

PROPOSED DRAFT

DESIGNATED OFFICE REVIEW PROCESS 2026

Once the Project Proposal form is submitted, it goes through a **Compliance Check**. Before entering the evaluation, it is categorized by the DO as a simple, standard or complex evaluation.

SIMPLE

Shorter timelines

Designated Office conducts Proposal Review.
Information Requests may be issued if more information is needed during the evaluation.



The public is invited to comment on the project and share their views, information and concerns. Timeline extensions for public comments are not permitted, except under exceptional circumstances.



Designated Office reviews the comments received and evaluates the effects of the project.



Designated Office prepares a recommendation or referral as per YESAA.



The Designated Office delivers the recommendations in an Evaluation Report.

STANDARD

Comparable to current evaluations

Designated Office conducts Proposal Review.
Information Requests may be issued if more information is needed during the evaluation.



The public is invited to comment on the project and share their views, information and concerns. Timeline extensions for public comments will be considered.



Designated Office reviews the comments received and evaluates the effects of the project. Additional views and information may be requested.



Designated Office prepares a recommendation or referral as per YESAA.



The Designated Office delivers the recommendations in an Evaluation Report.

COMPLEX

Extended timelines, Early Engagement

Key participants are invited to comment on the project proposal.
After the comment period, proponent may decide to submit a replacement proposal.



Designated Office conducts Proposal Review.



Information Requests may be issued if more information is needed during the evaluation.
The proponent may submit a revised proposal.



The public is invited to comment on the proposal and share their views, information and concerns. Timeline extensions for public comments will be considered.



Designated Office reviews the comments received and evaluates the effects of the project. Additional views and information may be requested.



Designated Office prepares a recommendation or referral as per YESAA. A draft Evaluation Report is prepared and public comments sought.



Designated Office delivers the recommendations in the final Evaluation Report.

- During the evaluation, the Designated Office can recategorize a project to a different category of evaluation, with rationale.

Disclaimer: This flowchart is a highly summarized overview. Please refer to the Proposed DO Rules and the Summary Guide to fully understand the new Designated Office evaluation process. This information is for general guidance only and is not intended as legal advice. In the event of any discrepancy, the Act, its regulations, and the Rules prevail. Portions have been paraphrased or generalized and should not be relied upon for legal purposes.