

Designated Office Rules Review

Information Session

June 25, 2025

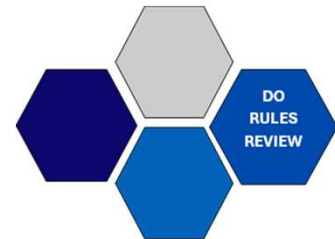


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DO Rules Review

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- Process Overview
- Evaluation Process
- Engagement Overview
- Feedback and Contact Information



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DO Rules Review

Introduction

- YESAB is undertaking revisions to the *Rules for Evaluations Conducted by the Designated Office* (DO Rules).
- The purpose of the rules review is to implement amendments to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the evaluation process, as set out in YESAA.



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DO Rules Review

Introduction

- There have been longstanding concerns from both participants and within YESAB regarding the DO Rules relating to timelines, and other issues within the evaluation process.
- The DO Rules were last updated in 2010 and since then, assessment practices have evolved, interest and participation in assessments have grown, and expectations of the assessment process have changed.



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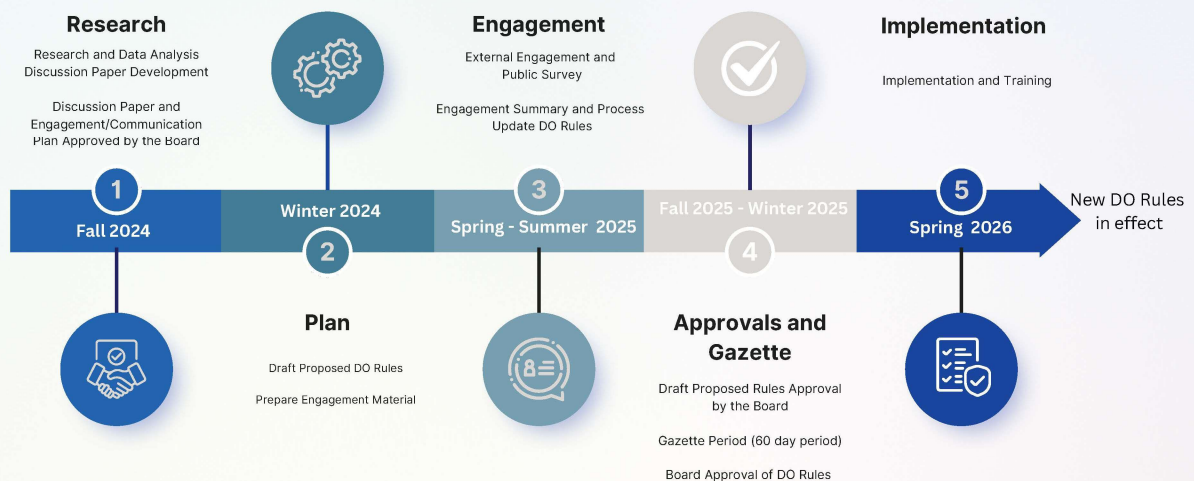
Focus of the rules review

- The DO rules review only focuses on changes to the current rules.
- Unrelated to other external initiatives, including:
 - YESAA Targeted Amendment
 - The 2027 YESAA Review; and
 - Assessable Activities, Exceptions Regulations



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DO Rules Review Process Timeline

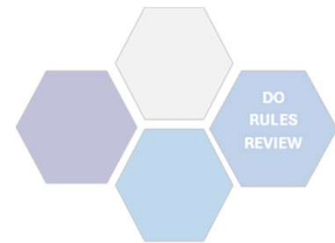


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Overview of process changes

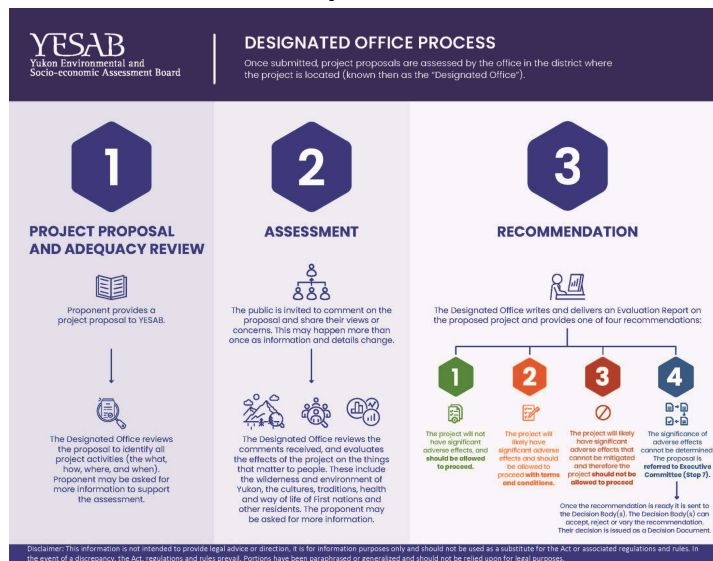
Highlights include:

- Categories of Evaluation
- Completeness Check
- Modernizing processes
- Timeline extensions processes



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Current DO process flowchart



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Categories of Evaluation and Timelines

Project statistics show 3 groups of evaluations:

- Under 50 days;
- **51 to 139 days** (majority of projects);
- Over 140 days.

The total number of days to complete an evaluation from Adequacy Review to Recommendations Sent.



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Category characteristics

Simple Projects

| | Simple Category |
|-------------------|---|
| Characteristics | Shorter Evaluation Report |
| Timelines | Shorter |
| Project examples* | Science/Salmon Parks Canada Power poles Residential development Continuation of previously assessed activities Placer on previously disturbed ground |

**Illustration purposes only- categorization will always be project and location specific*



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EVALUATION PROCESS

Standard Projects

| | Standard Category |
|-------------------|---|
| Characteristics | Comparable to current Rules |
| Timelines | Based on current process |
| Project examples* | Placer Quartz exploration Agriculture Highways Forestry |

**Illustration purposes only- categorization will always be project and location specific*



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EVALUATION PROCESS

Complex Projects

| | Complex Category |
|-------------------|---|
| Characteristics | Early Engagement opportunities such as comment on project proposal Potential Public Meetings/Engagement Comment Period on Draft Evaluation Report |
| Timelines | Extended |
| Project examples* | Hydro dams/generation Mine expansion, closure and remediation Major municipal works Controversial, novel or new technology Transboundary or parallel EA processes |

**Illustration purposes only- categorization will always be project and location specific*



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Completeness Check

A Completeness Check occurs after a project proposal is submitted to the Designated Office, and before the project proposal enters the evaluation stage. The project proposal form will be checked to ensure all information is present and that it has met certain prescribed requirements.

A complete proposal helps YESAB understand the project activities being proposed at the beginning of the process and may help to reduce the number of information request questions during the evaluation. It assists in the efficiency of the process at the outset.

Process:

- Proponent submits the Project Proposal Form to the Designated Office.
- During the Completeness Check, the Form will also be inspected for Third Party Personal Information.
- Incomplete forms will be returned to the proponent with missing information identified.
- To support proponents, a new Project Proposal Form and sector specific guidance will be developed.
- The YESAB “clock” starts after the Project Proposal Form has been deemed complete and the project moves to the next stage.



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Evaluation Categories

Project Proposals submitted to the Designated Offices vary in complexity and the amount of information and time required for assessors (and participants) to understand the project. The Board is developing different categories of Evaluations for different types of projects to improve process effectiveness and efficiency. There are three proposed categories of evaluation; **Simple**, **Standard** and **Complex**.

The “Standard Evaluation” largely follows the same procedural steps as today’s process. Simple Evaluations do not require the same level of detail to complete while Complex Evaluations require a different optional process to address different circumstances or to accommodate issues that arise during an evaluation.

Process:

- Once the project is deemed complete, it is ready to enter the evaluation process and projects are placed into categories initially based on the type of project, certain conditions, and other criteria.



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Evaluation Categories - Criteria

There are factors that will help to determine which category of evaluation will apply. The criteria include, but are not limited to:

- Scale and nature of any adverse environmental or socio-economic effects;
- Duration and physical scope of project;
- Interests and concerns of First Nations, residents of Yukon and Canada;
- Public safety and wellbeing.

Different categories ensure projects are evaluated using processes suitable to the circumstances of the project, as determined by the Designated Office. If new information emerges or the project changes during the evaluation, the Designated Office may recategorize the project as requiring a different category of evaluation. For example, after the Seeking Views period, a Standard Evaluation may shift to Complex Evaluation based on any criteria listed.

The proponent will be notified as well as the category decision and rationale are posted on the YOR.



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Technical Review and Information Requests

The Technical Review stage replaces Adequacy Review. For any category of evaluation, proponents may receive information requests to ensure there is sufficient information for the public to provide meaningful comments during Seeking Views and Information. The Designated Office could require the proponent to resubmit a proposal consolidating the responses to information requests into one proposal if needed.

Complex Evaluations have options for additional processes aimed at enabling and facilitating collaboration and engagement. An example could be establishing a technical working group during this phase.

Process:

- During Technical Review, YESAB's information requests involve asking questions to help understand the project activities, potential project effects or baseline conditions to prepare for Seeking Views and Information.



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Seeking Views and Information

The comment period is an integral component for all evaluation categories. Seeking views helps inform YESAB about values, impacts of the proposed project and measures to reduce project effects. Information requests can still arise after the comment period based on comments received or project scope changes by the proponent. Additional comment periods are available for standard and complex evaluation categories.

New rules will be introduced for participants seeking comment period extensions to provide clarity, transparency and efficiency.

Process:

- All projects complete a Seeking Views period regardless of evaluation category.
- If during a comment period, participants require more time to review and submit comments for project information, extensions can be requested.



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Preparing Recommendations and Recommendations Sent

Preparing Recommendations remains unchanged for Simple and Standard Evaluations. For all categories of evaluation, all the information is reviewed and considered before the Evaluation Report is written. Complex Evaluations will require more time to prepare the evaluation report and have a mandatory comment period on a draft Evaluation Report. There will be different Evaluation Report (ER) templates depending on the category.

For example, the shorter ER for a Simple Evaluation, and a longer ER for Complex Evaluations.

The DO Rules do not speak to or apply to decision bodies processes, and are outside of the scope of the DO rules review scope.



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Steps in Simple evaluation

Shorter timelines

- Designated Office conducts Technical Review of the proposal.
- Information Requests may be issued if more information is needed to support the assessment.
- In the next step, public is invited to comment on the project and share their views, information and concerns. **Timeline extensions for public comments are not permitted.**
- Designated Office reviews the comments received and evaluates the effects of the project.
- Designated Office prepares a recommendation as per YESAA section 56(1).
- Designated Office delivers the recommendations in a **shorter** evaluation Report.



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DO Rules Review

Steps in Standard evaluation

Comparable to current evaluations

- Designated Office conducts Technical Review of the proposal.
- Information Requests may be issued if more information is needed to support the assessment.
- In the next step, public is invited to comment on the project and share their views, information and concerns.
- Designated Office reviews the comments received and evaluates the effects of the project. **Timeline extensions for public comments will be considered. Additional views and information maybe required.**
- Designated Office prepares a recommendation as per YESAA section 56(1).
- Designated Office delivers the recommendations in the **similar format** of evaluation Report.



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Steps in Complex evaluation

Extended timelines, includes Early engagement

- Designated Office conducts Technical Review of the proposal.
- **As a part of Early Engagement, the key participants are invited to comment on the project proposal** to inform Technical Review.
- Information Requests may be issued if more information is needed to support the assessment. The proponent submits a revised proposal, if required.
- The public is then invited to comment on the proposal and share their views, information and concerns. **Public meetings may occur.**
- Designated Office reviews the comments received and evaluates the effects of the project. Timeline extensions for public comments will be considered. Additional views and information may be required.
- **A draft Evaluation Report is prepared and public comments sought.**
- Designated Office delivers the recommendations in the **final** evaluation Report.



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Changes to current rules

The DO rules review presents an opportunity to examine other processes.

Other changes proposed:

- Personal Information exclusion
- Clarity to the designation and handling of confidential information
- Grouping projects clarifications
- General modification provisions



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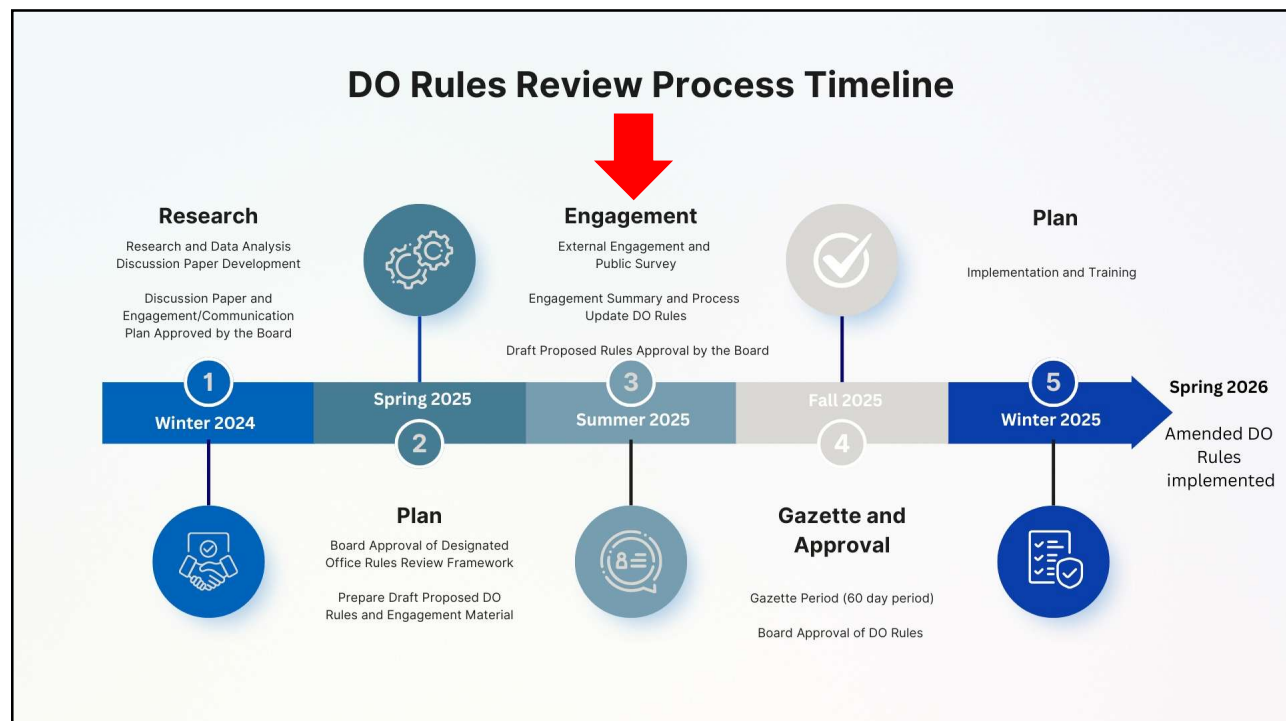
Supporting changes

The amended rules will provide consistency; but the success of the DO rules review is based on a combination of the rules themselves and accompanying policies and tools to compliment the changes. These include:

- Project Proposal Form and Proponent Guidance
- Different Evaluation Report Templates
- Upgrades to YESAB Online Registry



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Engagement Plan 2025



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Get involved

Submitting your views on the proposed DO Rules Review are important for YESAB to hear and to consider ahead of the Gazetting.

For more information visit:

www.yesab.ca/do-rules-review

Submit your feedback by filling out the public survey. The survey is available until July 31st or alternatively provide written comments by the same date.

Survey link will be accessible from the landing page.



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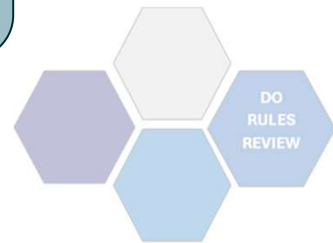
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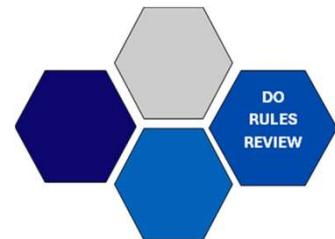
For more information on the DO rules review and for regular
updates, please visit YESAB's website www.yesab.ca



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QUESTIONS?



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