

# ***EIA in New Brunswick***

***Project Assessment Branch  
Department of Environment***

*University of New Brunswick  
Advanced Topics in Environmental Design Engineering  
February 1, 2007  
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# *Presentation Outline:*



- 1. What is Environmental Impact Assessment?*
- 2. EIA Methodology*
- 3. NB Provincial Process*
- 4. Federal Process*

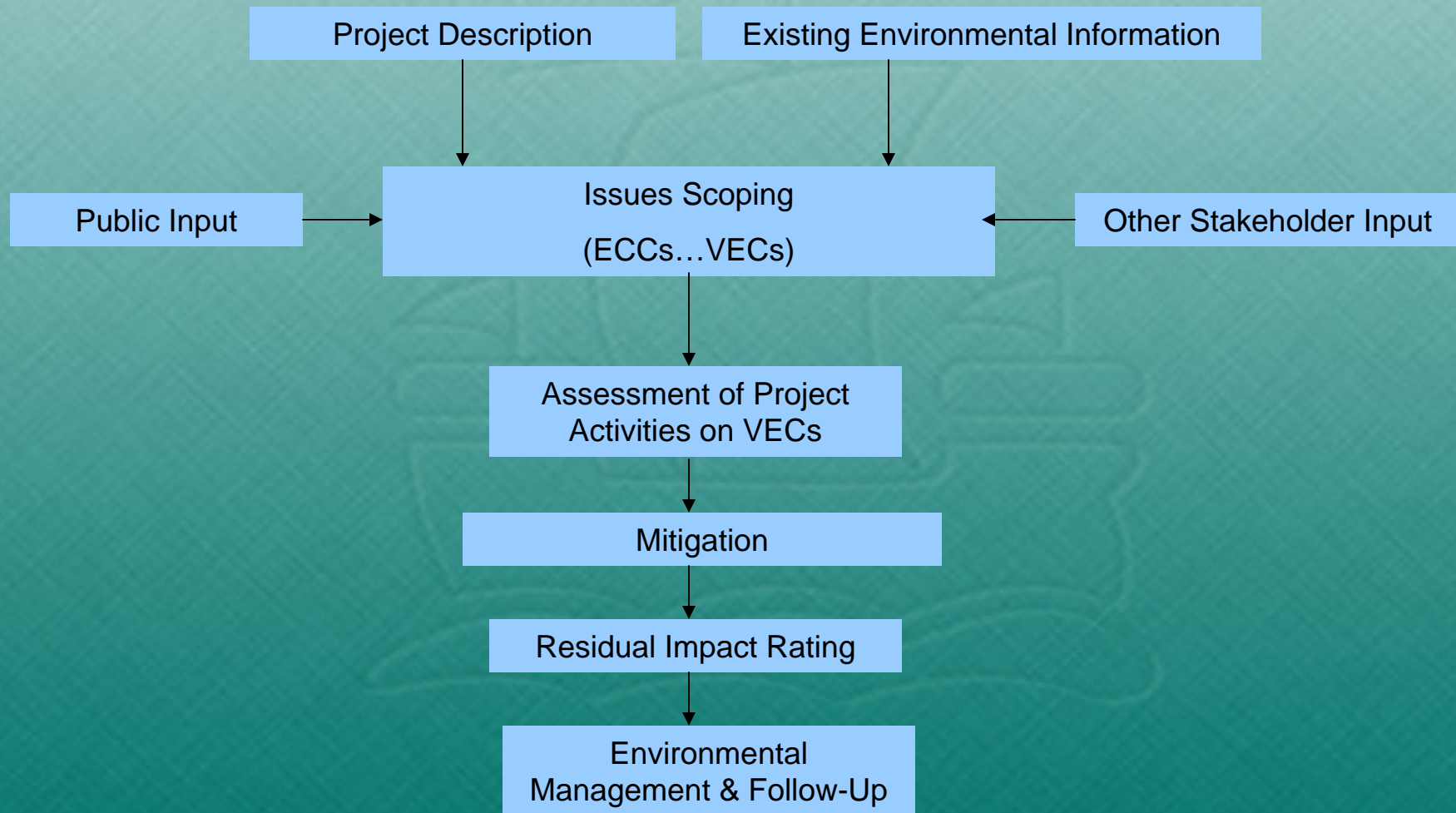
# ***What Is EIA/EA ?***



*Definition: A process through which environmental effects (biophysical, social & economic) potentially resulting from a proposed Project are identified and assessed.*

*Objective: To provide useful environmental information; to help decision-makers make well-informed decisions related to proposed Projects/activities.*

# EIA - EIA Methodology:



# ***Provincial Process:***

## ***Brief History***

### ***1975, Formal Cabinet Policy***

- *Large Scale Government Projects*
- *Point Lepreau; Fredericton Regional Landfill*

### ***1987, Regulation 87-83 (EIA Regulation)***

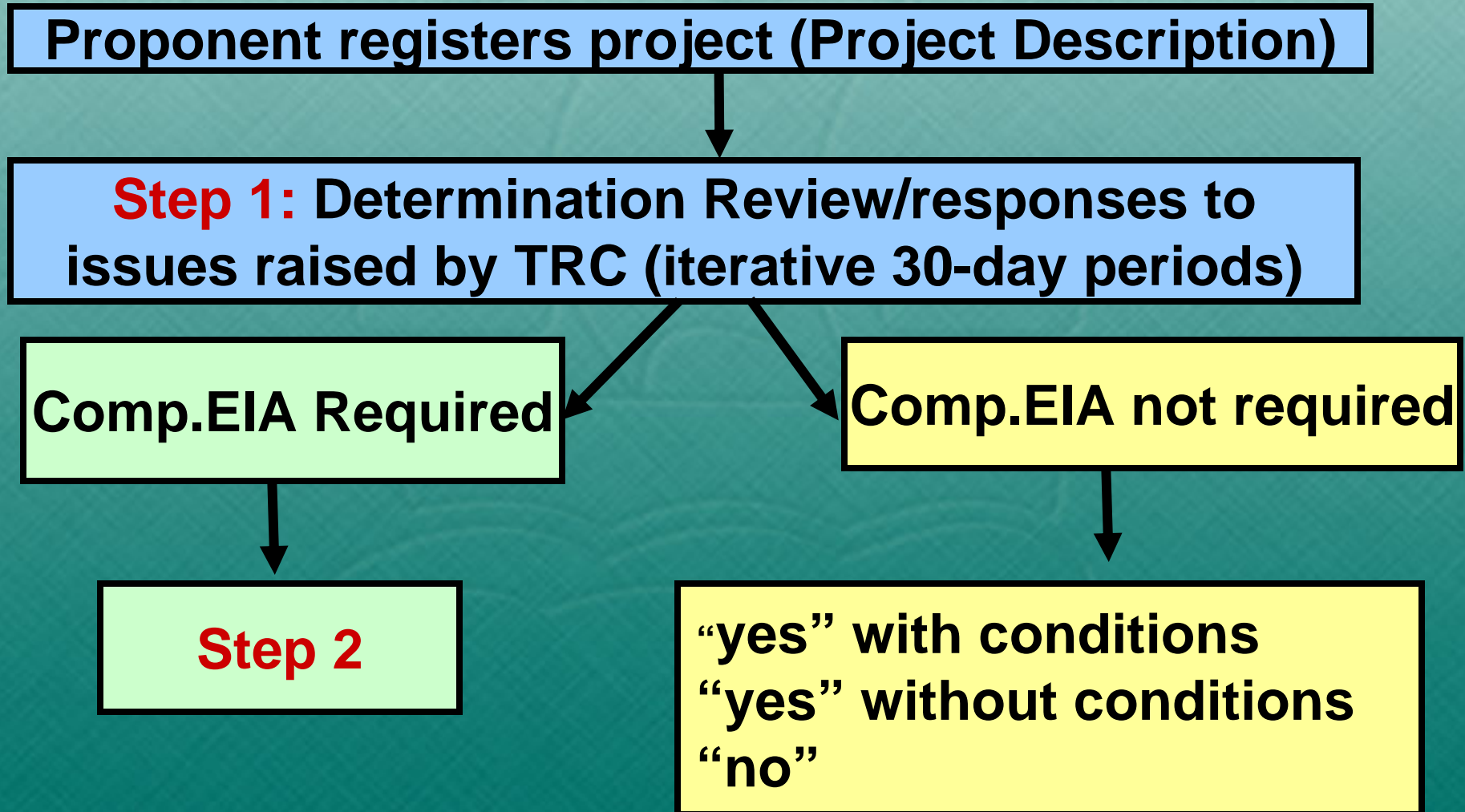
- *Legislative Authority under Clean Environment Act*
- *Public & Private Sector Projects*
- *Approximately 1030 to date*

# ***Provincial Process:***

## ***Project Assessment Branch***

- *Responsible for the administration of the EIA Regulation; delivering the Minister's commitment to provide greater transparency to the EIA process by providing the public and other interested parties with enhanced information, and an opportunity to provide input to the assessment of registered projects.*
- *A Team of 10 professionals with expertise in Engineering, Planning, EIA & Biophysical Sciences, Business and Public Consultation*

# *Provincial Process:*



# *Provincial Process: Step 2*

Comprehensive EIA

Guidelines Prepared - (public review of draft)

Submit Terms of Reference

EIA Report Prepared & Submitted

Review of EIA Report  
(Review Statement & Summary Prepared)

Public Meeting(s)

Decision by Lieutenant-Governor in Council

Other Required Approvals

# ***Provincial Process - SCHEDULE A***

- *(a) all commercial extraction or processing of a mineral as defined in the Mining Act;*
- *(b) all electrical power generating facilities with a production rating of 3 megawatts or more;*
- *(c) all water reservoirs with a storage capacity of more than 10 million cubic metres;*
- *(d) all electric power transmission lines exceeding 69 thousand volts in capacity or 5 km in length;*
- *(e) all linear communication transmission systems exceeding 5 km in length;*
- *(f) all commercial extraction or processing of combustible energy-yielding materials;*

# ***Provincial Process - SCHEDULE A***

- *(g) all offshore drilling for, or extraction of, oil, natural gas or minerals;*
- *(h) all pipelines exceeding 5 km in length, except water, steam or domestic wastewater pipelines;*
- *(i) all causeways & multiple-span bridges;*
- *(j) all major highway projects involving either a significant length of new highway alignment or a major upgrading or widening of an existing highway resulting in a change in its intended use or classification;*
- *(k) all facilities for the commercial processing or treatment of timber resources other than fuelwood, except maple sugaries, shingle mills and sawmills producing less than 100 thousand foot board annually;*

# ***Provincial Process - SCHEDULE A***

- *(l) all programs or commercial ventures involving the introduction into NB of plant or animal species which are not indigenous to NB;*
- *(m) all waste disposal facilities;*
- *(m.1) all disposal, destruction, recycling, reprocessing or storage of waste that originates outside NB & all facilities or systems for the disposal, destruction, recycling, reprocessing or storage of such wastes;*
- *(n) all sewage disposal or sewage treatment facilities, other than domestic, on-site facilities;*
- *(o) all provincial or national parks;*
- *(p) all major recreational or tourism developments, including developments which consist of changing the use of the land so that it is used for recreational or tourism purposes;*

# *Provincial Process - SCHEDULE A*

- *(q) all ports, harbours, railroads or airports;*
- *(r) all projects involving the transfer of water between drainage basins;*
- *(s) all waterworks with a capacity greater than 50 m<sup>3</sup> (50,000L) of water daily;*
- *(t) all major residential developments outside incorporated areas;*
- *(u) all enterprises, activities, projects, structures, works or programs affecting any unique, rare or endangered feature of the environment;*
- *(v) all enterprises, activities, projects, structures, works or programs affecting 2 hectares or more of bog, marsh, swamp or other wetland; and*
- *(w) all facilities for the processing of radioactive material.*

# *Federal Process*

## Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)

*CEAA sets out the responsibilities  
and procedures for EAs of projects  
involving the federal government*



# *When does CEAA apply?*

*For CEAA to apply, there must be:*

- a CEAA “project” and*
- a federal “decision” to make about the project (\$, land or jurisdiction)*

*“decisions” =*

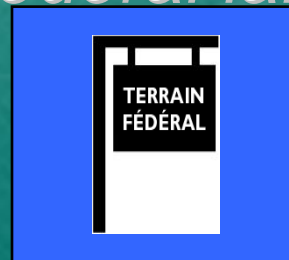
*proponent*



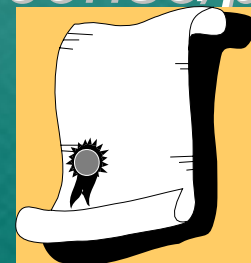
*funding*



*federal land*

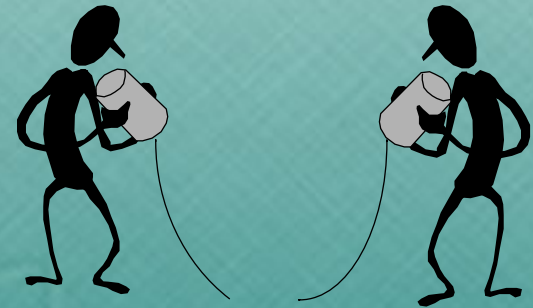


*license/permit*



# *Federal Coordination Regulation*

*Assures a federal coordination concerning environmental assessments:*



- *Ensures that only 1 federal EA is done for each project*
- *Identifies and notifies other federal departments that may be involved*

# *Factors to consider in a federal EA screening*



## *Required:*

- *environmental effects*
- *cumulative effects*
- *significance of effects*
- *mitigation*
- *public comments*

## *Optional:*

- *purpose of project*
- *alternative means*
- *need for follow-up program*
- *capacity of renewable resources*

# *Federal - Provincial Harmonization of Processes*

*Allows harmonization with provincial process  
when the latter is also required*

*Conditions for federal participation in a joint  
EIA review:*

- EIA includes all relevant federal departments (FCR)*
- EIA considers all factors listed in s.16 (CEAA)*
- Responsible Authorities (RAs) have normal powers  
under CEAA*

# *Thank you & Questions*

