



## Environmental Assessment Requirements

### 5 Phases of the Class EA Process

The Class EA is a phased planning approach that includes 5 main study phases:

1. **Problem or Opportunity:** The proponent will document the factors that lead to the conclusion that an improvement or change is warranted.
2. **Alternative Solutions:** Alternative solutions to the problem or opportunity are identified and evaluated, taking into account the existing environment. A recommended preferred solution can be developed with input from the public and review agencies. The nature of the solution will determine if the proponent is required to complete additional phases of the Class EA process.
3. **Alternative Design Concepts for Preferred Solution:** If required, alternative methods of implementing the preferred solution are examined while considering environmental impacts and public and review agency input.
4. **Environmental Study Report:** An Environmental Study Report that documents the rationale and planning and consultative process undertaken is prepared for the project and the publication of the report for public review.
5. **Implementation:** This is the implementation phase of the Class EA process. The project proceeds to detailed design and construction of the items as planned in earlier phases, and monitoring for compliance with those planning principles.

### Schedules

Class EA projects fall into 1 of 3 Schedules depending on the potential environmental impact of the project:

1. **Schedule A projects** generally include normal or emergency operational and maintenance activities. Since the environmental effects of these activities are usually minimal, the projects are pre-approved and can proceed immediately to implementation. Schedule A+ projects are pre-approved. However, the public is to be advised prior to project implementation. The manner in which the public is advised is to be determined by the project owner.
2. **Schedule B projects** generally include improvements and minor expansions to existing facilities. Since there is potential for some adverse environmental impacts, the project owner must proceed through a screening process including consultation with those who may be affected.
3. **Schedule C projects** generally include the construction of new facilities and major expansions to existing facilities. These projects proceed through the complete environmental assessment planning process outlined in the Class EA before proceeding with construction.

## Public Review and Opportunities to Comment

If the Class EA requires Public consultation, it takes place through Public Information Centres (Open Houses) where comments and concerns are identified and discussed. These meetings are advertised in local newspapers. Stakeholder consultation takes place through direct contact with local landowners where there is potential for impact. Stakeholder meetings provide a more direct opportunity to discuss comments and concerns. Notification of these meetings is sent directly to project stakeholders.