YESAB Yukon Environmental and
Socio-economic Assessment Board

Designated Office Rules Review

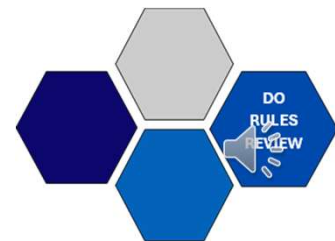## Proposed DO Rules Overview

October 29, 2025

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YESAB Yukon Environmental and
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DO Rules Review

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- Introduction
- Process Overview
- Evaluation Process
- Formal Gazette Period

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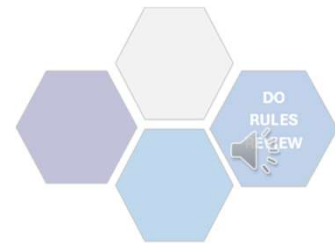
Introduction

- 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.
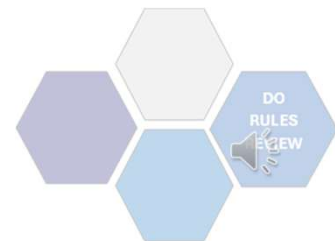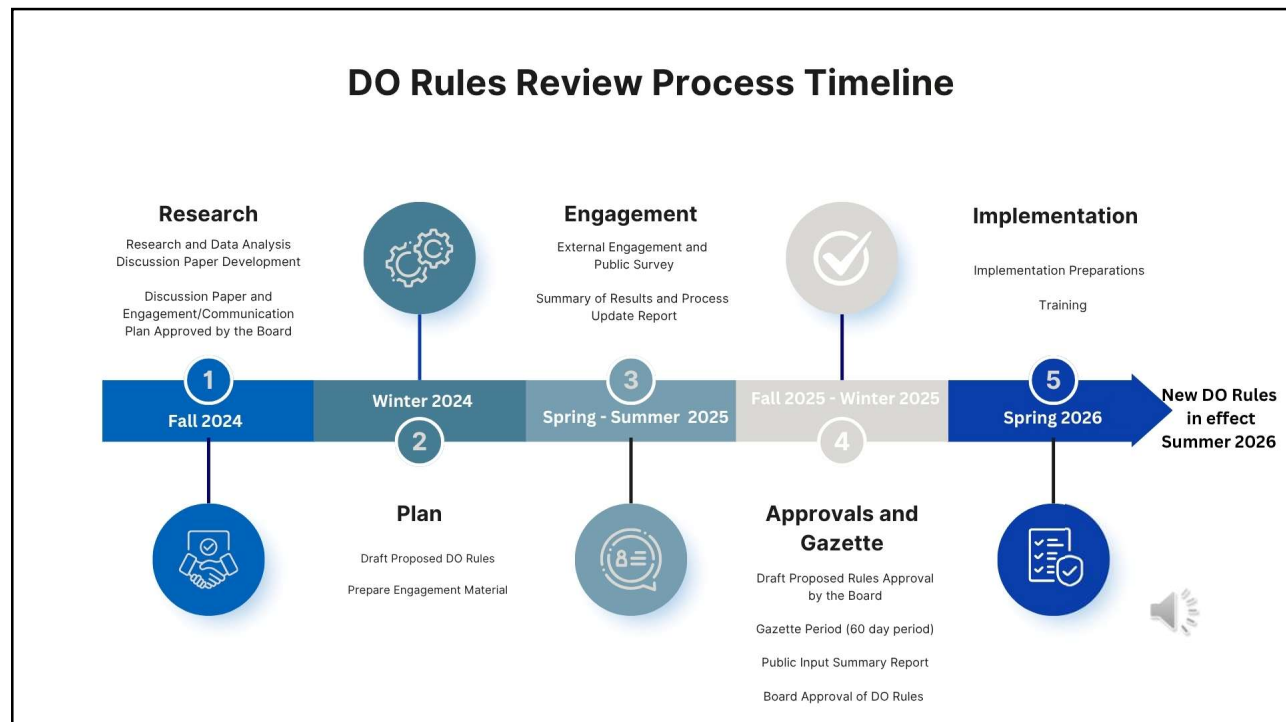
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DO Rules Review

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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

Research

Research and Data Analysis
Discussion Paper Development

Discussion Paper and
Engagement/Communication
Plan Approved by the Board

Engagement

External Engagement and
Public Survey

Summary of Results and Process
Update Report

Implementation

Implementation Preparations

Training

1 Fall 2024

Winter 2024 **2**

3 Spring - Summer 2025

Fall 2025 - Winter 2025 **4**

5 Spring 2026

New DO Rules
in effect
Summer 2026

Plan

Draft Proposed DO Rules

Prepare Engagement Material

Approvals and Gazette

Draft Proposed Rules Approval
by the Board

Gazette Period (60 day period)

Public Input Summary Report

Board Approval of DO Rules

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DO Rules Review

Overview of process changes

Highlights include:

- Categories of Evaluation
- Compliance Check
- Timeline extensions processes

DO
RULES
REVIEW

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DO Rules Review

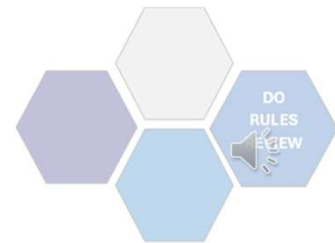YESAB Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board

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.
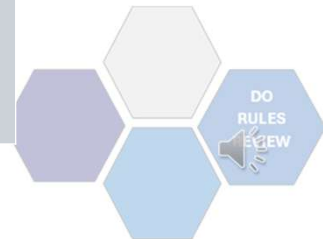
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Category characteristics

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

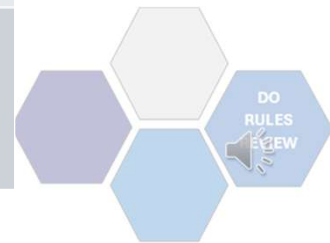*Illustration purposes only- categorization will always be project and location specific*

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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
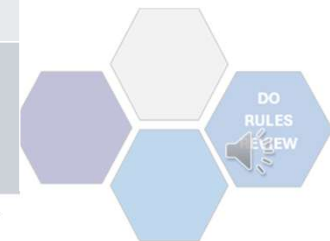
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EVALUATION PROCESS

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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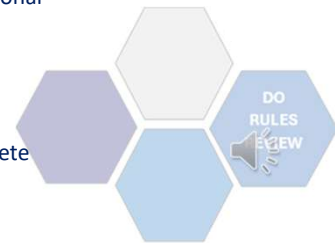Socio-economic Assessment Board

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Compliance Check

A Compliance 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 Compliance 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 Project Proposal Requirements 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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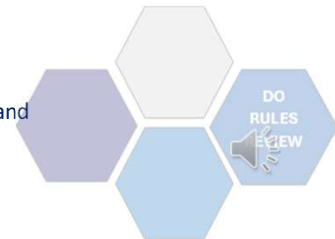Socio-economic Assessment Board

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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 Evalutions 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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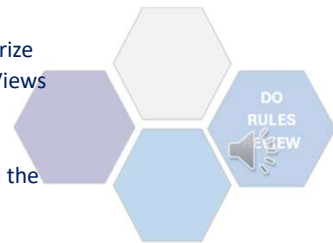
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Evaluation Categories - Criteria

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 potential adverse environmental or socio-economic effects;
- Duration and physical scope of project;
- Any other consideration that the responsible Designated Office considers relevant.

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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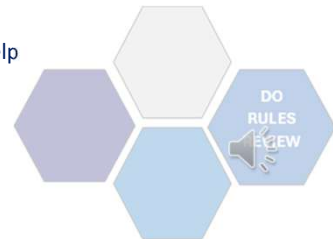Socio-economic Assessment Board

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Proposal Review and Information Requests

The Proposal 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.

Process:
- During Proposal 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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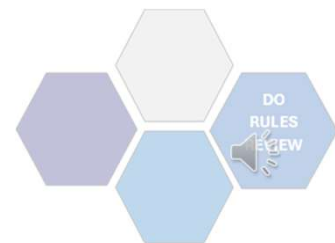
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Seeking Views and Information

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 limited for the simple category but 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.
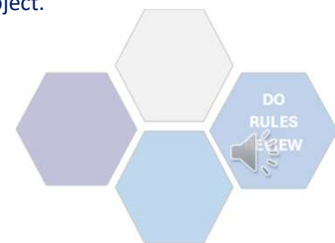
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Steps in Simple evaluation
Shorter timelines

- Designated Office conducts Proposal 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 are not permitted. Additional views and information are limited to exceptional circumstances.**
- Designated Office prepares a recommendation as per YESAA section 56(1).
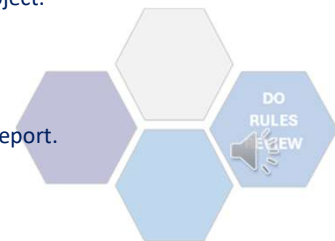- Designated Office delivers the recommendations in a **shorter** evaluation Report.

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Steps in Standard evaluation
Comparable to current evaluations

- Designated Office conducts Propsal 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

- **As a part of Early Engagement, the key participants are invited to comment on the project proposal** to inform Proposal Review.
- Designated Office conducts Proposal Review of the proposal.
- Information Requests may be issued if more information is needed to support the assessment. The proponent can submit a revised proposal (optional).
- 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 maybe required.
- **A draft Evaluation Report is prepared and public comments sought.**
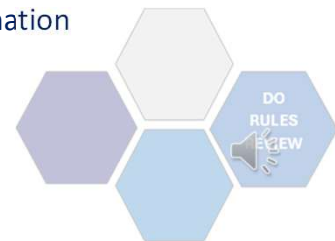- Designated Office delivers the recommendations in the **final** evaluation Report.

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Changes to current rules

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

Other changes proposed:

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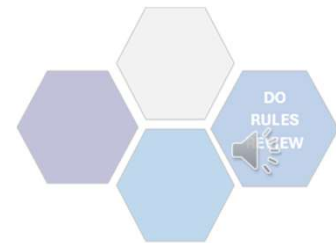- General modification provisions

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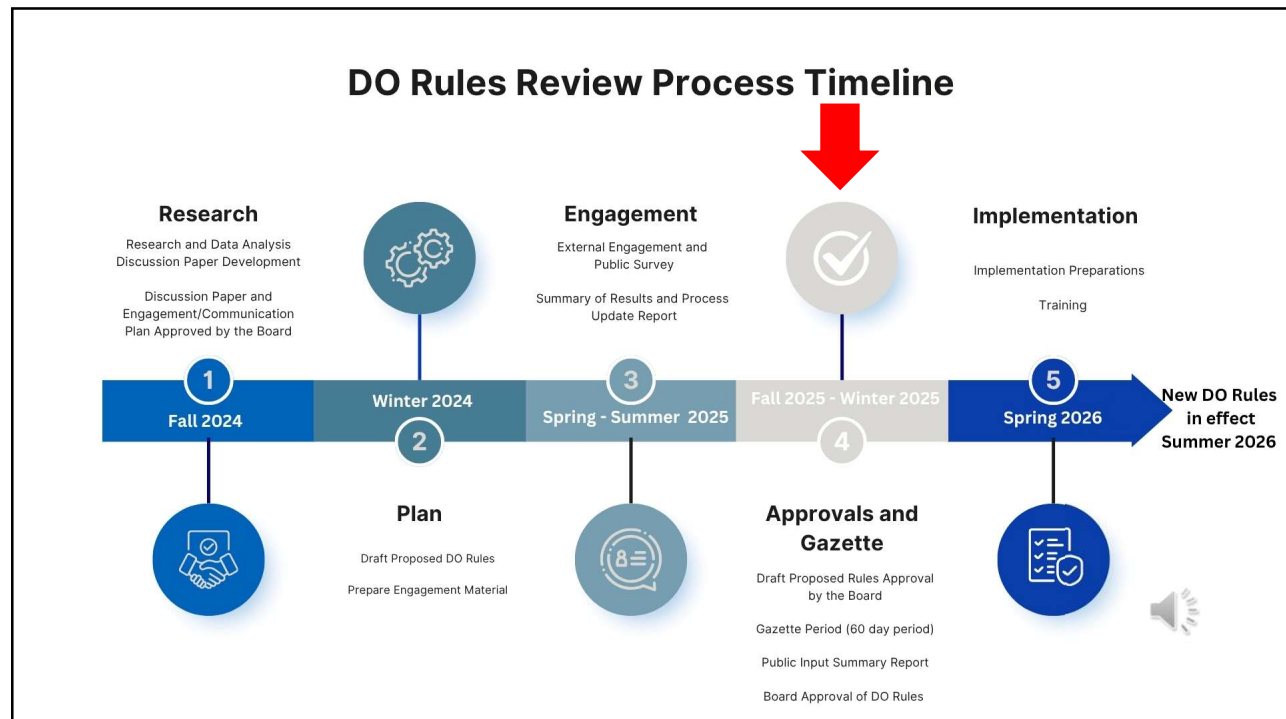
DO Rules Review

Supporting changes

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 Project Proposal Requirements Guidance
- Different Evaluation Report Templates
- Upgrades to YESAB Online Registry

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Public Survey

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Gazette Period (60 day period)

Public Input Summary Report

Board Approval of DO Rules

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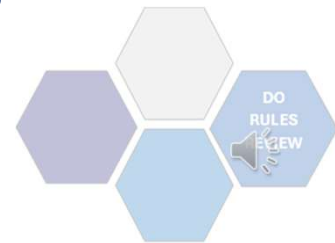
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Canada Gazette Process

Once the formal *Canada Gazette* public input period begins, the actual Designated Office rules will be available to preview in English and French. A Summary Guide has been prepared to assist the public in providing input on the proposed DO Rules.

Written comments can be submitted to YESAB on the proposed DO Rules Review. All comments received will be reviewed and considered. A Public Input Summary Report will be prepared and circulated afterwards. If necessary, changes to the DO Rules will be made before the final Board Approval in Spring 2026. The DO Rules will come into effect in Summer 2026.
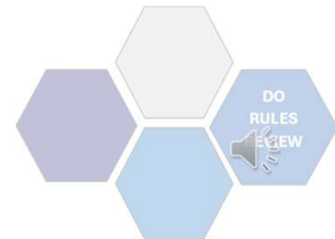
For the latest information visit:

www.yesab.ca/do-rules-review

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DO Rules Review

Thank you

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

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