



*Environmental Assessment
& Wind Power Projects in Nova Scotia*

Presentation Overview

- What is EA, why and when would it be required?
- Who is involved?
- Class I EA - wind trigger
- Review of the Class I EA process
- Registration Documents (main components)
- Considerations
- Minister's decision factors
- What happens after the decision?

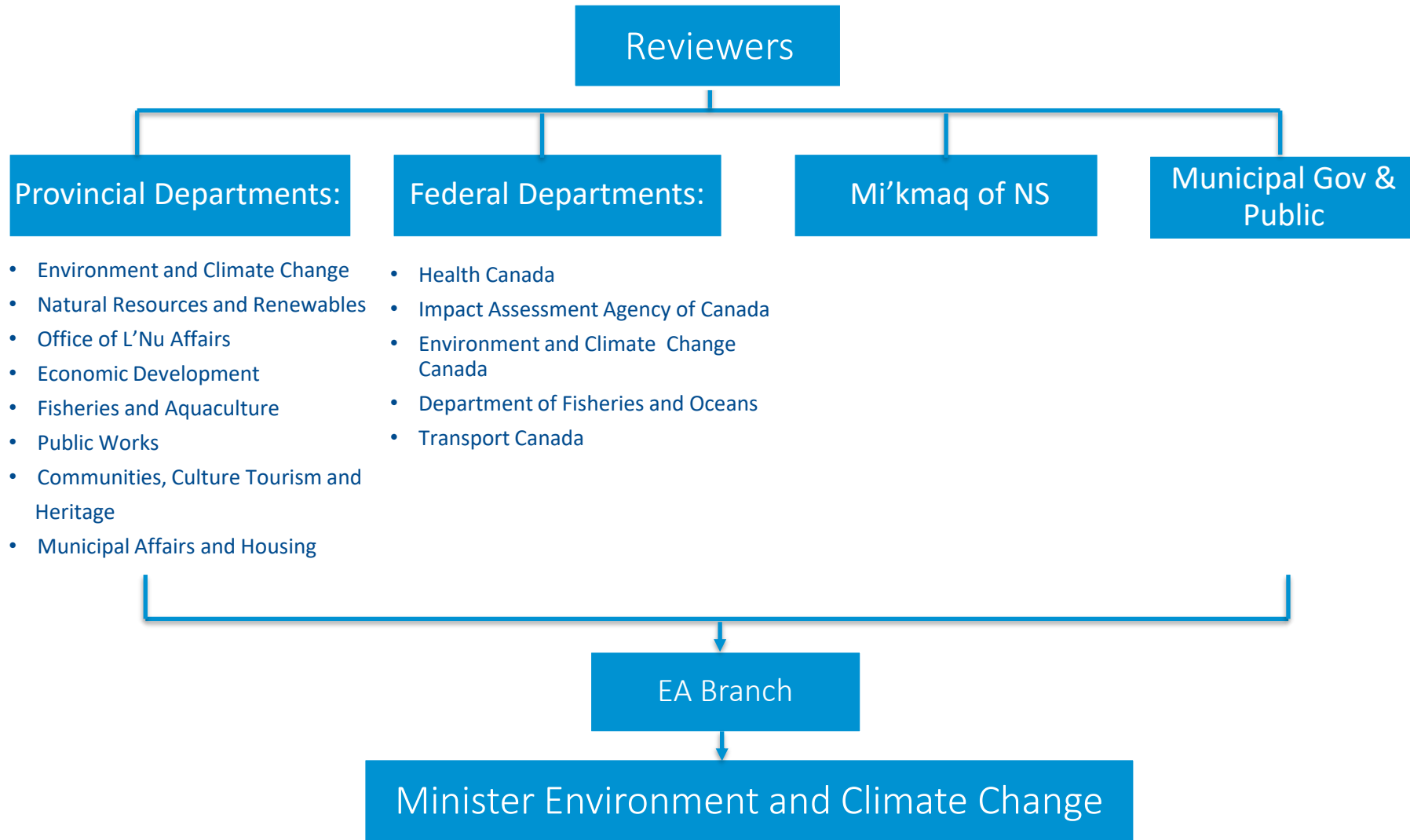
Environmental Assessment

What? Environmental Assessment (EA) is a planning, engagement and decision-making tool to promote sustainable development.

WHY? It is required by: Part IV of the [Environment Act](#) & Environmental Assessment Regulations.

WHEN? If a project is included in Schedule “A” of the EA Regulations, it is subject to the EA process. This can include modifications and rehabilitation of an undertaking.

Who is involved?



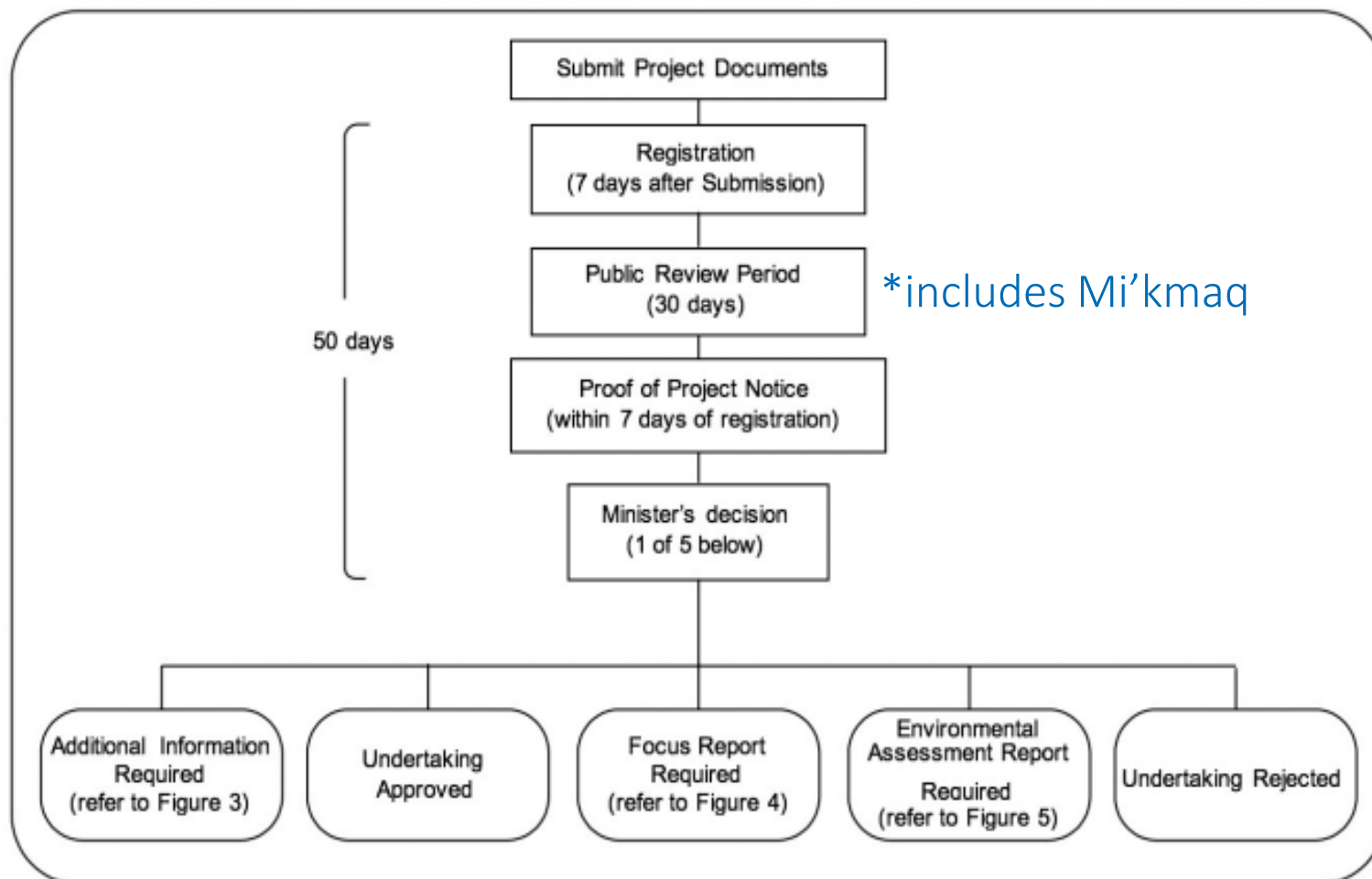
Class I EA - wind trigger

Schedule A – Environmental Assessment Regulations - wind projects of 2 MW or greater require EA

D. Energy

1. A corridor for 1 or more electric power transmission lines that have a cumulative voltage rating equal to or greater than 345 kVA.
2. An energy generating facility, other than an emergency generator, that meets any one of the following:
 - (a) it has a production rating of at least 2 MW derived from wind, tides or waves;
 - (b) it has a production rating of at least 2 MW and no more than 25 MW derived from hydroelectricity, other than run-of-the-river facilities under 10 MW;
 - (c) it has a daily fuel input rating of at least 11 000 GJ and no more than 31 000 GJ derived from natural gas;
 - (d) it has a daily fuel input rating of at least 250 GJ and no more than 2500 GJ derived from fossil fuels other than natural gas;
 - (e) it has a daily fuel input rating of at least 4000 GJ and no more than 10 000 GJ derived from fuels other than fossil fuels, but excluding solar power.

Review of the Class I EA process



Registration Document (Full listing: Section 9(1A) of EA Regs. minimum requirements)

- Fee
- Name and location of project
- **Name, address and id of proponent (Registry Joint Stock Companies, NS)**
- Contact persons and contact information
- **Signature of CEO and contact information**
- Nature and sensitivity of surrounding area
- Purpose and need for project
- **Construction and operation schedules**
- Description of project
- Environmental baseline information
- **Other permits**
- **Sources of public funding**
- **Mi'kmaq engagement**
- **Public engagement**

Registration Document (main components)

Guide to Preparing an EA Registration Document for Wind Power Projects in Nova Scotia.

- Description of the Project (location, components, set-backs, all phases)
- Review of the Valued Environmental Components:
 - Biophysical (flora, fauna, wetlands, water, noise, shadow flicker, visual impact etc.)
 - Socio-Economic (economy, land use , recreation, tourism, human health, cultural)
- Effects of the Project on the Environment (benefits & drawbacks for all VECs & phases)
- Effects of the Environment on the Project (extreme storms, CC, adaptation)
- Other permits that are required
- Mi'kmaq engagement
- Public engagement

Considerations

Environmental

- Impacts to birds and bats (strike and migration). Especially with turbines >150m. Contact NRR & CWS FCR_Tracker@ec.gc.ca
- Impacts to flora, fauna, especially rare species
- Impacts to relatively intact natural areas
- Impacts to nearby protected areas. Contact ECC Protected Areas

Mi'kmaq

- Project occurring in a traditional land use area and/or in an area with archaeological and/or cultural significance.

Public

- Noise (limit is 40dBA at exterior)
- Shadow Flicker (limit is 30min per day or 30hrs/year)
- Blade glint
- Visual impact on landscape

Minister's decision factors

- Location of the undertaking/sensitivity of surroundings
- Concerns expressed by public and aboriginal people and steps taken to address those concerns
- Whether environmental baseline information is sufficient to predict environmental effects
- Potential adverse or environmental effects
- Planned/existing land use or other undertakings in the area
- Whether compliance with licenses, certificates, permits, approvals required by law will mitigate the environmental effects
- Such other information as the minister may require.

What happens after the decision?

If the Project is Approved, the EA Branch meets with Approval Holder to:

- Review terms and conditions
- Approval holder is responsible for meeting conditions and acquiring any additional authorizations
- ECC's Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement Division is responsible to ensure ongoing compliance

Want more information?

EA Branch email: ea@novascotia.ca

EA Branch website: <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea/>

- Legislation – Act and Regulations
- Publications:
 - Guide to Preparing an EA Registration Document for Wind Power Projects in Nova Scotia
 - Proponent's Guide to Environmental Assessment
 - Guide to Addressing Wildlife Species and Habitat in an EA Registration Document

Questions?

