9-5-191

Environmental Assessment and Review Process in the NWT

In Canada, all proposed projects to be undertaken with federal funds or on federal lands (including the offshore waters) are subject to environmental screening. This federal policy was established by cabinet directives in 1973 and 1977. The Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) Guidelines were issued in 1984 by Order-in-Council to establish a procedure to ensure that potential environmental and directly related socio-economic implications are considered before approval for a project is granted. EARP is designed as a planning process, reflecting the judgement that environmental assessment should be undertaken very early in the decision making process.

In the NWT, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) implements its EARP responsibilities through the Regional Environmental Review Committee (RERC). RERC is chaired by INAC and composed of a number of agencies of the federal and territorial governments. Its recommendations are made to the Minister of Environment through the Minister of INAC.

The attached paper describes the responsibilities of the Environment and Conservation Division of INAC, outlines terms of reference for the RERC, and describes the review process. It further describes the type of information required of a proponent to allow project review. It was produced in order to better define the responsibilities of both INAC and the RERC in the environmental assessment and review of projects in the NUT. It is also intended to clarify the 'game rules' and to assist the manager or company to ● xpeditiously meet EARP requirements.

An important point to be kept in mind is that the decisions of the RERC proceed from two areas of program responsibility within the INAC's Regional organization. Directly related social and economic issues are reviewed and decisions reached within the Minerals and Economic Analysis Directorate. The physical and biological environmental effects of the project are assessed and decisions reached within the Renewable Resources and Environment Directorate.

I encourage you to contact either of the undersigned or the Manager of Environment and Conservation who acts as the Chairman of RERC for any further clarification or information.

U. Stephen
Director
Renewable Resources and Environment
Northern Affairs Program
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2R3

G. Patenaude
Director
Minerals and Economic Analysis
Northern Affairs Program
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
XIA 2R3

NORTHERN AFFAIRS PROGRAM

INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

N. U. T. REGION, YELLOWKNIFE

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION DIVISION

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

EARP	*Environmental Assessment and Review Process*
ECD	*Environment and Conservation Division*
EIS	*Environmental Impact Statement*
FEARO	*Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office*
IEE	*Initial Environmental Evaluation*
INAC	*Indian and Northern Affairs Canada*
NWT	*Northwest Territories*
NAP	*Northern Affairs Program*
RERC	*Regional Environmental Review Committee*

NORTHERN AFFAIRS PROGRAM

INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

N. W. T. REGION, YELLOWKNIFE

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION DIVISION

SUMMARY

Responsibilities of the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD)

The general responsibilities of the ECD. NAP. INAC, are as follows:

to administer the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) in the NWT;
to advise senior managers in government and industry on matters related to environmental protection and conservation;
to coordinate multi-disciplinary environmental studies within the Region; and
to represent NAP on Boards and Committees dealing with matters related to the Northern environment.

This document briefly describes the first responsibility: the administration of the federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP). in the N.W.T. by the Northern Affairs Program. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

EARP Related Responsibilities

EARP related responsibilities are discharged with the assistance of the Regional Environmental Review Committee (RERC). This Federal - Territorial advisory committee is chaired by the Division Manager. Represented on RERC are: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). Department of the Environment (DOE). Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). Other agencies may be asked to provide representation depending upon the nature of the proposed project.*

ECD works in close cooperation with the NAP District Offices, Water Resources Division, Land Resources Division. and Economic Development and Northern Benefits Division to screen proposals for projects to be carried out on Federal lands (including the offshore waters) or with Federal funds.

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* *Terms of Reference NWT Region. Regional Environmental Review Committee (RERC). Northern Affairs Program. Yellowknife. N.W.T. November 1987. (attached)*

*The responsibilities of these District Offices and other Divisions include the administration of federal legislation and issuance of Land Use Permits, Land Leases and Water Licences. The offices are in close contact with developers and are familiar with the local environment. This allows them to complete preliminary, or Phase 1 screening as described in the attached Project Description. * They can also best address site specific issues and provide advice during the environmental screening of specific projects referred by INAC to RERC.*

Consistent with EARP Guidelines. both the biophysical and related socio-economic impacts of proposals are considered during the environmental screening. EARP is considered a project planning tool to be implemented as early in the project planning as possible. Close contact with the proponent (company or government agency proposing the project) is maintained to ensure that the screening does not unduly delay the project. Proponents are invited to discuss their proposals with ECD early, so that the appropriate information is obtained and presented to facilitate responsible screening decisions.

To ensure timely and effective screening of development proposals, ECD has adopted the following approach: early in project planning, the Division will invite the proponent to submit a Project Description for screening. The level of biophysical information required will be at the conceptual level of detail. If effects are deemed to be mitigable or not potentially significant, the project will be referred to the established regulatory approvals process.

Should screening indicate a need for a significant amount of additional information, this will be communicated to the proponent and an Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE) will be requested. Specific guidelines for its preparation, including additional environmental and directly related socio-economic information requirements, will be developed by the chairperson in consultation with RERC members and the proponent.

The IEE, prepared by the proponent or his consultant. will' be screened by RERC. It may also be screened by the Northern Benefits Committee or other appropriate socio-economic group. A recommendation will then be made to INAC on whether to proceed to the established regulatory approvals stage, or to refer the project to the Minister of the Department of the Environment, for a full panel review. The initial screening process is essentially completed when this decision is made. Recommendations on environmental aspects of the proposal are communicated to senior management of INAC as well as to the proponent and the appropriate regulatory agencies.

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* *project Description in the Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP); NWT Region. Environment and Conservation Division (ECD), Northern Affairs Program (NAP), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Yellowknife, N.W.T.. December 1987. (attached)*

Further details are included in the attached RERC Terms of Reference and the Project *Description.*

For more information, please contact:

By Mail: *Regional Manager.*
Environment and Conservation Division
NAP, INAC
P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
XIA 2R3.

In Person: *8th Floor Bellanca Building*
4914 - 50th St.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Phone: *(403) 920-8201 or*
(403) 920-8233

Dex: *(403) 873-5763*

Telex: *034-45519*

Rick Hurst
Regional Manager,
Environment and
Conservation Division

TERMS OF REFERENCE

N. W. T. REGION

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (RERC)

NORTHERN AFFAIRS PROGRAM

DECEMBER , 1987

1. DEFINITIONS

INAC	*means:*	*Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Northern Affairs Program, NWT Region.*
Directors	*means:*	*Director of Renewable Resources and Environment and Director of Minerals and Economic Analysis, NWT Region, Northern Affairs Program.*
Regional Manager	means:	*Regional Manager. Environment and Conservation Division, Renewable Resources and Environment Directorate, NWT Region, Northern Affairs Program.*
Minister of the Environment	*means:*	*Federal Minister of the Environment.*
EARP	*means:*	*Environmental Assessment and Review Process.*
FEARO	*means:*	*Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office.*
RERC	means:	Regional *Environmental Review Committee,*
Initial Assessment	*means:*	*An investigation of a proposal and its alternatives to determine on a preliminary basis whether. and the extent to which. there may be any potentially adverse environmental or* directly related *socio-economic effects. Initial assessment includes the stages of screening and any additional environmental investigations needed to reach an initial assessment decision.*

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Initial Assessment Decision	*means:*	*A documented decision reached without excessive expenditure of time, effort and financial resources which determines one of the following:*
		a) the effects of a proposal are understood and can be mitigated - therefore the project may proceed to the regulatory process with recommendations for mitigation and monitoring measures; or,
		b) the effects or public concern associated with a proposal are significant - therefore a public review by a multi-disciplinary Panel is warranted, in which case the proposal is referred by INAC to the Minister of the Environment for such a review; or,
		c) the effects of a proposal are significant and unacceptable. in which case a recommendation will be made: either that the proposal be modified and subsequently rescreened. or be abandoned.
Directly Related Socio-economic Effects	*means:*	*Effects of the project which result from a direct impact on the biophysical environment. which in turn impact on fisheries. trapping, etc.*
IEE	*means:*	*Initial Environmental Evaluation. It is a documented prepared by the proponent which describes the project and assesses potential impacts on the environment. It also contains suggestions for mitigation.*

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II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of RERC are:

A. *To carry out an initial assessment of those proposed development projects referred to the Committee by INAC.*

B. *To make recommendations to the Directors, regarding the need for referral of a project to the Minister of Environment, based on an assessment of 1) the potential environmental impacts. and 2) the directly related socio-economic impacts.**

C. *To identify to the Directors issues and concerns for referral to regulator agencies, for those projects not recommended for referral to the Minister of the Environment.*

D. *To assist project proponents in meeting the initial assessment requiremen ts. and to provide information as required for project planning, throughout the screening process.*

E. *To provide an inter. and intra-governmental forum for the discussion of general environmental assessment issues in the Northwest Territories, such as procedures, quality control, screening guidelines and implementation.*

III. CHAIRMANSHIP

The Committee shall be chaired by the Regional Manager. Environment and Conservation Division.

IV, MEMBERSHIP

A. *DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRs AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, NORTHERN AFFAIRS PROGRAM:*

Regional Manager, Environment and Conservation (chair),
Regional Manager, Economic Development and Northern Benefits,
Regional Manager. Land Resources,
Regional Manager. Water Resources,
Environmental Assessment Advisor, Environment and Conservation.
District Manager(s), according to geographical location of proposal.

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* *Other social and economic concerns. such as northern benefits and local job opportunities. will be referred to the Director of Minerals and Economic Analysis, NAP.*

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B. ***DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT:***

Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Environmental Protection. conservation and Protection,

Officer in Charge
Canadian Wildlife Service, Conservation and Protection,

Chief. NUT Programs
Inland Waters/Lands. Conservation and Protection.

Manager, Yellowknife Weather"Office
Atmospheric Environment Service,

c. ***DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS:***

Habitat Protection and Resource Allocation Co-ordinator,
NWT District.

D. ***GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES:***

Senior Policy Analyst
Department of Renewable *Resources.*

Assistant Deputy Minister
Regional Operations
Executive Council,

Senior Archaeologist
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
Department of Culture and Communications.

E. ***OTHERS:***

OBSERVER STATUS:

Director, Northern Land Use Planning. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Chief. Terrestrial Environment Division. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Ottawa.

The Chairperson. on the advice of RERC members. willinvite the proponent and may invite representatives of public interest groups, native, and regional and national organizations. or technicaland scientific experts to participate in RERC meetings, depending on the subjects under discussion, to assist the committee in solving potential technical problems and accommodating public interests.

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V. COMMITTEE OPERATION

A. The initial assessment process will follow appropriate guidelines and procedures established by both INAC and FEARO, pursuant to the EARP Guidelines Order (Order-in-council # PC 1984-2132. June 1984). Primary guides include the Project Description (ECD, 1987) and the Initial Assessment Guide (FEARO, 1986).

B. RERC shall strongly encourage the proponent in undertaking effective community consultation to address directly related socio-economic matters.

c. RERC will review details of the project proposal. If screening determines that additional information is required to enable proper assessment to be completed, the proponent will be asked to prepare an IEE. Specific guidelines for its preparation, including additional environmental and directly related socio-economic requirements, will be developed by the Chairperson in consultation with RERC members and the proponent.

D. On completion of the initial assessment process, a final summary report complete with recommendations will be compiled and distributed by the chairperson. It will contain:

1. Conclusions with respect to the potential for significant environmental and related socio-economic impacts;

2. A recommendation on the need. or lack thereof, for a referral by INAC to the Minister of the Environment.

E. For those project proposals for which RERC concludes that no further review or referral is required, this decision will be delivered to the Directors. Recommendations on such items as additional information, mitigation measures and monitoring may also be made to the appropriate regulator agencies, for consideration in the approvals process.

F. The chairperson will submit the final RERC project report and recommendations to the Directors. for their consideration. The decision on the environmental and directly related socio-economic acceptability of the project will be made by INAC.

G. Meetings will be called bv the chairperson. or at the request of two or more committee members.

H. A Secretariat t-unction will be provided by the Regional Manager's office, which will be responsible for maintaining records of meetings. distributing pertinent information to proponents and RERC members, and the issuance of releases to the press or public, on behalf of the Committee.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

IN THE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS

N. W. T. REGION

NORTHERN AFFAIRS PROGRAM

INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION DIVISION

YELLOWKNIFE, N.W. T.

DECEMBER 1987

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Project Description

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to outline the implementation of the federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP), in the Northwest Territories. by the Northern Affairs Program (NAP). Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

The simultaneous implementation of EARP, a federal Cabinet Directive. and the administration of federal environmental legislation and regulations, has given rise to several levels of environmental screening. For the purpose of this document they will be referred to as Levels I to III. with emphasis placed on the Level II screening performed by the NWT Regional Environmental Review Committee (RERC). Level II screening may consist of two sequential phases: the Project Description and the Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE). Levels I and III: Regulatory Review and Panel Screening respectively, are discussed on pages b - 8.

This document provides both developers and members of the RERC with an overview of the assessment process and gives a description of the type and level of information required to screen a project at the Project Description stage of the review process. It does not outline the requirements for an IEE, as these will be provided by RERC as the assessment process develops. In guidelines developed specifically for the project and through close consultation with the proponent.

2. BASIS FOR EARP

Federal Government policy regarding the Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) was established by two federal Cabinet Directives (1973 and 1977). The Environmental Assessment and Review Process Guidelines were issued in 1984 by Order-in-Council.* EARP is the mechanism used to ensure that the potential environmental "and directly related socio-economic effects and implications of all projects. for which a Department has the decision making authority, are fully considered before irrevocable decisions are taken. Since it is a project planning tool. it is implemented as early in project planning as possible.

In the NWT, all project proposals to be undertaken on federal lands (including the offshore waters) or with federal funds are subject to an environmental screening to determine whether, and the extent to which, there mav be any potentially adverse environmental effects from the proposal. Proposals with potentially significant adverse environmental effects are to be referred to the Minister of the Environment for public review by a Panel. The Order-in-Council further stipulates that environmental screening must be carried out by the initiating department and cannot be delegated to any other body.

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* Government Organization .4ct. 1979.
Environmental Assessment and Review Process Guidelines Order. SOR/84-414.
Canada Gazette Part 11. Vol. 118, July 11, 1984.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An environmental impact assessment (EIA) is an activity designed to identify, predict, interpret and communicate information about the impact of an action or a proposed development on human health and well-being, including the well-being of ecosystems on which human survival depends.* Other definitions for an EIA have been given elsewhere.** The assessment captures in one place the environmental impacts on land, water, air, wildlife (terrestrial and aquatic) and other ecosystem components as well as the directly related impacts on social and economic systems.

To assess the environmental impact of an activity, criteria such as the magnitude of the impact, its duration, frequency and geographic extent are considered; project and process alternatives are identified; the probability of occurrence of serious environmental risks is determined; and judgments on "valued ecosystem components" are made. "Scoping" procedures are used to identify the important and significant impacts, to select among alternatives and to focus the expenditure of time and resources on appropriate issues.

Scoping involves the preparation of a project description; setting of geographical boundaries on Impacts; determination of the time period over which impacts will be projected; identification, classification and preliminary analysis of issues; preliminary identification of major components of the social, economic and ecological systems that might be affected (valued ecosystem components); and identification of possible mitigating measures.***

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* Initial Assessment Guide. Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process, Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, Ottawa, Ontario. P.J.B. Duffy (Ed), 1986.

** An Ecological Framework for Environmental Impact Assessment in Canada. G. E. Beanlands and P. N. Duinker, Institute of Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1983.

*** Methods for Determining the Scope of Environmental Assessments. Final Report for the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office. Prepared by ESSA Environmental and Social Systems Analysis Ltd., Vancouver, B.C., R.R. Everitt and D.L. Colnett, 1987.

An analysis of projects reviewed across Canada in recent years has shown the following approximate breakdown: for every thousand projects entering the environmental assessment process and undergoing initial screening, approximately nine hundred proceeded straight to the regulatory process. The remainder required IEE's. After rescreening the additional information provided in the one hundred IEE's, ninety nine proceeded to the regulatory process and the remaining one required additional study and rescreening by an Environmental Assessment Panel, established under FEARO. The potential for a project to proceed speedily and directly to the regulatory phases can be greatly enhanced by the submission of a well prepared environmental document at the initial screening stage.

4. EARP ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Screening

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), NUT Region. is the Initiating Department for projects undertaken on Federal Lands in the Northwest Territories. The Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) of the Northern Affairs Program (NAP) in Yellowknife administers EARP for the NWT Region. This Division is assisted by the Regional Environmental Review Committee (RERC), an interdepartmental/intergovernmental body which provides advice and screening recommendations to ECD. Appendix I gives the membership of RERC.

Since NAP administers environmental legislations independent of EARP, two different levels of environmental screening have developed within NAP. The third level of screening. if required, is by an Environmental Assessment Panel established by FEARO. For the purpose of this document these three levels of screening can be described as follows:

Level I Screening (Regulatory Requirements)

Environmental screening is performed by the District Managers and the Regional Managers of the Water Resources Division and the Land Resources Division, in their normal administration of existing legislation. The screening is based on information received in applications for licences, permits and leases, and results in terms and conditions incorporated in these documents to ensure that environmental protection is maintained for the term of the permit licence or lease.* In the majority of cases there is no need to refer the project to Level II screening.

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* Northern Natural Resource Development: Requirements. Procedures and Legislation. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Northern Affairs Program. 1981.

Level II Screening (RERC Screening)

This Intermediate Level Screening is performed by the ECD, with the assistance of the RERC. Both environmental and directly related socio-economic components are considered. To address these. the proponent is encouraged to meet with the local communities and businesses which may be affected by the proposed project to describe the project and jointly identify potential environmental and socio-economic impacts and mitigative measures. Social and economic concerns will also be referred to the Director of Minerals and Economic Analysis (INAC).*

Initially, Level II screening is performed on the basis of information contained in the Project Description. submitted by the proponent (company or government agency submitting the proposal) to ECD. Proposals that are found to have effects which are mitigable or have no potentially significant environmental effects are recommended to proceed to the established regulatory approval processes. Those with unknown or potentially significant environmental effects may either require further information or study and subsequent rescreening. or are referred to the Minister of the Environment for a public review by an Environmental Assessment Panel. Should the information in the Project Description indicate the need for further studies, then guidelines for the preparation of an IEE will be drafted by ECD in consultation with RERC and the proponent. Thus the Level II screening can be viewed as consisting of up to two phases: a Project Description which may or may not be followed by an IEE, depending on the level of information provided in the Project Description and the environmental implications of the project. The requirements for the IEE will not be discussed here, as guidelines will be issued to the proponent when this stage of assessment is reached.

To further clarify the distinction between Levels I and II screening, a few examples of the types of projects handled at these levels are provided in Appendices 2 and 3.

Level III Screening (Panel Screening)

This highest level of screening, which is conducted by the FEARO, is performed by a panel appointed by the Minister of the Environment to review an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It is beyond the scope of this document and is mentioned only for completeness. For more Information see P.J.B. Duffy (Ed); 1986, (p. 3).

** RERC Membership is given in Appendix 1.*

4.2 COORDINATION OF SCREENING PROCEDURES

The application of the regulatory screening process (Level I) and the RERC screening process (Level II) have occasionally appeared to be in conflict with one another. The majority of projects are relatively small and routine and are effectively handled at the District Level (Level I). Land Use Permits are thereby granted without referral to RERC (Level II). Once referred to Level II. however, the RERC screening process should normally precede the regulatory process, insofar as the granting of Water Licences or Land Leases are concerned. However, the time frame for the two sometimes overlaps and the greater the overlap the greater the apparent conflict. While a certain amount of overlap is manageable, too much could be detrimental to the screening process and undesirable to the proponent. To minimize the overlap, companies will be invited to initiate discussion with ECD as early in their project planning phase as possible, so that the RERC screening is essentially completed before applications for subsequent regulatory approvals are initiated.

An early start to the RERC screening process will also help the proponent to better plan project activities by recognizing. at an early stage, that the data needed for initial impact assessment may be of a different type and may be required in less detail than that required for approvals under the regulatory process. However. data collection and interpretation for RERC environmental assessment and regulatory approval should complement one another.

4.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A complete and well prepared Project Description is the first requirement for the passage of a proposed project from RERC screening to the regulatory process, provided that the environmental effects are known and are either mitigable or not significant. To a large extent, the information required in a Project Description is project specific and depends on the nature of the project. its size and location, the physical and biological resources potentially affected. and public concerns.

Because of the need for submission of a Project Description early in the project design. several components of the overall proposed project may have to be described in conceptual terms. These components may not have Yet been fully defined. designed or investigated, and hence not all aspects of the physical. biological. ecological, socio-economic, project - environment interactions and significance of adverse environmental consequences may be fully known. Thus, at this stage, the prediction of impacts and their significance and mitigation, essential components of the Project Description. can only be discussed in general terms. As a guide. a Project Description should contain the following information:

4.3.1 *Project Proposal:*

A description of the project should be given and should include the preliminary site layout design and construction plans, time tables for various activities, general operating procedures and abandonment *plans. A project rationale should also be included.*

4.3.2 *Environmental* Components:

A general *description of the physical, chemical and biological components of the surrounding environment, at the reconnaissance level of detail, including all the physical and biological resources to be utilized, should be given. A list of environmental issues, affected parties and "valued ecosystem components" (defined as important environmental attributes such as species of wildlife) should be provided. This information will help to identify the major potential environmental issues and the* parties *affected, as well as providing a focus for subsequent screening and review activities.*

4.3.3 *Project - Environmental Interactions:*

A general description should be given of how the different project activities can affect each environmental component and each "valued ecosystem component. " Linkages between the project, the environment and ecosystem components should be established.

4.3.4 *Socio-Economic Impacts:*

If applicable, a general description of the major socio-economic impacts which are directly related to the project, should be identified and assessed. This could include a description of the project infrastructure; health and safety; potential impacts on fishing hunting and trapping; and provision for wildlife compensation.

4.3.5 *Project Alternatives*

The alternative wavs of designing, developing and managing each project component should be described in general terms. For a timely and effective assessment. it is essential that all alternatives be described so that thev can be assessed simultaneously and in relation to one another.

(A short list of the alternatives includes: activity alternatives. *location alternatives. process alternatives. scheduling alternatives, mitigation* alternatives*).*

4.3.6 ***Results of Similar Projects in Similar Environments:***

Impacts are a function of the interaction between the project and the environment. Thus, if possible, a review and an analysis of similar projects in similar circumstances should be undertaken to allow for a transfer of knowledge and to predict environmental impacts.

4.3.7 ***Major Impacts and Mitigating Measures:***

A description of the projected major impacts and prevention measures to be utilized should be given and assessed. Potential impacts of known significance should be identified and, if possible, assessed.

4.3.8 ***Residual Impacts:***

A description of the residual impacts. i.e. the impacts remaining after all known measures of prevention have been employed, should be given and assessed.

4.4 *SCREENING DECISIONS*

Following submission of the Project Description to ECD, the proponent may be requested to attend a meeting of the RERC, to make a presentation on the project and answer questions. Based on the recommendations from the RERC, a screening decision will be made. It will be one of the following:

1. *Environmental effects are known, not significant and/or mitigable and the project may proceed to established* regulatory processes;

2. *The potential environmental effects cannot be fully determined and some deficiencies in the Project Description have been identified. Some additional information is required to rescreen the project. A listing of this additional information will be submitted to the proponent;*

3. *The potential environmental effects are not fully known or are not apparently mitigable, or major deficiencies in the Project Description were identified. To further assess the proposed project. IEE Guidelines, detailing the additional information required, will be issued to the proponent: or*

4. *The potential environmental effects* are significant *and/or* strong *public concerns have been expressed, and referral to the Minister of the Environment for assessment by a panel appointed by FEARO, is required.*

To complete *the RERC screening. a report with recommendations will be submitted by INAC to the proponent and to appropriate regulatory agencies.*

APPENDIX 1

Membership

Regional Environmental Review Committee (RERC)

Yellowknife, N. W.T.

A. DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, NORTHERN AFFAIRS PROGRAM

- Regional Manager. Environment and Conservation Division (chair)
- Environmental Assessment Advisor, Environment and Conservation Division
- Regional Manager. Land Resources
- Regional Manager, Water Resources
- Regional Manager, Economic Development and Northern Benefits
- District Manager, (according to geographical location of proposal)

B. DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. CONSERVATION & PROTECTION

- Northern Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environmental Protection;
- Officer in Charge, Canadian Wildlife Service; and Chief. NWT Programs, Inland Waters/Lands.

2. ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

- Manager, Yellowknife Weather Office.

C. DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS

- Habitat Protection & Resource Allocation Coordinator.

D, GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

- Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Renewable Resources;
- Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations, Executive Council;
- Senior Archaeologist, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Department of Culture and Communications.

APPENDIX 2

Example of Projects to be Referred to ECD for Screening by RERC.

1. *New and expanded mines and mills*
2. *Oil and gas production facilities and pipelines*
3. *Major new transportation routes*
4. *Hydroelectric development*
5. *Toxic Chemical Dumpsite selection*
6. *Major federal policies/programs/projects*
7. *Transboundary projects*
8. *Projects in or near critical wildlife habitats, sanctuaries and national parks*
9. *Projects generating significant public interest*
10. *Projects for which IEE's or EIS's are required.*

APPENDIX 3

Examples of projects not likely to be referred to ECD for screening by RERC, but screened at the regulatory level.

1. ***Ongoing mining and milling" operations .***
2. ***Exploratory oil and gas drilling operations***
3. ***Routine dredging projects***
4. ***Municipal projects (eg: municipal dumps. sewage disposal, potable water delivery)***
5. ***Routine land-use activities (eg: quarries, camps, mineral exploration, diamond drilling)***
6. ***Routine ocean dumping operations***
7. ***Small, site-specific federal activities***
8. ***Upgrading of roads***
9. ***Ongoing federal programs.***