

Designated Office Rules Review

Revised Proposed Rules Canada Gazette Input

August 6, 2026

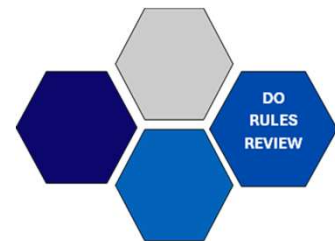


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DO Rules Review

Contents

- Introduction
- Process Overview
- Overview of Revisions (Gazette Input)
- Canada Gazette – Second Engagement Details



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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 rules establish the procedural framework for how DO evaluations are carried out. They provide the structure for conducting neutral assessments, define timelines, opportunities for participation, and the processes involved at each phase of the assessment (e.g. methodological aspects are not addressed in the rules).
- The Board is an independent administrative body, and is statutorily required and enabled to enact procedures governing the conduct of evaluations.



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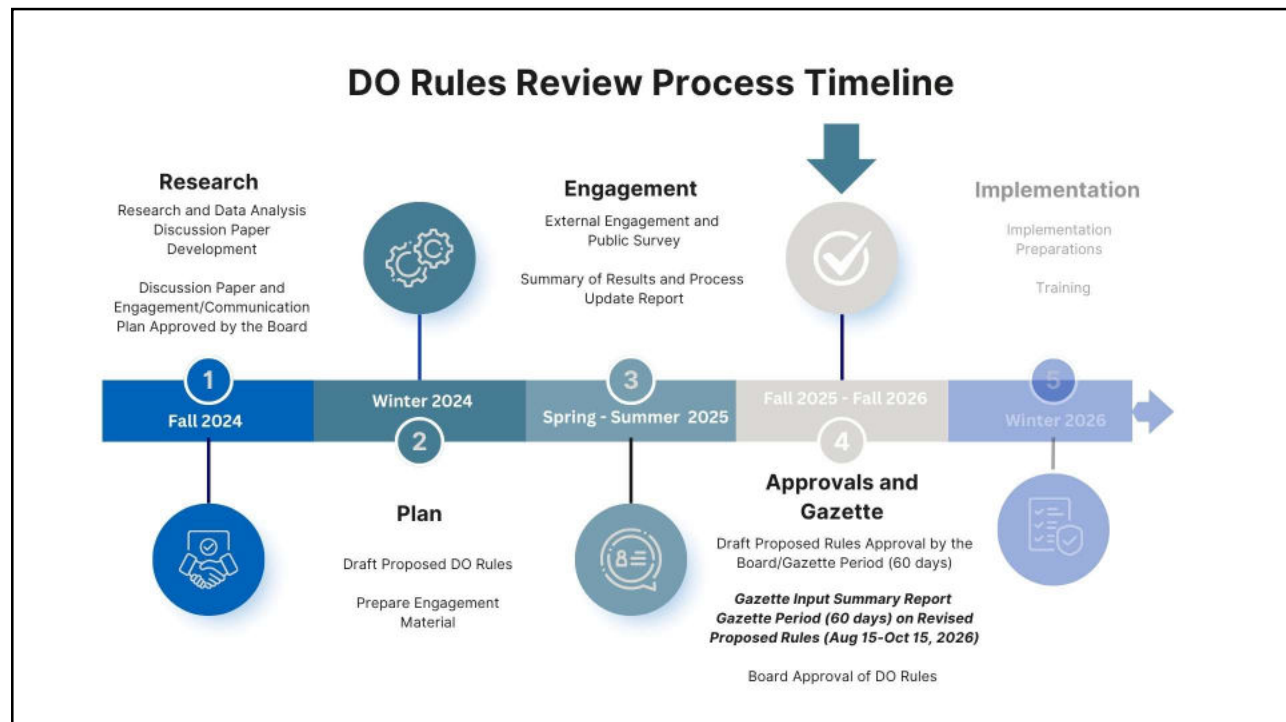
DO Rules Review

Introduction

- The DO Rules Review was initiated in Summer 2024 after the initial approval by the Board in May 2024.
- YESAB is not directly collaborating with Canada, YG or any other party on updating the rules. All parties and governments are provided with the same opportunity to be involved.
- Changes are needed to better match the spectrum of projects and settings, ensuring that processes remain transparent, responsive to local contexts, predictable and effective.
- YESAB has made several revisions to the proposed DO Rules, 2026, to address many concerns raised through the Canada Gazette Period to produce the revised proposed Designated Office Rules, 2026 (Revised Proposed Rules)



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Yukon Environmental and
Socio-economic Assessment Board

DO Rules Review

Revisions Highlights – Rules Based

Categories of Evaluation

- Simple projects (s.18):
 - Deadline extension requests will be considered
- Views on Categorization can be submitted at Comment Period (s.41(c)(ii))

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Revisions Highlights – Rules Based

Increased Participation

- Comments submissions based on calendar day (s.5)
- Ability for the Designated Office to accept late comments (s.20)
- Adjustments to comment periods timelines for Simple and Complex (Schedule A), maximum number of days (shorter timelines can also be issued)
- Complex Projects:
 - Longer Proposal Review (formerly Adequacy Review) (Schedule A)



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Revisions Highlights – Rules Based

Other Changes:

- Revised effective date to provide participants with an opportunity to learn about the new rules (s.65)
- New Requirements for the Project Proposal Form (Schedule B)
 - Categorization
 - Potential Impacts on Indigenous and Treaty Rights

Less Discretion (DO):

- Addition of Information Request Review Response Time (YESAB clock) (s.25(2))



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Non-Rules Based Initiatives

- External Guidance to help participants understand the process (e.g. categorization of projects)
- Board commits to looking at other initiatives outside the scope of changes to the DO Rules (e.g. Confidential Information, Indigenous Rights)
- New Evaluation Report format, new Project Proposal Form (Proposal Requirements Directive)
- See the [Gazette Input Response Report](#) and the [Summary Guide](#) for details on the revisions made.



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DO Rules Review – Assessment Process (Background)



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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:

- Incomplete forms will be returned to the proponent quickly 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.

There are three proposed categories of evaluation; **Simple**, **Standard** and **Complex**.

The “Standard Evaluation” largely follows the same procedural steps as today’s process.

Process:

- Once the project is deemed complete, it is ready to enter the evaluation process and projects are placed into categories initially based on a number of factors and criteria.
- The proponent will be notified as well as the category decision and rationale are posted on the YOR.

★ *External Guidance will be available*



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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;
- Any other relevant considerations

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.

★ *External Guidance will be available*



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Evaluation Process

Simple Category

	Simple Category
Timelines	Shorter
Revisions made	Extension Requests Considered Longer Comment Period
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 Category

	Standard Category
Characteristics	Comparable to current Rules
Revisions Made	No Changes
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 Category

	Complex Category
Characteristics	Early Engagement opportunities such as comment on project proposal Potential Public Meetings/Engagement Comment Period on Draft Evaluation Report
Revisions made	Longer Proposal Review Longer Comment Period
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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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. The Designated Office could require the proponent to resubmit a proposal consolidating the responses to information requests into one proposal if needed.

Before Proposal Review, Complex Evaluations go through Early Engagement to enable participants to submit views on the project proposal to facilitate collaboration.

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 the Comment Period.



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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.

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

Process:

- All projects complete a Comment 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.

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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DO Rules Review

Canada Gazette Period

AUGUST 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2026

- Written comments must be submitted to YESAB by October 15th. Comments received after the deadline will not be considered.

The Revised Proposed Rules and Gazette Input Response Report can be here: <https://yesab.ca/designated-office-rules/>

Contact us: rulesreview@yesab.ca



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Thank you for listening to the presentation

