

PROJECT PROPONENTS AND PROPOSALS

WHO WE ARE

YESAB is an independent body that administers the assessment responsibilities of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) and regulations. Specifically, its role is to administer the assessment process under YESAA.

THE ORIGINS OF YESAA

Chapter 12 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* (UFA) and Yukon First Nation final agreements establish the foundation for a legislated development assessment process applicable to all lands in Yukon. The *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* was enacted by the Parliament of Canada and received Royal Assent on May 13, 2003 and came fully into force November 2005.

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT?

The assessment process is a structured approach to identifying and addressing potential environmental and socio-economic effects of proposed development activities. When a potential effect is determined to be significant and adverse, the assessor recommends measures to reduce, control or eliminate the effect. If the significant adverse effect cannot be mitigated, the assessor must recommend that the project not proceed. YESAB directs its recommendations to Decision Body(ies), which are federal, territorial or First Nation governments or agencies, who make the final decision.

THE BENEFITS OF ASSESSMENT IN YUKON

Environmental and socio-economic assessment in Yukon is an important part of the project planning and approval process. The YESAA process can help inform project planning by identifying and addressing community concerns and potential environmental and socio-economic effects early in the project life cycle. The process also helps to build trust and confidence in projects at the community level and offers a predictable and established process with set time lines and formal opportunities for public involvement.

WHAT WE DON'T DO

- We DON'T tally votes for or against a project during an assessment.
- We DON'T issue permits or authorizations for projects.
- We DON'T make any final decisions regarding project approvals.
- We DON'T enforce regulations or any conditions and terms of permits.

IS AN ASSESSMENT REQUIRED?

Generally, a proposed project in Yukon involving activities identified under YESAA will require an assessment if:

- government authorization is required;
- an interest in public lands must be secured from government; or
- a government or government agency is proposing the project.

Prior to submitting a project proposal, confirm that the project requires an assessment by contacting the Decision Body, which can be federal, territorial and/or First Nation governments and a local YESAB office.

HOW LONG WILL AN ASSESSMENT TAKE?

The majority of the project proposals submitted to YESAB require a Designated Office evaluation. An evaluation takes an average of 80 days to complete once the project proposal has been submitted.

Large and complex project proposals may require an Executive Committee screening, which can take from six months to two years. Large projects that use controversial technology, generate significant public concern, or contribute significantly to cumulative adverse effects may require a review by a panel of the Board.

There is no fee for an assessment.

THE DESIGNATED OFFICE EVALUATION PROCESS



Proponent engages the Decision Body(ies) and YESAB to determine if an assessment is required.



Proponent completes a "Project Proposal Form" and submits it to one of YESAB's Designated Offices.



YESAB assessors review the proposal to ensure that enough information is included to commence an assessment.



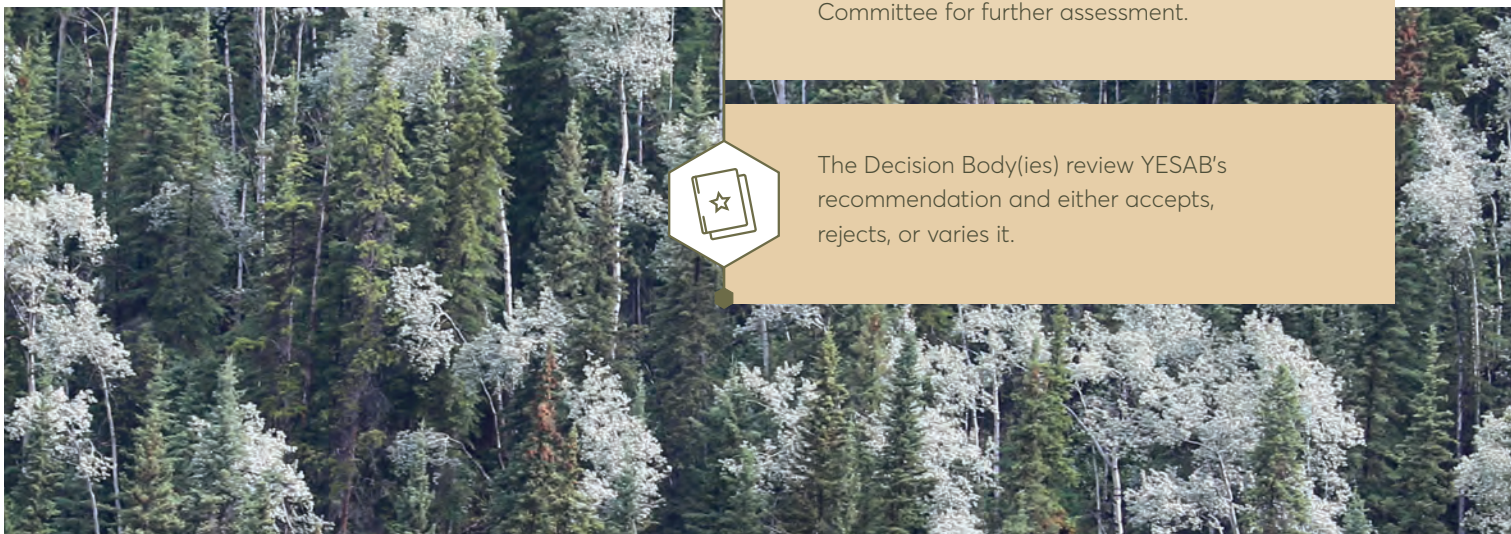
YESAB begins the assessment by gathering and reviewing all relevant information from First Nations, other governments, experts and participants who may have an interest in the proposed project.



After considering all relevant information, assessors determine whether the project will or is likely to have significant adverse environmental and/or socio-economic effects. Assessors then make a recommendation to the relevant Decision Body(ies) (federal, territorial, and/or First Nation governments) or refer the project to the Executive Committee for further assessment.



The Decision Body(ies) review YESAB's recommendation and either accepts, rejects, or varies it.



THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

SUBMITTING A PROJECT PROPOSAL

Proponents who submit their project for a Designated Office assessment will be required to provide contact information and information about the project, including all associated activities and stages of the project, project location, existing environmental and socio-economic conditions, potential effects of the project and any proposed mitigative measures and project alternatives that could avoid or minimize significant adverse effects.

To help submit the appropriate information, YESAB staff are available to assist and a standard project proposal form (Form 1) is provided by YESAB for designated office evaluations.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

After submitting the project proposal form, assessors may ask for additional information. Expect to be contacted at different stages of the assessment to clarify information within the proposal or answer questions from assessors. Proponents will be able to track their project proposal through the entire process on the YESAB Online Registry (YOR) at "<http://www.yesabregistry.ca/>".

The more complete the project proposal is, the fewer additional information requests proponents are likely to receive.

HOW TO HELP THE ASSESSMENT MOVE ALONG EFFICIENTLY

- 1 Contact the Decision Body(ies) or Regulator(s) early, before submitting a proposal, to discuss and any government decisions demanding an assessment.
- 2 Meet with YESAB prior to submitting a project proposal to confirm whether the project involves assessable activities and the level of detail required within the project proposal.
- 3 Meet with any affected First Nation to discuss the proposed project.
- 4 Include detailed information within the proposal to ensure information requirements are met.
- 5 Track your assessment via the YESAB online registry and respond to information requests in a timely manner.
- 6 Keep in contact with the Designated Office throughout the assessment.

AFTER THE ASSESSMENT IS COMPLETE

Upon completion of a Designated Office assessment YESAB issues an evaluation report and a recommendation, which is sent to federal departments, territorial or First Nation governments who act as Decision Bodies. A copy is also uploaded to the YESAB Online Registry. YESAB must recommend that the project:

- a) Proceed;
- b) Proceed with terms and conditions; or
- c) Not proceed.

Alternatively, when a Designated Office is unable to determine whether or not a project is likely to cause significant adverse effects, it must refer the project to the Executive Committee for a screening.

The Decision Body(ies) will issue, in writing, a Decision Document that accepts, varies or rejects the recommendation. The Decision Body(ies) must provide reasons for rejecting or varying a recommendation. Once the Decision Document has been issued, an agency can issue authorizations or permits in accordance with their process and consistent with the Decision Document.



STAGES OF A DESIGNATED OFFICE ASSESSMENT



ADEQUACY STAGE

- YESAB conducts information and location review.
- Additional details may be required to ensure an adequate project proposal



EVALUATION STAGE

- Scope of project prepared
- Notification list created
- Project proposal open for public comment (Seeking Views and Information Period)



RECOMMENDATION STAGE

- Evaluation report written
- Recommendation prepared and sent to Decision Body(ies)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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