

APPLICATION INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS TEMPLATE

With Respect to

an Application

for an Environmental Assessment Certificate

pursuant to the *Environmental Assessment Act*, S.B.C. 2002, c.43

Prepared by:

Environmental Assessment Office

October 4, 2010



PREFACE TO THE APPLICATION INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS TEMPLATE

In British Columbia, proposed major projects are required to obtain an Environmental Assessment Certificate (Certificate) in accordance with British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act* (Act). An Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate (Application) must be made by the proposed project Proponent to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), and the Application must comply with the Application Information Requirements (AIR) that is formally approved by the EAO.

Purpose of the AIR

The AIR specifies the information that will be needed to conduct an environmental assessment (EA) and that should be provided by the Proponent in their Application.

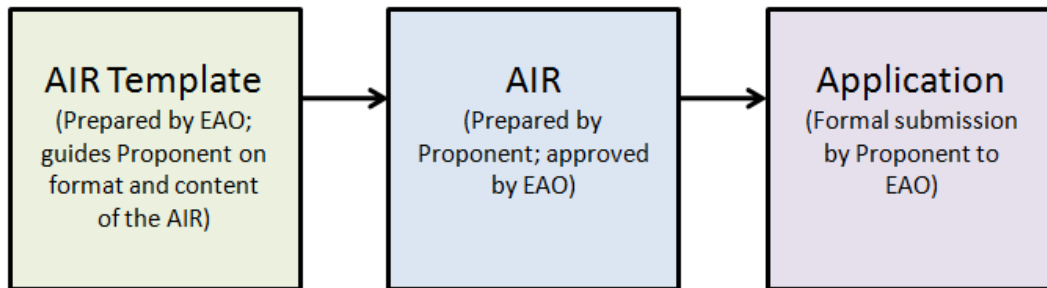
Purpose of the AIR Template

The purpose of the AIR Template (Template or AIR Template) is to provide a common framework for identifying the information to be collected and the analysis to be conducted in an EA, and to ensure that an Application follows the same format and requirements for content (see Figure 1). The Template has been developed for use by all Proponents so that AIR and Application documents will be clear, comprehensive, and consistent in terms of structure and content for all proposed projects.

EAO expects that Proponents will follow the Template as closely as possible, recognizing that there may be proposed projects that require minor deviations from the format provided. Proposed deviations from the Template should be discussed during the early stages of development of the AIR, with the EAO project lead for a proposed project.

Following the submission of the draft AIR by Proponents to EAO, EAO circulates the draft AIR to the Working Group and First Nations for review and comment. A public comment period is subsequently held on the draft AIR and the Proponent develops issues tracking tables documenting the comments received, Proponent responses and any changes made to the draft AIR. The final AIR requires approval by EAO.

Figure 1: Relationship between the AIR Template, AIR and Application



Information and records relating to EA are available on the EAO website at www.eao.gov.bc.ca. Questions or comments specific to this template can be directed to:

Environmental Assessment Office
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Victoria BC V8W 9V1
Phone: 250 356-7441
Fax: 250 356-7440
Email: eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca

INSTRUCTIONS

This Template is to be used by Proponents when preparing their AIR. When using this Template, please note the following points:

1. Regular text (not highlighted or in italics) provides direction for what to include in the AIR and is generally suitable for all AIRs and need not be tailored on a project by project basis. Unless otherwise indicated, the Proponent must provide the information indicated in the AIR Template in their AIR, and subsequently in their Application.
2. Italicized text provides guidance or overall context to assist with completing the section the comment pertains to. Italicized text may relate to the AIR, the Application, or both; this distinction is made at the beginning of the italicized text. Italicized text must be deleted prior to submitting the AIR to EAO.
3. Text highlighted in **yellow** is provided as an example, and must be reviewed and customized for each individual project. The examples provided were taken from Applications of certified projects.
4. Proponents should follow the Table of Contents of the Template (i.e. use section numbers and headings provided), but subject to discussion and approval of EAO project lead, modifications may be made if there are good reasons (e.g., where additional section levels are required to clearly present information).

TITLE PAGE

The title page for the approved AIR will be provided to the Proponent by EAO.

PREFACE TO THE AIR

The Proponent must describe the purpose of the AIR document in the preface to the AIR including the following components:

- Briefly describe the proposed project and the trigger(s) for a BC environmental assessment (EA) process and federal EA process (if applicable). State that the completion of the EA process(es) are required prior to construction of the proposed project;
- For projects requiring both federal and provincial EAs, state that a cooperative process will be undertaken by Canada and BC to minimize duplication wherever possible;
- Indicate the purpose of the AIR in the BC EA process and the federal EA process (if applicable) is to identify the information to be provided by the Proponent in the Application;
- Identify the agencies, First Nations and Nations with Treaties or agreements (Treaty Nations¹) and other parties involved in the development of the AIR and the process for incorporating their comments;
- Describe the process for incorporating public comments in the AIR; and,
- Identify the next steps in the EA process.

¹ For the purposes of this document, 'Treaty Nations' is defined as any aboriginal group with a signed Treaty or final agreement (including Tsawwassen First Nation, Nisga'a Nation and Treaty 8 Nations).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[The Table of Contents provides the structure for organizing information to be presented in the AIR and in the Application. If the Proponent later identifies a need for a change in the Table of Contents for the Application, this must be discussed with EAO project lead prior to making the change.]

This section provides an outline of all document components, including volumes, sections, sub-sections, lists of references, appendices, figures, tables and photographs in the AIR and in the Application.

PREFACE TO THE AIR	4
TABLE OF CONCORDANCE	9
PREFACE TO THE APPLICATION	9
ACRONYMS	10
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	10
PART A – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	11
1 Purpose of the Application	11
2 Proposed Project Overview	11
2.1 Proponent Description	11
2.2 Proposed Project Description	12
2.3 Provincial Scope of Proposed Project	12
2.4 Federal Scope of Proposed Project.....	13
2.5 Alternative Means of Undertaking the Proposed Project	13
2.6 Project Land Use.....	13
2.7 Project Benefits	14
2.8 Applicable Permits.....	16
3 Assessment Process	16
3.1 Provincial EA Process	16
3.1.1 Pre-Application Stage	16
3.2 Federal Review (if applicable)	17
3.3 First Nations Information Distribution and Consultation.....	17
3.4 Public and Agency Information Distribution and Consultation	17
3.4.1 Pre-Application Consultation	18

3.4.2	Consultation Planned During Application Review	18
PART B – ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS, MITIGATION, AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESIDUAL EFFECTS..... 19		
4	General	19
4.1	Assessment Methodology	19
4.1.1	Valued Components	19
4.1.2	Spatial Boundaries	20
4.1.3	Temporal Boundaries	20
4.1.4	Assessment of Potential Significant Adverse Effects Methodology .	20
4.1.5	Federal Cumulative Effects Assessment	22
5	Assessment of Potential Environmental Effects.....	23
5.1	Environmental Background	23
5.2	[Subject Area #1 e.g. Geophysical Environment]	23
5.2.1	[Valued Environmental Component #1]	23
5.3	Summary of Assessment of Potential Environmental Effects	24
6	Assessment of Potential Economic Effects	26
6.1	Economic Background	26
6.2	[Subject Area #1].....	26
6.2.1	[Valued Economic Component #1]	26
6.3	Summary of Assessment of Potential Economic Effects	26
7	Assessment of Potential Social Effects.....	26
7.1	Social Background	26
7.2	[Subject Area #1].....	27
7.2.1	[Valued Social Component #1]	27
7.3	Summary of Assessment of Potential Social Effects	27
8	Assessment of Potential Heritage Effects	27
8.1	Heritage Background.....	27
8.2	[Subject Area #1].....	28
8.2.1	[Valued Heritage Component #1]	28
8.3	Summary of Assessment of Potential Heritage Effects	28
9	Assessment of Potential Health Effects	29

9.1	Health Background.....	29
9.2	[Subject Area #1].....	29
9.2.1	[Healthy Living (Valued Health Component #1)].....	29
9.3	Summary of Assessment of Potential Health Effects	30
10	Summary of Proposed Environmental and Operational Management Plans ..	30
11	Compliance Reporting.....	31
PART C – FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS		32
12	Background Information	32
13	Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights.....	32
14	Other Aboriginal Interests.....	33
15	Aboriginal Consultation	33
16	Summary	33
PART D – FEDERAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS		34
17	Requirements for All Federal Environmental Assessment Types.....	34
17.1	Environmental Effects	34
17.2	Environmental Changes	35
17.3	Species at Risk.....	36
17.4	Effects of the Environment on the Project	37
17.5	Accidents or Malfunctions.....	37
17.6	Mitigation Measures	38
17.7	Residual Environmental Effects.....	38
17.8	Significance Assessment/Analysis	39
17.9	Cumulative Environmental Effects.....	39
17.10	Aboriginal Engagement and Consultation	40
17.11	Need for Follow-up Program(s) for Screenings Under CEAA.....	40
17.12	Need for Other Information as Required by a Responsible Authority Pursuant to the CEAA.....	41
18	Additional Requirements for Comprehensive Studies, Mediations and Review Panels	42
18.1	Purpose of the Project.....	42
18.2	Alternative Means of Carrying Out the Project	43

18.3 Follow-Up Program	43
18.4 Capacity of Renewable Resources	44
PART F – CONCLUSIONS.....	45
19 Summary of Residual Effects	45
20 Summary of Commitments	47
21 Conclusion	49
REFERENCES.....	50
APPENDICES.....	50

List of Tables

Table 1: Table of Concordance between Approved AIR and Application Documentation	9
Table 2: Summary of Assessment of Potential Environmental Effects	25
Table 3: Summary of Potential Effects on Aboriginal Activities and Accommodation Measures.....	33
Table 4: Summary of Residual Effects	46
Table 5: Proponent’s Table of Commitments	48

TABLE OF CONCORDANCE

The Proponent must commit to provide a table of concordance (using the format below) in the Application that presents all requirements for content and methodological approaches in the approved AIR that are to be addressed by the Application, with volume, section and page references.

Table 1: Table of Concordance between Approved AIR and Application Documentation

AIR SECTION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT SECTION AND SUB-SECTION	APPLICATION VOLUME AND SECTION

PREFACE TO THE APPLICATION

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- State that the proposed project is subject to review under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act* (Act) and the trigger for the review under the Act;
- Based on direction from federal departments, indicate (if known) that the proposed project is subject to review (or not) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) and why (or why not), or otherwise a statement that the proposed project may be subject to review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*;
- Provide information on any other EA approval processes the proposed project is undergoing (if applicable) especially if they interact/overlap with the CEAA;
 [For example, *National Environmental Policy Act, Presidential Permits, Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act, Aboriginal EA process, etc. (and identify opportunities for harmonization/cooperation).*]
- State that the Application has been developed pursuant to the AIR approved by EAO with input from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA Agency), and complies with relevant instructions provided in the Section 11 Order;

- State that the Application has been developed pursuant to federal information requirements as communicated by the CEA Agency and/or federal responsible authorities; and,
- Identify the agencies, First Nations and other parties involved in the development of the Application.

ACRONYMS

[EAO encourages Proponents to keep acronyms to a minimum when possible.]

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a list of all acronyms and abbreviations used and their definitions.

AIR:	Application Information Requirements
BC:	British Columbia
BCEAA:	British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act
BMP:	best management practices
CEAA:	Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
CEA Agency:	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
EA:	Environmental Assessment
EAO:	Environmental Assessment Office
VC:	Valued Component

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Provide a brief description of the proposed project;
- Summarize the consultations undertaken;
- Summarize the issues and potential project impacts identified;
- Summarize the recommended mitigation measures;
- Summarize the potential cumulative impacts and residual effects;
- Summarize the follow up programs proposed (if applicable); and,
- Provide Proponent conclusions from the EA.

PART A – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1 Purpose of the Application

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Summarize the purpose of the Application; and,
- Indicate that the Application fulfills the federal requirements for an EA decision, in addition to the BC EA process, if applicable.

[For federal screenings, responsible authorities will make their own statutory EA decisions as applicable in relation to the proposed project, pursuant to section 20 of the CEAA. For comprehensive studies, the Federal Minister of the Environment shall make a decision pursuant to section 23 of the CEAA, including consideration of the comprehensive study report, public comments, and identified mitigation measures. In the case of a project being referred to a mediation or review panel, decisions will be made pursuant to section 37 of the CEAA. All decisions will include a formal assessment of whether the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, taking account proposed mitigation measures (and in the case significant adverse environmental effects are deemed likely, an assessment of whether the project is justified in the circumstances).

Note that any subsequent required federal permitting or authorization processes are separate and distinct from the EA process, and although the information from the EA process may inform these permitting/authorization processes, the decision(s) of the responsible authority(ies) are separate from and not prejudiced by successful completion of an EA.]

2 Proposed Project Overview

2.1 Proponent Description

The Proponent must provide the following in the AIR and the Application:

- Provide a detailed description of the Proponent, including history, type of company, affiliations, headquarters location and contact information including contact names, addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail addresses;
- Identify name and contact for the firm/individual managing the proposed project EA; and,

- Identify where applicable, information in the Application that has been prepared by a qualified professional and the information related to the qualified professional's expertise.

2.2 Proposed Project Description

The Proponent must provide the following in the AIR and the Application:

- Identify the BC EA trigger;
- Identify known or likely CEAA trigger(s), if applicable, including:
 - Type of federal EA required, if known (e.g. screening, comprehensive study, or review panel); and,
 - If project has been designated as a major resource project pursuant to the federal Cabinet Directive on Improving the Performance of the Regulatory System for Major Resource Projects.
- Describe the location of the proposed project and the longitude and latitude of the site and maps showing both regional context (identify nearby communities) and site-specific setting;
- Identify the distance to nearby communities and note the communities on the regional map;
- Provide relevant history of the proposed project (e.g. mineral exploration history, past proposals to EAO or federal agencies);
- Describe all on-site components and associated on-site and off-site infrastructure and other facilities associated with the proposed project, and include figures of components;
- Describe the activities associated with construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed project and provide figures of activities;
- Describe the capital construction phase and the length or lifetime of the proposed project in years; and,
- Summarize the environmental management system and adaptive management approach for the proposed project.

2.3 Provincial Scope of Proposed Project

The Proponent must provide the following in the AIR and the Application:

- Describe the scope of the proposed project to be assessed in the provincial EA (pursuant to the section 11 Order) in the Application.

2.4 Federal Scope of Proposed Project

The Proponent must provide the following in the AIR and the Application:

- Describe the scope of the proposed project to be assessed as directed by federal responsible authorities in the Application, where applicable.

2.5 Alternative Means of Undertaking the Proposed Project

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Briefly describe proposed project alternatives;
- Identify the key issues in considering the alternative means of the proposed project;
- Provide an analysis of the alternative means of carrying out the proposed project that are technically and economically feasible; and,
- Identify the rationale for selecting the preferred alternative.

2.6 Project Land Use

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Describe the land ownership and land use regime (for example, fee simple, Crown land, Indian Reservation, description of zoning, Agricultural Land Reserve designation, applicable Land and Resource Management Plans and other land use designations as applicable) including tenures, licenses, permits or other authorizations that would be potentially affected by the proposed project and report on the status of consultations with holders of such tenures and permits, and private land owners on resolving issues with tenure and permit holders;
- Identify the Land and Resource Management Plans that the proposed project overlaps and list the management objectives of the Land and Resource Management Plans;
- Identify existing and proposed management and monitoring programs or regional studies;
- Identify other developments, even if not directly related to the proposed project, that may result in overlapping impacts with the proposed project; and,
[As defined using the cumulative impact scoping methodology in 4.1.5.]
- Identify future developments that are reasonably foreseeable and sufficiently certain to proceed.
[As defined using the cumulative impact scoping methodology in 4.1.5.]

2.7 Project Benefits

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Initial capital construction cost estimates including:
 - Breakdown of costs for the land, buildings, and equipment associated with the proposed project; and,
 - Indicate the potential for use of local facilities and indicate if these are currently under-utilized.
- Estimated operating costs over the life of the proposed project (for land, buildings and equipment) including:
 - Estimated annual operating costs (excluding labour);
 - Indicate how the costs are measured (i.e., current dollar value or the use of Net Present Value); and,
 - Costs for decommissioning/closure/abandonment/reclamation.
- Employment estimates including:
 - Direct employment, stated in number of person years (PY)² to be created by major job category (e.g., labour, management, business services) during construction and operation, distinguishing among full-time, part-time and seasonal workers;
 - Wage levels, by major job category, for the construction and operating periods;
 - Breakdown of the number of people that will be hired locally, provincially, nationally or internationally;
 - Potential for the Proponent to use local human resources currently under-utilized;
 - Indicate any relevant employment policies/practices (e.g., Does the Proponent have a local hiring strategy?); and,
 - Indirect employment (i.e., employment in industries that supply goods and services used to produce an industry's output or to be consumed by individuals) for the construction and operation phases of the proposed project. Include any assumptions relating to industry specific multipliers or other multipliers used.

² PY is defined as a single person employed full-time for one year.

- Contractor supply services estimates including:
 - List of the major types of businesses/contractors, broken down at the local, provincial, and national level that will benefit from the overall proposed project;
 - Value of supply of service contracts expected for both the construction and operation phases of the proposed project; and,
 - Information about a local purchasing strategy, if any.
- Annual government revenues for the construction and operation phases of the proposed project including:
 - Local/municipal (property taxes, other);
 - Regional District (taxes, other);
 - Provincial (income tax, sales tax, lease, license and tenure, royalties, other); and,
 - Federal (income tax, Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), payroll taxes, other).
- State all assumptions and reference information sources for the above information;
- For wind and hydro projects, provide estimated GHG emission reductions;
- Identify proposed project contributions to healthy living; and,

[See section 10.1.]

- Identify proposed project contributions to community development.

[The following is a list of references to be used in providing the above information:

- *BC Stats, Quarterly Regional Statistics –*
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_grs.asp
 - *Quarterly data on Labour Force Survey, manufacturing, building permits, tourism, incorporations and bankruptcies, economic structure, unemployment, income assistance and population.*
- *BC Stats, BC Input-Output Model -*
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_pem.asp
 - *Economic (GDP, employment) and government revenue multipliers allow users to quickly gauge the potential impact of industrial development/contraction in the Province.*
- *BC Stats, Current Labour Force Data -*
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_lfs.asp
 - *This summary of labour force conditions shows employment and unemployment by age, gender, occupation and industry, with a breakdown for Development Regions, Metropolitan Vancouver and Victoria.*

- *BC Stats, Regional District Data -*
<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/regions.asp>
 - *Breakdown of regional statistics by population, socioeconomic profile, Aboriginal profiles, and population projections.*
- *BC Stats, Socioeconomic profiles -*
<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp>
 - *The profiles consist of charts and tables for the 26 Regional Districts, 86 Local Health Areas, 16 Health Service Delivery Areas, 5 Health Authorities, 8 Development Regions, and 15 College Regions within the Province of British Columbia. Also included are the special geographies of the Georgia, Fraser, and Columbia Basins.*
- *Statistics Canada - Community Profiles -*
<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>
 - *These profiles present community-level information from the 2006 Census of Population.*

Detailed company financial information should not be included in the Application.]

2.8 Applicable Permits

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- List all applicable provincial and federal licenses, permits and/or approvals required for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed project and the associated responsible regulatory agency; and,
- Indicate if a request for concurrent permitting is being requested under the Act pursuant to the Concurrent Approval Regulation (BC Reg. 371/2002).

3 Assessment Process

3.1 Provincial EA Process

3.1.1 Pre-Application Stage

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- List the agencies/departments/organizations likely to be involved in the EA;
- List of applicable milestones. Milestones must include, but are not limited to, issuance of section 10 and 11 orders, working group meetings and public comment periods; and,

[Can divide into sub-categories, e.g., agencies, public, stakeholders, etc.]

- Provide issues tracking tables to document issues and concerns raised and the degree to which issues are considered resolved or addressed by the Proponent and other parties during the preparation of the AIR and the Application. Issues tracking tables are required for each of the following groups: public, First Nations and local, provincial and federal government agencies.

[EAO project leads will provide Proponents with guidance on preparing issues tracking tables.]

3.2 Federal Review (if applicable)

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- List the agencies/ departments /organizations likely to be involved in the review, and their anticipated or confirmed roles;

[I.e. responsible authority, federal authority, or federal environmental assessment coordinator.]

- List of applicable federal milestones; and,
- Provide an issues tracking table to document issues and concerns raised during the preparation of the AIR and the Application.

[EAO project leads will provide Proponents with guidance on preparing issues tracking tables.]

3.3 First Nations Information Distribution and Consultation

[Substantial detail on First Nations Consultation is required in the Application under Part C First Nations Information Requirements.]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Summarize consultation activities undertaken with the identified First Nations and Treaty Nations potentially affected by the proposed project (as identified in the section 11 Order).

3.4 Public and Agency Information Distribution and Consultation

[This section of the Application should summarize the Proponent's past and proposed public and agency consultation initiatives, in accordance with the consultation provisions set out in the section 11 order.]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Summarize consultations with public and other key stakeholders, federal, provincial and local government agencies;

- Describe the means of information distribution and consultation used including the following:
 - Public meetings and open houses;
 - One-on-one meetings with interested parties;
 - Publication of articles in the media, enclosures and community newspapers;
 - Through interviews on local radio and television; and,
 - By means of participation in community events.
- Summarize issues, concerns and interests identified during these consultations, and how these matters were addressed.

3.4.1 Pre-Application Consultation

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- An outline of consultations undertaken in the pre-application stage, covering both the preparation of the AIR and the Application, specifically:
 - Summarize consultations with public and other key stakeholders;
 - Summarize consultations with federal, provincial and local government representatives; and,
 - Provide issues tracking tables to document issues and concerns raised by the public and government agencies and the degree to which issues are considered resolved or addressed by the Proponent and other parties during the preparation of the AIR and the Application.

[EAO project leads will provide Proponents with guidance on preparing issues tracking tables.]

3.4.2 Consultation Planned During Application Review

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Describe the public consultation program proposed for the Application review stage of the EA process;
- Describe the proposed programs for consultation with government agencies; and,
- Document the proposed methods and process to resolve outstanding issues.

PART B – ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS, MITIGATION, AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESIDUAL EFFECTS

4 General

4.1 Assessment Methodology

[Baseline studies and assessment analyses must follow relevant provincial and federal standards (e.g., Resource Information Standards Committee standards) and guidance and be conducted under the direction of an appropriately qualified professional.]

E.g., If there is the potential for karst to occur in the project area then a karst assessment should be conducted by an appropriately qualified karst consultant. Two helpful references describing karst assessment procedures and impact mitigation are Karst Inventory Standards and Vulnerability Assessment Procedures for British Columbia (Resource Information Standards Committee 2003) and the Karst Management Handbook for British Columbia (BC Ministry of Forests 2003.)

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a clear description of the assessment methodology used for the EA, specifically the following:

- The scope of the EA;
- A list of the agencies, First Nations, and stakeholders that reviewed and commented on the draft AIR;
- A list of the guidance documents provided by agencies used to develop the assessment methodology;
- A list of all valued components considered in the EA;
[A preliminary list must be provided in the AIR for purposes of discussion with EAO, CEAA and the Working Group.]
- Methods used for assessing potential effects of the proposed project, including the evaluation of the significance of effects (magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, reversibility, context and probability) for construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the proposed project;
- For baseline studies and assessment analysis, describe each standard used; and,
- A list of applicable provincially/regionally developed best management practices and guidance documents that will be implemented.

4.1.1 Valued Components

[The specific rationale for why each valued component is included in the EA should be included in sections 5- 9.]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application, for each of the five types of impacts (environmental, economic, social, heritage and health):

- Identify the Valued Components (VC) to be considered in the EA. VCs are components that are considered important by the Proponent, public, First Nations, scientists and government agencies involved in the EA process (e.g., fish and fish habitat, listed species, rare ecosystems, air quality, water quality); and,

[Importance may be determined on the basis of values including First Nations interests, scientific and/or regulatory concern, biodiversity, and sensitivity to proposed project effects.]

- Describe the general methodology used to identify VCs.

4.1.2 Spatial Boundaries

[It is important to note that spatial boundaries are not limited to geography and can include broader definitions such as air-shed, watershed, and global ecological footprint. Note also that, in some cases, spatial boundaries required by the provincial and federal EA processes may differ.]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Describe the local and regional spatial extent of the EA relative to the VCs; and,
- Provide maps outlining the spatial extent of the regional and local study areas of the EA.

4.1.3 Temporal Boundaries

[Given the distinct activities associated with each phase of a proposed project, defining temporal boundaries will clearly and uniquely consider site preparation, construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning.]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Describe the temporal extent of the EA relative to the VCs for the life of the project, specifically each of the following phases of the proposed project: pre-construction; construction; operations; decommissioning and closure; and post closure; and,
- Describe any annual or seasonal variation related to VCs and biophysical constraints for all phases of the proposed project (e.g., migration patterns/ breeding patterns/ freeze-thaw cycles).

4.1.4 Assessment of Potential Significant Adverse Effects Methodology

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a description of the assessment methodology used to determine whether the proposed project would have significant adverse environmental, social, economic, heritage and health effects, taking

into account the mitigation measures proposed in the Application. Specifically, describe the assessment methodology for each VC identified in section 4.1.1 including a commitment to provide the following in the Application:

- Relevant background information;
- Potential impacts, both direct and cumulative, of the proposed project;
- Identify cumulative impacts for VCs, where relevant. Relevance of the cumulative impacts is based on the extent to which past or proposed actions may combine with the proposed project to make adverse impacts significant;

[Sources of information for cumulative impacts include the following:

- *Examination of approved land use plans that designate the most appropriate activities on the land base (e.g. airshed plans, watershed management plans);*
- *Review of historical data and comprehensive baseline studies that set out the current conditions and factor in effects of prior development;*
- *Identify potential overlapping impacts due to present developments; and*
- *Identify predicted impacts from future developments that are sufficiently certain to proceed.]*

- Identify proposed mitigation measures including those considered in the design of the proposed project, and those developed through the EA;

[Mitigation measures developed through the EA include additional measures, works, processes, or features that are not part of the basic features of the proposed project and are added specifically to mitigate a potential impact.]

- Assess the potential for residual adverse effects, taking into account the mitigation measures identified above; and,
- Assess whether any residual adverse effects after mitigation would be significant by analysing the following factors³:
 - **Magnitude:** This refers to the magnitude or severity of the effect. Low magnitude effects may have no impact, while high magnitude effects may have an impact.

³ This is generally consistent with the analysis used in federal environmental assessments under the CEAA, although EAO has added the factor of "probability".

- **Geographic Extent:** This refers to the extent of change over the geographic area of the proposed project. The geographic extent of effects can be local or regional. Local effects may have a lower impact than regional effects.
- **Duration and Frequency:** This refers to the length of time the effect lasts and how often the effect occurs. The duration of an effect can be short term or long term. The frequency of an effect can be frequent or infrequent. Short term and/or infrequent effects may have a lower impact than long term and/or frequent effects.
- **Reversibility:** This refers to the degree to which the effect is reversible. Effects can be reversible or permanent. Reversible effects may have lower impact than irreversible or permanent effects.
- **Context:** This refers to the ability of the environment to accept change. For example, the effects of a project may have an impact if they occur in areas that are ecologically sensitive, with little resilience to imposed stresses.
- **Probability:** The likelihood that an adverse effect will occur in circumstances where it is not certain that the effect will materialize.

4.1.5 Federal Cumulative Effects Assessment

[As described above, cumulative impacts are assessed as an inherent part of the EAO's identification of residual adverse effects and their significance for relevant VCs. This cumulative impacts methodology differs from the federal government's methodology described in section 4.1.5. The federal government's methodology for cumulative effects assessment is defined under Section 16(1)(a) of the CEAA. Section 16(1)(a) of the CEAA requires any screening or comprehensive study to include consideration of "any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the proposed project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out" and the significance of those effects. The federal cumulative environmental effects assessment is based on residual effects that are predicted to remain after implementation of the mitigation measures (i.e. post mitigation). The assessment for the purposes of a federal review is to be described in section 17.6, where applicable.]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Provide the methodology and rationale used to identify other developments, including reasonably foreseeable future developments that may, in concert with the potential effects of the proposed project, lead to cumulative impacts/ effects; and,
- Describe the developments identified.

5 Assessment of Potential Environmental Effects

5.1 Environmental Background

[In describing the existing biophysical environment, the Proponent must identify the Valued Environmental Components (VEC). VECs should include environmental features and indicators of environmental health. **Examples include Species at Risk (plants and wildlife including federal and provincial listings), Species of Management Concern as identified in the provincial Conservation Framework database, Water Quality and Quantity, Air Quality, Soil Stability, etc.** Valued Components can be organized into subject areas (e.g. Terrestrial VECs) to assist in the organization of the AIR and the Application.]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- General description of the existing biophysical environment, including surrounding areas within the zone of potential influences of the proposed project.

[Include the following subject areas where applicable: Geophysical Environment, Atmospheric Environment, Aquatic Environment, Surface Hydrology, Groundwater, Terrestrial Environment, Wetlands, Migratory Birds, Wildlife, and Species at Risk.]

5.2 [Subject Area #1 e.g. Geophysical Environment]

5.2.1 [Valued Environmental Component #1]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Describe the rationale for choosing and assessing the specific VEC;
- Provide detailed baseline information on the VEC and the source of the information;
- Identify past, present or future projects/activities that may impact the VEC; and,
- Describe traditional ecological or community knowledge, where available.

5.2.1.1 *Potential Effects of the Proposed Project and Proposed Mitigation*

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Identify and analyze potential adverse effects resulting from the proposed project's construction, operation, and decommissioning;
- Identify and describe any potential adverse effects from other known past, present and foreseeable future projects or activities in the proposed project area; and,

[See section 4.1 for approach and methodology.]

- Describe measures the Proponent will commit to undertaking to mitigate the potential adverse effects identified above.

5.2.1.2 Residual Effects and their Significance

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Identify and describe any potential residual effects after mitigation; and,
- Where potential residual adverse effects have been identified, provide an assessment of the significance of those potential residual effects considering magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, reversibility, context and probability (as noted in section 4.1.4).

5.2.1.3 Conclusion

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Based on the analysis provided in section 5.2.1.2, provide a conclusion regarding potential residual effects and their significance.

[Repeat analysis above for all VCs for each subject area.]

5.3 Summary of Assessment of Potential Environmental Effects

The Proponent must commit to complete the following table in the Application for all VCs.

Table 2: Summary of Assessment of Potential Environmental Effects⁴

VALUED COMPONENTS (NOTE PHASE OF PROJECT) ⁵	POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES	SIGNIFICANCE ANALYSIS OF RESIDUAL EFFECTS (SUMMARY STATEMENT)

⁴ (Additional tables to be prepared by Proponent for economic, social, health and heritage potential effects)

⁵ Construction Phase = C; Operation Phase = O; Closure Phase = C; and Decommissioning Phase = D (other phases can be added as needed)

6 Assessment of Potential Economic Effects

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in section 5.]

6.1 Economic Background

[Valued Economic Components are features or indicators of economic health. Examples could include contract and business opportunities, employment opportunities, labour income generated, local unemployment rate and trend, and employment and economic diversification. Note that land and resource use can be considered a valued economic component or a valued social component depending on the nature of the proposed project.]

6.2 [Subject Area #1]

6.2.1 [Valued Economic Component #1]

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.]

6.2.1.1 Potential Effects of the Proposed Project and Proposed Mitigation

6.2.1.2 Residual Effects and their Significance

6.2.1.3 Conclusion

[Repeat analysis above for all VCs for each subject area.]

6.3 Summary of Assessment of Potential Economic Effects

[Provide same summary table as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.]

7 Assessment of Potential Social Effects

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in section 5.]

7.1 Social Background

[Valued Social Components (VSCs) are activities or sites of social and cultural importance including, but not limited to, land and resource use, First Nation community interests, and other features or indicators of community wellbeing and quality of life.]

The Proponent must indicate whether the potential socio-economic effect relates to an environmental effect, and therefore needs to be specifically considered in the federal review (see Part D).]

7.2 [Subject Area #1]

7.2.1 [Valued Social Component #1]

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.]

7.2.1.1 *Potential Effects of the Proposed Project and Proposed Mitigation*

7.2.1.2 *Residual Effects and their Significance*

7.2.1.3 *Conclusion*

[Repeat analysis above for all VCs for each subject area.]

7.3 Summary of Assessment of Potential Social Effects

[Provide same summary table as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.]

8 Assessment of Potential Heritage Effects

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in section 5.]

8.1 Heritage Background

[British Columbia's archaeological resources are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act. The Heritage Conservation Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act provide for withholding detailed site location information from the public to prevent vandalism and other unauthorised alterations. To this end, information (including Applications) and posted on EAO's Project Information Centre or CEAA's Project Registry must not include specific site locations on maps. Sites plotted on maps at 1:250,000 scale are acceptable; 1:50,000 may be acceptable; while larger scales are not acceptable. Textual descriptions of sites must not include precise location descriptions or georeferences. The Proponent should work with their archaeologist to ensure such information remains confidential.

Generally, the BC Archaeology Branch does not participate as a member of EA technical working groups. The Archaeology Branch does not review Applications or other submissions unless requested by EAO. The Archaeology Branch requests that project Proponents retain the services of a consulting archaeologist to conduct an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) consistent with the British Columbia Archaeological Impact Assessment Guidelines (Archaeology Branch 1998, available on the Archaeology Branch website). AIA's are conducted under permits and the Archaeology Branch will review permit reports and provide input to the EA process once permit reports have been accepted. The Proponent should ensure that their

archaeologist's permit reports are submitted to the Archaeology Branch well in advance of EA process deadlines.

Definitions from the Heritage Conservation Act:

"heritage object" means, whether designated or not, personal property that has heritage value to British Columbia, a community or an aboriginal people;

"heritage site" means, whether designated or not, land, including land covered by water, that has heritage value to British Columbia, a community or an aboriginal people; and,

"heritage value" means the historical, cultural, aesthetic, scientific or educational worth or usefulness of a site or object.

Valued Heritage Components include those sites or objects included within the definitions from the Heritage Conservation Act.

The Proponent must consider the requirements of the CEAA, if applicable, and can cross-reference this section in Part D if the federal requirements are covered in this section.]

8.2 [Subject Area #1]

8.2.1 [Valued Heritage Component #1]

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.]

8.2.1.1 Potential Effects of the Proposed Project and Proposed Mitigation

8.2.1.2 Residual Effects and their Significance

8.2.1.3 Conclusion

[Repeat analysis above for all VCs for each subject area.]

8.3 Summary of Assessment of Potential Heritage Effects

[Provide same summary table as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.]

9 Assessment of Potential Health Effects

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.]

9.1 Health Background

[Valued Health Components include worker safety and health, recreational or aesthetic features, levels of physical activities in the region, and other features or indicators of community health and healthy living. Healthy living is a mandatory Valued Health Component that is to be assessed and reported on in the Application.]

The Government of British Columbia has a goal of leading the way in North America in healthy living and fitness. There are many factors affecting healthy living and fitness, however three key factors that are considered with respect to the proposed project are environmental health (addressed in the Environmental Effects section), health education and sports/physical activity.

The EA should focus on how the proposed project would contribute to enabling or enhancing physical activities and fitness, and health education of people that will be employed at the proposed project.

Of particular concern in connection with any proposed project are the likely implications, if any, for the continuation and expansion of opportunities for physical activity and various recreational pursuits in the vicinity of the proposed project. Such opportunities would apply to anyone using or visiting the area in general, as well as workers employed at the proposed project. Encouraging healthy living lifestyles through education can include provision of information or programs to assist employees to quit smoking, address substance abuse or maintain physical fitness.]

9.2 [Subject Area #1]

9.2.1 [Healthy Living (Valued Health Component #1)]

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.]

9.2.1.1 *Potential Effects of the Proposed Project and Proposed Mitigation*

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Describe public use of the lands in the vicinity of the proposed project, including recreational activities;
- Describe those activities that may be impacted and the mitigation measures that are proposed to minimize or otherwise replace opportunities to carry out those activities;

- For region-specific activities, such as hiking and cross-country skiing, indicate whether these activities could be enhanced by some action by the Proponent (e.g., building trails around the proposed project or contributing to local organizations that support recreation); and,
- Information and/or institute education programs that encourage healthy living lifestyles for workers employed at the proposed project.

9.2.1.2 Residual Effects and Their Significance

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.2.1.2, with the addition of the following.]

- Describe potential benefits from the proposed project and project commitments.

9.2.1.3 Conclusion

[Repeat approach as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.2.1.3.]

9.3 Summary of Assessment of Potential Health Effects

[Provide same summary table as outlined for environmental effects in Section 5.]

10 Summary of Proposed Environmental and Operational Management Plans

[A comprehensive list of plans should be provided in the AIR. A comprehensive list of plans, and detailed descriptions of the plans, should be provided in the Application.]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- List all Environmental Management and Operational Plans for all phases of the proposed project that would be needed for construction, operations and maintenance, and where relevant, decommissioning.

Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Surface water quality monitoring and protection plan;
- Groundwater quality monitoring and protection plan;
- Erosion prevention and sediment control plan;
- Construction waste management plan;
- Acid rock drainage management plan;
- Air quality monitoring and dust control plan;
- Water management and hydrometric monitoring plan;

- Fisheries and aquatic life monitoring plan;
- Contaminated sites management plan;
- Solid waste management reduction and recycling plan;
- Hazardous waste management plan;
- Accidents and malfunctions plan;
- Natural hazards management plan (e.g. snow avalanches, landslides, floods);
- Emergency response plan;
- Fire hazard and abatement plan;
- Landscape design and restoration plan;
- Soil salvage and site reclamation plan;
- Wildlife/vegetation monitoring plan;
- Human/bear conflict management plan;
- Archaeological sites management plan; and,
- Facility decommissioning and closure plan.

11 Compliance Reporting

[The reporting structure will include the type and frequency of reports to be submitted to EAO and/or other regulatory federal or provincial agencies. EAO posts compliance reports prepared as a condition of the EA certificate on its website.]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Reporting structure as identified within the environmental management plans, monitoring plans and commitments.

PART C – FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

[Prior to completing this section, Proponents should (i) review the First Nation consultation reports available on the EAO website from other recent projects that have received EA certificates, and (ii) contact the EAO project lead for the proposed project.

For guidelines on ways to obtain required First Nations information, see the Proponent Guide for Providing First Nation Consultation Information and the Proponent Guide for Providing Treaty Nation Consultation Information on the EAO website.

Note that federal and provincial First Nations consultation requirements may differ in some cases; please consult/cross-reference the federal Aboriginal Engagement and Consultation section in Part D for federal requirements.]

12 Background Information

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Identify the First Nations and Treaty Nations that could be potentially impacted by the proposed project and their asserted or established traditional territory;
- Provide maps of the asserted or traditional territory of the potentially impacted First Nations and Treaty Nations; and,
- Provide background information for each of the potentially impacted First Nations including but not limited to ethnography, language, land use setting and planning, governance, economy and reserves.

13 Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Identify past, present and anticipated future uses of the proposed project area by aboriginal groups;
- Identify any specific asserted aboriginal rights (including title) about which the Proponent receives information from First Nations or other sources;
- Identify potential impacts of the proposed project on the uses and asserted rights identified by way of the preceding two bullet points;
- For proposed projects which are situated within or close to geographical areas encompassed by existing treaties, identify the treaty rights which could be impacted by the proposed project; and,
- Describe mitigation measures to avoid or reduce such impacts.

14 Other Aboriginal Interests

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Identify aboriginal interests with respect to potential social, economic, environmental, heritage and health effects of the proposed project (to the extent not already identified in section 13 above); and,
- Describe how these interests have been addressed.

15 Aboriginal Consultation

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Summarize past and planned aboriginal consultation activities; and,
- Describe key aboriginal issues of relevance to the EA and responses to these issues.

[Issues and responses must be summarized in a tracking table, and will be posted on EAO's Project Information Centre. EAO project leads will provide Proponents with guidance on preparing issues tracking tables.]

16 Summary

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Identify accommodation measures including design considerations, mitigation measures and specific commitments which address potential effects on the matters identified in section 13 above and provide in the form of the following table.

Table 3: Summary of Potential Effects on Aboriginal Activities and Accommodation Measures

POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON ABORIGINAL ACTIVITIES	ACCOMMODATION MEASURES
E.g. Disruption of food fishing activities by passage of barge	E.g. Proponent commitment to an adaptive management strategy, the <i>Aquatic Effects Monitoring and Management Plan</i> and a transportation communications plan to inform fishers of the barge schedule and minimize disruption and impacts to harvesting. Proponent commitment to maintain daily trip log and meet with First Nations prior to, during and after each food fishing season to identify impacts and methods to address impacts.

PART D – FEDERAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

[This section is only applicable if federal departments have determined that a federal EA under the CEAA is or may be required in relation to the proposed project. Unless requested by a reviewing agency, the following information requirements are optional in cases where federal authorities have determined that no federal EA is required. If a determination has not yet been made as to whether or not a federal EA is required, this section should be followed. If a federal EA is or may be required, the information to be provided in this section must correspond to the federal scope and direction from responsible authorities and the CEA Agency.]

A key requirement is that the required information should be easy for federal reviewers/decision-makers to find and identify. A table of concordance may be desirable and should be considered as a tool to help Proponents show if and how federal information requirements have been addressed earlier in the Application.]

17 Requirements for All Federal Environmental Assessment Types

[The following information is required whether the federal review is or may be conducted by means of a screening, comprehensive study, mediation or assessment by a review panel, as described under CEAA.]

17.1 Environmental Effects

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application, a thorough examination of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project including any change that the proposed project may cause in the environment, corresponding to the federal scope.

[As defined under the CEAA, “environment” means the components of the Earth, and includes:

- (a) land, water and air, including all layers of the atmosphere,*
- (b) all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms, and,*
- (c) the interacting natural systems that include components referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).*

Also as defined under the CEAA, “environmental effect” means, in respect of a project:

- a) any change that the project may cause in the environment, including any change it may cause to a listed wildlife species, its critical habitat or the residences of individuals of that species, as those terms are defined in subsection 2(1) of the Species at Risk Act*

- b) any effect of any change referred to in paragraph (a) on
 - i) health and socio-economic conditions
 - ii) physical and cultural heritage
 - iii) the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal persons, or
 - iv) any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, or
- c) any change to the project that may be caused by the environment, whether any such change or effect occurs within or outside Canada.

CEAA section [16](#). (1) requires that every screening or comprehensive study of a project and every mediation or assessment by a review panel shall include a consideration of the following factors:

- (a) the environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;
- (b) the significance of the effects referred to in paragraph (a);
- (c) comments from the public that are received in accordance with this Act and the regulations;
- (d) measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project; and,
- (e) any other matter relevant to the screening, comprehensive study, mediation or assessment by a review panel, such as the need for the project and alternatives to the project, that the responsible authority or, except in the case of a screening, the Minister after consulting with the responsible authority, may require to be considered.]

17.2 Environmental Changes

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a thorough description of any change that the proposed project may cause in the environment corresponding to the federal scope.

[The factors to be considered and their scope will be defined by the responsible authorities based on the project proposal and will be communicated to the Proponent. Some examples of factors or components that may be considered (in addition to others as directed by responsible or federal authorities) are:

- **Climate and meteorology;**

- Air quality;
- Terrain, soils, geology and geohazards;
- Vegetation and plant communities;
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- Surface water and groundwater quality and quantity;
- Aquatic environment (e.g. aquatic life, fish, fish habitat);
- Flora at Risk (as defined under the Species at Risk Act);
- Fauna at Risk (as defined under the Species at Risk Act);
- Climate change;
- Heritage and archaeological resources;
- First Nations traditional use (current and historic);
- Land and resource use;
- Navigation;
- Noise; and,
- Human health.

If federal EA triggers have not yet been confirmed, Proponents should refer back to the CEAA Project Description Guide (http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/Content/D/A/C/DACB19EE-468E-422F-8EF6-29A6D84695FC/Project_Description_Guide_under_CEEA_BC_e.pdf) and major resource project description guide if applicable (<http://www.mpmo-bggp.gc.ca/desc/guide-eng.php>) for basic descriptions of information needs of federal departments that are required to determine if there are federal CEAA triggers.

Note that the environmental context, the valued ecosystem components, and potential impacts on those valued ecosystem components will have been described previously in section 5. This information will usually be adequate to satisfy the need to describe, for the purposes of the federal EA, the environmental changes anticipated as a result of the project. In this case it is acceptable to simply refer back to the appropriate subsections.]

17.3 Species at Risk

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a thorough description of any change that the proposed project may cause to a listed wildlife species, its critical habitat or the residences of individuals of that species, as those terms are defined in subsection 2(1) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

[In the event that species at risk have been described previously in other sections of the report, it is acceptable to simply refer back to the appropriate subsections.]

17.4 Effects of the Environment on the Project

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Identify the environmental factors deemed to have possible consequences on the proposed project, including, but not necessarily limited to consideration of natural hazards such as:
 - extreme weather events (lightning, heavy precipitation, extreme temperatures, flooding, drought and wind);
 - natural seismic events and associated effects such as seiches, liquefaction, subsidence; and tsunamis;
 - volcanic events;
 - fire;
 - slope stability and mass wasting events (e.g., debris flows/torrents; rock fall; snow avalanche);
 - winter; and,
 - climate change.
- Identify any changes or effects on the project that may be caused by the above-mentioned environmental factors, whether the changes or effects occur within or outside of Canada;
- Identify the likelihood and severity the changes or effects; and,
- Identify mitigation measures, including design strategies, planned to avoid or minimize the likelihood and severity the changes or effects.

17.5 Accidents or Malfunctions

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Identify potential accidents, malfunctions and unplanned events that could occur in any phase of the proposed project; the likelihood and circumstances under which these events could occur; and the environmental effects that may result from such events, assuming contingency plans are not fully effective; and
- Describe how each potential accident, malfunction or unplanned event would be managed or mitigated.

[Potential effects that will be assessed include, but are not limited to:

- *Contamination due to construction equipment fuel or hydrocarbon spills (e.g. during refuelling operations);*

- Spills of hazardous substances stored on site (reagents, fuels, contained liquid waste);
- Unintended leakage from containment ponds;
- Accidental release of contaminants from stockpiles of ore or waste rock;
- Breach or failure of tailings dam or other containment structure;
- Pipeline leakage or failure;
- Accidental discharge of off-specification effluent from treatment plants;
- Power outages;
- Fires or explosions that could potentially be caused during construction or operation, such as brush fires caused by clearing and construction activities;
- Fly rock from blasting;
- Motor vehicle accidents involving construction, maintenance, or transport crews and any resulting contaminant spills;
- Flooding, erosion and burial as a result of potential reservoir or tailings pond dam failures;
- Acid or metal leaching downstream of reservoirs, tailings ponds, road cuts, or other excavation; and,
- Sediment releases into watercourses.]

17.6 Mitigation Measures

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a thorough description of any measures that are technically and economically feasible that would avoid or mitigate the environmental effects described in section 17.1.

[Note that the potential impacts on valued ecosystem components and proposed mitigation measures will usually have been described previously in section 5. In this case it is acceptable to simply refer back to the appropriate subsections.]

17.7 Residual Environmental Effects

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a thorough description of any residual environmental effects expected to remain following the implementation of mitigation measures described in section 17.2.

[Note that the residual environmental effects will usually have been described previously in section 5. In this case it is acceptable to simply refer back to the appropriate subsections.]

17.8 Significance Assessment/Analysis

For each residual environmental effect identified in section 17.7, the Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a thorough discussion of the significance of that effect, in accordance with the methodology outlined in section 4.

[Note that it is the federal responsible authority(ies) who make the final determination of significance pursuant to the requirements of the CEAA. The proponent's significance determination for residual environmental effects will usually have been described previously in section 5. In this case it is acceptable to simply refer back to the appropriate subsections.]

17.9 Cumulative Environmental Effects

[Federal agencies require a separate chapter for their analysis of cumulative effects. As such this section is being included in the AIR solely for federal purposes.]

For purposes of federal EA, cumulative environmental effects consist of both direct environmental effects and indirect social and economic effects caused by an activity in association with other, past, present and future human activities. Cumulative effects assessment is required by the federal EA process to ensure that the incremental effects resulting from the combined influences of various activities are considered. These combined effects may be significant even though the effects of each action, when individually assessed, are considered insignificant. Cumulative effects assessment includes effects that are likely to result from the proposed project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will likely be present in a reasonable temporal and spatial scale. Section 16.2 of the CEAA also contemplates taking into account any available regional study results in considering any cumulative environmental effects that may be likely to result from the proposed project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out. Proponents should seek direction from responsible authorities and/or the CEA Agency as to whether and how any such study results (identified under section 3.2 or by responsible authorities) should be taken into account.

Proponents must ensure that federal requirements around cumulative environmental effects are fulfilled; if this has been done in previous sections of the Application it is acceptable to refer back to the appropriate subsections.

Further guidance on addressing cumulative environmental effects is available from the CEA Agency in the document: [Addressing Cumulative Environmental Effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act](#) (November 2007).]

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a thorough description of any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out.

17.10 Aboriginal Engagement and Consultation

The Proponent must provide in the AIR and the Application a list of all Aboriginal groups which the federal responsible authorities have identified require consultation or engagement.

[If this list matches exactly the list of groups being consulted by the province, it is acceptable to simply refer to the earlier section listing the Aboriginal groups. If the federal list differs in any way from the provincial one, please include any additional groups and associated information matching the requirements of Part C (subsections on Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights, Other Aboriginal Interests, Aboriginal Consultation, and Conclusions), either in this section or in Part C with a note that the additional groups are for federal consultation purposes only.]

17.11 Need for Follow-up Program(s) for Screenings Under CEAA

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application any information on follow-up program(s), if and as required.

[The responsible authorities have discretion to require a follow up program for screenings under CEAA.

As defined in CEAA section 2 a follow-up program means a program for

- (a) verifying the accuracy of the environmental assessment of a project, and,*
- (b) determining the effectiveness of any measures taken to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of the project.*

In determining whether a follow up program is appropriate for a screening and/or what to include in a follow up program the responsible authorities consider a number of circumstances where a follow up program may be warranted. These are described in the Operational Policy Statement: Follow-up Programs Under the CEAA which is available on the CEA Agency's website at <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=499F0D58-1>

The Proponent should consult with the responsible authorities regarding whether a follow-up program is warranted for a screening and/or what should be included in a follow-up program.]

17.12 Need for Other Information as Required by a Responsible Authority Pursuant to the CEAA

The Proponent must commit to provide the in the Application, any other information (e.g. public participation, alternatives to the project) required by a responsible authority, as applicable.

[The responsible authorities have discretion to conduct public participation for a screening under section 18 (3) of CEAA.

As defined in section 18 (3) of CEAA, where the responsible authority is of the opinion that public participation in the screening of a project is appropriate in the circumstances — or where required by regulation — the responsible authority

(a) shall, before providing the public with an opportunity to examine and comment on the screening report, include in the Internet site a description of the scope of the project, the factors to be taken into consideration in the screening and the scope of those factors or an indication of how such a description may be obtained;

(b) shall give the public an opportunity to examine and comment on the screening report and on any record relating to the project that has been included in the Registry before taking a course of action under section 20 and shall give adequate notice of that opportunity; and,

(c) may, at any stage of the screening that it determines, give the public any other opportunity to participate.

In determining whether public participation is warranted for a screening the responsible authorities are guided by the Ministerial Guideline on Assessing the Need for and Level of Public Participation in Screenings under the CEAA which is available on the CEA Agency's website at <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=1FE6A389-1&toc=hide#tphp>

The Proponent should consult the responsible authorities regarding whether public participation is warranted for a screening under CEAA.

Under section 16 (1) (e) of CEAA the responsible authorities may require consideration of any other matter relevant to the screening, comprehensive study, mediation or assessment by a review panel, such as the need for the project and alternatives to the project, that the responsible authority or, except in

the case of a screening, the Minister after consulting with the responsible authority, may require to be considered.

In the case of screenings the Proponent should consult with the responsible authorities regarding whether any other matter relevant to the screening should be considered in the screening.]

18 Additional Requirements for Comprehensive Studies, Mediations and Review Panels

[The following information is required when the federal review is being conducted by means of a comprehensive study, mediation or assessment by a review panel, or as required by a responsible authority, as described under the CEAA. Proponents may also wish to consider providing this information on a optional basis if not otherwise directed. If included, proponents should consider where it makes sense to include these items. For example, the purpose of the project might be best addressed in section 2. A simple cross reference in this section to the information would be sufficient.

As defined in CEAA section 16 (2), every comprehensive study, mediation, or review panel must include consideration of factors in addition to those set out in section 16 (1).

16 (2) In addition to the factors set out in subsection (1), every comprehensive study of a project and every mediation or assessment by a review panel shall include a consideration of the following factors:

(a) the purpose of the project;

(b) alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means;

(c) the need for, and the requirements of, any follow-up program in respect of the project; and,

(d) the capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future.]

18.1 Purpose of the Project

The Proponent must commit to provide in the Application a thorough description of the purpose of the proposed project.

[Further guidance on describing the purpose of the project is available from the CEA Agency in the document: [Addressing "Need for", "Purpose of" "Alternatives to" and "Alternative Means" under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act \(November 2007\)](#). If the information provided elsewhere in the Application fulfills

this requirement, it is acceptable to refer reviewers to that section of the document.]

18.2 Alternative Means of Carrying Out the Project

["Alternative means" of carrying out the proposed project are defined as the various technically and economically feasible ways that the proposed project could be implemented.]

Further guidance on describing alternative means of carrying out the project is available from the CEA Agency in the document: [Addressing "Need for", "Purpose of" "Alternatives to" and "Alternative Means" under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act](#) (November 2007).]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Describe alternatives to the proposed project, the reasons for selecting the preferred option, an analysis of the alternative means of carrying out the proposed project that are technically and economically feasible, and the environmental effects of any such alternative means.

18.3 Follow-Up Program

[The purpose of a follow-up program is to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment and to determine the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate the potential adverse environmental effects of the proposed project. A follow-up program may also be used to inform an adaptive management approach in relation to implementation of the proposed project.]

Further guidance on follow-up program design and implementation is available from the CEA Agency in the document: [Follow-up Programs under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act](#) (November 2007). Further guidance on adaptive management is available in the document: [Adaptive Management Measures under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act](#) (March 2009).]

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Provide a detailed description of the planned follow-up program; the type, frequency, duration and location of follow-up monitoring; and the planned approach to data management, analysis and reporting;
- Identify who will be responsible for implementing the various components of the follow-up program and the mitigation measures; and,
- Describe how the results of the follow-up program will be used to inform an adaptive management approach, if applicable.

18.4 Capacity of Renewable Resources

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Analysis of the capacity of renewable resources to meet the needs of the present and those of the future where these resources are likely to be significantly affected by the proposed project.

PART F – CONCLUSIONS

19 Summary of Residual Effects

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Complete the following table that provides summary information for each environmental, economic, social, heritage or health effect that cannot be completely avoided or mitigated through the re-design or relocation of the proposed project or through Proponent commitments.

Table 4: Summary of Residual Effects

POTENTIAL EFFECT	PROJECT PHASE	CONTRIBUTING PROJECT ACTIVITY OR PHYSICAL WORKS	PROPOSED MITIGATION	SIGNIFICANCE ⁶
EFFECT CATEGORY (E.g. Archaeology, Wildlife, Fish and Fish Habitat)				
E.g. Impacts to archaeological sites; Disturbance to Bald Eagle nests; Direct loss/mortality of fish	E.g. Construction; Operation; Decommissioning/ Closure	E.g. Ground disturbance associated with the construction of towers and /or power poles along the transmission line right-of-way; Detailed design of transmission right of way and location of structures; Physical disturbance from access road bridge footprint	E.g. Final design to avoid as many sites and culturally modified trees as possible; Conduct updated nest survey at detailed design stage, and during construction maintain a 100 to 200m vegetated buffer around active eagle nests (based on site-specific assessment)	E.g. No significant residual adverse effect; negligible, low, moderate or severe significant residual adverse effect

⁶ Final significance determination rests with EAO and federal responsible authorities.

20 Summary of Commitments

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Summarize the Proponent's commitments to minimize the potential for the proposed project to generate environmental, economic, social, heritage or health effects; and,
- Complete the following table that identifies the specific proponent commitments.

[This table would form the basis for a schedule of an EA Certificate if a Certificate is issued.]

Table 5: Proponent’s Table of Commitments

Number	Commitment	Project Phase	Source of Commitment	Responsible Agency	Status
AIR QUALITY					
<p>1</p> <p>Please continue #s for each section.</p> <p>Please note that commitments drafted in the Application Review stage may be numbered such as AR1 for ease in numbering and to identify the commitments that are a result of consultation in Application Review.</p>	<p>Please word each commitment taking into account the guidance language that has been provided. It is helpful to group commitments into the categories followed in the Application, for example, air quality commitments are grouped together.</p> <p>Commitment wording should be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clear in terms of what is required in terms of the standard or action and its timeframe; Measurable or readily ascertainable as to whether the commitment has been met; Clear about who will decide, in the case of uncertainty, whether the required standard or action has been met; and, Flexible, where appropriate. For example, “Standard X must be met unless agency Y later specifies in writing that an alternative standard or action will be adequate.” <p>Proponents must use ‘must’ rather than ‘will’ in commitments.</p> <p>The proponent may suggest timing for commitments, i.e. First Nations must be notified four weeks before site clearing to enable traditional plant harvesting.</p>	<p>Pre-construction</p> <p>Construction</p> <p>Operations</p> <p>Closure and Decommissioning</p>	<p>Please include references to the appropriate corresponding sections of the Application, for example :</p> <p>7.3.2.2 – Air Quality 9.5 – Sound Quality 11.3.2.2 and 11.3.4.2 – Wildlife Resources</p> <p>If the commitment is developed in Application Review, can state “Consultation/Developed during AR”</p>	<p>The EAO will work with the working group and the proponent to determine the appropriate responsible agency for determining if the commitment has been carried out. It is beneficial to include a specific position held within the responsible agency (e.g. to the satisfaction of the Senior Mine Review Geologist, MEMPR).</p>	<p>Not yet started</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>This column will be used when providing EAO with commitments compliance reports if the proposed Project is certified. (For ease, proponents may opt to include this column when providing post-cert status updates for projects (if certified).</p>

21 Conclusion

The Proponent must commit to provide the following in the Application:

- Provide a summary of the Proponent's understanding of the BC EA process in promoting sustainable development while minimizing effect to environmental, economic, social, heritage and health values.
- Describe how the proposed project aligns with the goal of the BC EA process and, if applicable, the CEAA process; and,
- State the request for an EA Certificate for the proposed project and the need (if applicable) to successfully complete a federal EA and subsequent permitting/ authorization processes prior to proceeding with proposed project construction, operation and decommissioning.

REFERENCES

The Proponent must commit to provide a list of references used in developing the AIR and the Application.

APPENDICES

The Proponent must commit to provide applicable appendices to the Application. Where information is prepared by professionals and provided under their professional seal, identify this in the Application where applicable and append sealed studies to the Application.