSC also confirms whether there are provincial EA requirements. If that is the case, provincial authorities become involved in the subsequent steps of the EA process.

4. Scoping Information Document

CNSC staff drafts the Scoping Information Document (in collaboration with other RAs, if applicable), which aims to provide project-specific guidance for the conduct of technical studies.

The draft Scoping Information Document contains CNSC staff's recommendation on the track of the screening (simple or complex), the consideration of public participation opportunities for the EA, and all other EA-related decisions to be made by the Commission (as an RA) pursuant to the CEAA.

4.1. Project Workplan

As part of the Scoping Information Document, CNSC staff drafts an overall “Project Workplan” for the proposed project, in consultation with the proponent and any other federal authorities who may have a responsibility in the EA.

Timelines are based on the range of weeks or months that may be needed by CNSC, the proponent and other stakeholders to complete the work required under the CEAA and the NSCA. They depend on the complexity of the proposed project, and are based on established timelines, as outlined in Appendix A.

The proposed Project Workplan is included in the draft Scoping Information Document, and posted on CNSC’s external Web site. The Project Workplan may be updated throughout the process, as necessary.

4.2. External Review Period

CNSC determines the appropriate level of public participation in its screenings, using criteria derived from the *Ministerial Guideline on Assessing the Need for and Level of Public Participation in Screening-Level EAs under the CEAA*.

At this stage in the EA process, a public review period may be considered, in order to solicit the views of the public on specific items in the draft Scoping Information Document. The involvement of other RAs or provincial authorities would be a factor in deciding the level of public participation.

All comments received from the public about the EA are posted in their entirety on the CNSC’s Web site.

If other Federal Authorities have responsibilities in the EA, their review period of the draft Scoping Information Document occurs at this stage. CNSC staff includes all comments received in the document, before it is presented to the Commission.

4.3. Hearing and CEAA-related Decisions

The Commission considers the Scoping Information Document in a Hearing with no public interventions, and makes a decision on the following CEAA-related items:

1. The scope of the project [subsection 15(1)]*
2. The factors to be considered in the conduct of the EA [subsection 16(1)]*
3. The scope of the factors to be taken into consideration in the conduct of the EA [subsection 16(3)]*
4. A recommendation to the Minister of the Environment to refer the project to a mediator or a review panel at that time [section 25]*

5. The delegation of any part of the screening (i.e. conduct of technical support studies), the preparation of the screening report, or any part of the design or implementation of a follow-up program [subsection 17(1)]*
6. Whether public participation is appropriate in the circumstances [subsection 18(3)]*

* The segments in square brackets are sections of the CEAA identifying decisions to be made by a Responsible Authority (RA).

In addition to the above requirements, the Commission also decides on the “track” of the screening, which identifies the project as *simple* or *complex*, based on set criteria (see Section 3.1).

The Commission may make some additional recommendations on the scoping information, and request that additional information be considered in the EA.

The Commission’s decision is rendered within 21 calendar days from the time it receives the draft Scoping Information Document. A decision statement is issued and posted on the CNSC Web site and the CEAR, shortly after the Commission has deliberated and rendered its decision.

4.4. Finalization of Scoping Information Document

Once the Commission has rendered its decision, CNSC staff finalizes the Scoping Information Document, ensuring that any additional requirements identified by the Commission are included, as appropriate, in the final version.

CNSC staff then formally issues the Scoping Information Document to the proponent, if technical studies were delegated by the Commission, for guidance on the conduct of the EA technical studies.

5. Conduct of EA Technical Studies

The Commission may decide to have CNSC staff conduct the technical studies for a project. In this case, EA and technical specialists use the Scoping Information Document as a guide, while conducting the studies.

If the Commission decides to delegate technical studies to the proponent, the required EA technical studies are conducted by the proponent, as described in the Scoping Information Document.

Once the technical studies are completed, the proponent submits to CNSC all the EA Technical Study Reports, as well as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), summarizing the results of the studies.

6. Proponent Completes Licensing Documentation

The proponent completes its licensing information submission, based on CNSC’s requirements pursuant to the NSCA and Regulations.

The proponent is expected to submit its licensing documentation to CNSC at the same time as the EA technical studies and Environmental Impact Statement, or within the agreed-upon timeframe indicated in the Project Workplan. This enables CNSC to conduct concurrent technical reviews of the EA and licensing documents.

Note: At this stage of the process, any licensing submission from the proponent should be treated as a risk-informed business decision. It does not in any way fetter the Commission's prerogative to determine that the evidence presented during the EA and licensing consolidated hearing is insufficient to proceed to licensing. The Commission could request additional information to be considered in another hearing, or at a later date.

7. CNSC Technical Review of Proponent Submissions

CNSC staff receives the EA and licensing documentation from the proponent, and conducts its preliminary analysis of the information. CNSC's technical specialists perform an in-depth review of the EA technical studies, the EIS and licensing documents.

If there are areas that need to be clarified, confirmed or improved, based on questions from the technical specialists, CNSC staff requests that proponents provide additional information to resolve these issues.

Once CNSC technical specialists are satisfied that all CNSC-mandated concerns have been adequately addressed by proponents, the technical review is completed. Timelines for technical reviews are set in accordance with values provided in Appendix A.

8. Other RA or FA Technical Review

If, during federal coordination, it was determined that there are other RAs or FAs involved in the EA, the CNSC shares the proponent's EA technical studies and EIS, in order to receive expert feedback in their areas of responsibility. This step is generally conducted concurrently with CNSC's technical review of the EA information.

Typically, 30 calendar days are allotted for federal reviews and comments on the proponent's technical studies and EIS. Timelines may vary from one EA to another, depending on the complexity of the project. The targeted dates for the completion of federal review are agreed upon by all parties involved, and included in the Project Workplan.

9. Draft Screening Report

CNSC staff drafts the Screening Report, incorporating any comments and recommendations received by the technical specialists and FAs, if applicable.

Recommended mitigation measures, follow-up program requirements (if any) and CNSC staff's conclusions are included in the Draft Screening Report, for the Commission's consideration.

10. Public Review of Draft EA Screening Report

The Draft Screening Report is issued for public review and comment. Other Federal Authorities may also take this opportunity to provide their own comments to CNSC, as applicable.

Typically, a 30 calendar day period is allotted for the review of the Draft Screening Report. However, depending on the complexity of the proposal and the pre-determined track of the screening, timelines may vary between 20 to 30 calendar days for simple screenings, and 30 to 45 calendar days for more complex screenings (see Appendix A).

CNSC staff may, during this time, undertake outreach activities (e.g., hold an information session in the community where the project is being proposed), to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to ask questions and share their comments with CNSC.

Any comments received during the public review period are taken into consideration by CNSC, and incorporated into sections of the Screening Report, as appropriate. Comments from the public are posted in their entirety on the CNSC's Web site.

11. Draft the Licence Application Assessment Document

CNSC staff drafts the Licence Application Assessment Document, which may include a draft copy of the suggested wording for a licence.

The mitigation measures documented in the Screening Report and the requirements for any follow-up program are included in the draft licence.

12. Submission of Summarized Recommendations

CNSC staff summarizes and outlines the EA and licensing recommendations for the proposed project, and submits it to the Commission, along with the Draft Screening Report and Licence Application Assessment Documents.

13. Commission Hearing

Regardless of the track of the screening (simple or complex), the Commission makes its EA and Licensing decisions after a Hearing, during which all the evidence for the EA and the Licence Application is considered.

For complex screenings, the Commission holds a Public Hearing which allows for public participation; for simple screenings, the Commission holds a Hearing with no public participation.

In both cases, after considering the evidence from all participants, the Commission makes an EA decision, followed by a licensing decision, if appropriate (see 14 and 15 below).

Complex Screenings:

A Notice of Public Commission Hearing is posted on the CNSC Web site at least 60 days before the scheduled Hearing, to enable interested parties to request intervenor status from the Commission for the Public Hearing and to send their comments on the EA and Licence Application.

Public Commission Hearings are usually held at CNSC's headquarters in Ottawa, but may also be held in a community in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Simple Screenings:

A Notice of Hearing is posted on the CNSC Web site prior to the scheduled Hearing, to inform interested parties that evidence regarding the EA and Licence Application will be considered by the Commission.

There is no public participation in this type of Commission Hearing, and the hearing is conducted by way of written submissions from CNSC staff.

14. Commission Decision on EA

The Commission receives and considers all the evidence, which includes the proposed Screening Report, the Licensing Application Assessment, and a draft of the proposed licence. For complex screenings, public interventions are also considered by the Commission as part of the evidence.

The first Commission decision is the EA decision. Should the Commission deem that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, the Commission may then decide whether it has enough information to consider the licence application and make a decision.

A notice of decision is issued through the Commission's Secretariat, and posted on the CNSC Web site and the CEAR, after the Commission has rendered its decision. The Record of Proceedings typically follows shortly thereafter and is also posted to the CNSC Web site.

15. Commission Decision on Licensing

The Commission may consider the evidence and make a decision on the licence if:

- the Commission deemed that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, as per the conclusions of the EA; and
- the Commission considers that it has enough information to make an informed decision on the licence application.

Any additional requirements stemming from the EA decision (e.g., additional mitigation measures or follow-up program requirements, if any), and any other safety issues or concerns raised by the Commission, may require that an updated application, or CNSC staff recommendation, be submitted again to the Commission.

In this case, the Commission would adjourn the hearing until the additional information was submitted. A decision would follow shortly thereafter and a notice would be posted on the CNSC's Web site.

3. CNSC'S CRITERIA FOR SCREENINGS

Overview

At the beginning of each new screening EA, an RA must make a number of decisions, some of which serve to establish the type of screening process to be followed, and the level of public participation.

Track of the Screening

Determining the track of the screening is one of the decisions that the Commission makes at the beginning of a new screening EA. It means that some lower-risk and less complex projects can be assessed through a more streamlined EA and licensing process – one that is commensurate with the technical complexity of the project and its projected impact on the health and safety of people and the environment.

The Scoping Information Document contains CNSC staff's recommendation to the Commission on the track of the screening, which is based on criteria described in section 3.1 of this document.

Public Participation

Providing public participation opportunities in screening EAs is at the RA's discretion, pursuant to the CEAA. The type and level of public participation is determined early on in the process, for each new screening EA.

Due to the nature of the projects, CNSC always provides opportunity for public review of the Screening Report, for all its screening EAs. The extent of public participation is based on the nature of the project, its potential environmental effects, and the level of public interest. See section 3.2 for more details.

3.1 Simple Screenings

Simple Screenings

Some proposed smaller or lower-risk projects typically have very few project-environment interactions. A screening-level EA for such small projects requires only a few technical studies to be conducted (if any), and therefore requires less time for CNSC staff to review the technical information.

For such simple screenings, CNSC conducts a more streamlined EA and licensing process, which is achieved by:

1. Establishing tighter timelines for the preparation of the Scoping Information Document, the CNSC technical reviews, and the preparation of the Screening Report.
2. Establishing an appropriate level of public participation for simple screenings, to reflect the nature of the project, its potential environmental effects, and the level of public interest.

3. Holding one Commission Hearing without public interventions, to consider the EA Screening Report and the Licence Application Documents.

Criteria for Simple Screenings

A project is considered to require a simple screening if it meets the following criteria:

1	The existing facility has undergone previous EAs; or the site is well characterized, as are its regulatory programs.
2	The proposed project is related to an existing licensed facility and represents an incremental change to the overall facility.
3	The environmental performance of the existing licensed activities meets CNSC expectations.
4	The proposed project is based on technology that is known to the proponent and CNSC staff.
5	The proposed project would likely require only the mitigation measures with which the proponent has a demonstrated familiarity.
6	The proposed project does not introduce any new facility or project–environment interactions that are not well understood and cannot be mitigated with proven technology.
7	The proposed project does not introduce any new facility or project–environment interactions that do not already exist.
8	The proposed project is not likely to pose additional significant adverse effects on the health of workers and the public.
9	The proposed project is not likely to pose additional significant adverse environmental effects, including cumulative effects or those that may arise as a result of accidents or malfunctions
10	The proposed project does not have a material impact on established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights and titles. The Crown’s duty to consult with Aboriginal Peoples is not triggered.

Methodology

These criteria are intended to help focus on the issues that are important in the circumstances of any particular screening. They are considered individually and cumulatively, while exercising professional judgement in making a determination.

For example, if the Crown’s duty to consult with Aboriginal Peoples (last criterion) is triggered, then this criterion *alone* would automatically trigger a complex screening.

Document Rationale for Determination

Once all the criteria have been considered, and a determination is made as to whether a simple screening is appropriate or not, the determination and the rationale are recorded in the Scoping Information Document, for the Commission’s consideration.

The Commission, as an RA under the CEAA, is responsible for making the ultimate decision.

3.2 Public Participation in Screenings

Assessing the Need for Public participation

Pursuant to subsection 18(3) of the CEAA, the need for (and level of) public participation in screening-level EAs is left to the RA's discretionary judgment.

At the onset of each new screening, CNSC staff recommends the scope of public participation to the Commission, deriving its guidance from the criteria contained in the *Ministerial Guideline on Assessing the Need for and Level of Public Participation in Screening-Level EAs under the CEAA*.

Public Participation Criteria

The CNSC provides public participation opportunities when some or all the elements below are present in a screening-level EA:

- There is an indication of existing or likely public interest in the type of project, the location of the project, or the ways in which the project might affect the community.
- The stakeholders who may be interested have a history of being involved.
- The project could generate conflict between environmental and social or economic values of concern to the public.
- The project could be perceived as having the potential for significant adverse environmental effects (including cumulative environmental effects, and effects of malfunctions and accidents).
- There is potential to learn from community knowledge or Aboriginal traditional knowledge.
- The direct and indirect environmental effects of the project and their significance are uncertain.
- The project has not been subject to other public participation processes of appropriate scope and coverage that would meet CNSC objectives.

Use of Criteria

The above public participation criteria are used by CNSC staff to recommend to the Commission the need for, the type and the breadth of public participation opportunities, provided on a project-per-project basis.

For its recommendation to the Commission, CNSC staff obtains information from the proponent's public consultation activities, from prior experience with similar projects, and from knowledge of stakeholders and communities in the vicinity of nuclear facilities.

Proponents are expected to submit the results of preliminary public consultation activities with their project description, to assist CNSC staff with the evaluation of the project against the criteria.

Aboriginal Consultation

Proponents are strongly encouraged to present their project to Aboriginal groups who may be affected by it, or who express interest or concerns over the proposal, at the earliest possible stages of the project (i.e., the planning stages).

Early discussions and consultations by proponents help to ensure that relevant issues are identified and addressed as soon as possible, before the CNSC becomes involved with the proposal.

At the initiation of an EA, CNSC staff considers the potential effects of the proposal on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Aboriginal Peoples, as required under the CEAA. Based on this requirement, CNSC staff often engages Aboriginal communities in EAs, and initiates contact with all appropriate parties.

In cases where the Crown's duty to consult with Aboriginal Peoples is identified and triggered during the initial stages of an EA, CNSC staff and the Aboriginal group may consider a meeting to discuss some of the linkages that could be drawn between the Aboriginal consultation process and the EA participation process required under the CEAA.

In cases where a project triggers the CNSC's duty to consult, consultation plans may be developed between all parties.

APPENDIX A – INTEGRATED SCREENING EA AND LICENSING TIMELINES

Comparative Diagrams

The diagram below provides estimated timelines for the screening EA and ensuing licensing process at CNSC. Project workplans will be developed for each screening EA, and timelines for each step of the process will be based on the values provided below.

CNSC Screening EA and Licensing Process		Total Days
1. Proponent's Application and Project Description	-	472 - 616
2. Determining if an EA is required	15	1 - 30
3. Federal Coordination	30	N/A
4. Project Workplan Development	5	100 - 145 *
5. Scoping Information Document	15	30
6. External Review Period (FAs, public, as appropriate)	30	15
7. Hearing on Scoping Information Document (no public interventions)	21	In Parallel with 13 and 14
9. Conduct of EA Technical Studies	TBD	30 - 45
10. Proponent Completes Licensing Documentation	TBD	60
11. CNSC Technical Review of Proponent Submissions	90 - 145	30
12. Other RA and FA Technical Review	30	15
13. Draft Screening Report	60	In Parallel with 13 and 14
14. Public review of Draft EA Screening Report	30 - 45	20 - 30
15. Draft Licensing Application Assessment Document (90 to 105 days in parallel with steps 13-14)	90 - 145	30
16. Submission of Commission Member Document	15	15
17. Public Intervention Opportunity on Licence Application Document	30	N/A
18. Public Commission Hearing on EA and Licensing (Complex Screening)*	100 - 145 *	N/A
19. Commission Decision on EA (Simple Screening)	N/A	30 - 45
20. Commission Decision on Licence	1 - 30	1 - 30
		257 - 356
Process for Complex Screenings		
Process for Simple Screenings		

* Public Commission Hearing on EA Screening Report and Licence Application. If a proponent is unable to provide CNSC staff with the required licensing documentation in a timely manner, a hearing may be held for the EA decision, followed by a licensing hearing, as considered appropriate by the Commission, under the circumstances.