

Environmental Assessment Revitalization Indigenous Implementation Committee – Teleconference – June 19, 2019

Chairs: TBD

Members:

Anna Osborne (Metlakatla Stewardship Society); Bruce Muir (West Moberly First Nations); Verna Power (Lake Babine First Nation); Angel Ransom (First Nations Major Project Coalition); Maureen Chapman (Sq'ewá:lxw [Skawahlook] First Nation); Jackie Thomas (Saik'uz); Bob Chamberlin (Kwikwasutinuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation); Dave Nordquist (Adams Lake); Ang Smith (Gitxsan Nation] Melanie Walker (Tseil-Waututh Nation); Sunny LeBourdais (LeBourdais and Associates);

EAO Attendees: Scott Bailey, Kate Haines, Amy Avila, Fern Stockman, Tanner May-Poole

FNEMC Observer(s):

Paul Blom

Regrets: Nalaine Morin (Arrowblade Consulting); Nicole Kapell (Ktunaxa Nation Council); John Risdale (Office of the Wet'suwet'en); Nathan Braun (EAO); Lindsay Walton (EAO), Paul Craven (EAO)

Welcome/Roundtable

- The purpose of the call is to provide an overview of environmental assessment (EA) revitalization, where we are in the process, review administrative items and select a co-chair for the Indigenous Implementation Committee (IIC).

Introduction to EA Revitalization

- Prior to the announcement of EA revitalization in 2018 the EAO had been making changes to the environmental assessment (EA) process including exploring collaborative approaches to engaging Indigenous nations in EAs.
- In 2018 engagement that contributed to the development of the new *Environmental Assessment Act* (Act) included a ministerial advisory committee, regional and provincial workshops in collaboration with the First Nation's Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC), direct engagement with Indigenous nations, industry associations, non-government organizations (NGOs) and practitioners, as well as a public comment period.
- The Act will be brought into force in late fall 2019. In the meantime, the EAO continues its direct engagement to support the development of regulations, policies and guidance to implement the Act. This includes the IIC and Stakeholder Implementation Committee (SIC).
- The SIC was established in April and has the opportunity to review conceptual draft policies and guidance. The SIC has voiced interest in the opinions of the IIC and a desire for crossover of committees.
- The IIC has the opportunity to choose what regulations, policies and guidance they want to focus on, and it was noted by the chair that EAO has made some assumptions as to what these likely are, but the Committee is being asked to set the priorities.

Administrative Items

Co-Chair and Other Roles (Selection and Responsibilities)

- **ACTION:** The members of the IIC will hold a separate meeting without EAO or FNEMC to select a representative for this role.
- IIC meetings have been scheduled in July but will continue into the fall (starting in September) and likely extending into December. Initially these meetings will occur biweekly, and the frequency for later in 2019 will be determined as appropriate.

Terms of Reference

- **ACTION:** EAO to update the Terms of Reference (TOR) to provide a clear description of the co-chair's role (including responsibilities and estimated time commitment), the dates of meetings, clarify references to which principles, and add free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
- The EAO will take into consideration the opinions and information collected from all of its engagement in developing the supporting regulations, policies and guidance.
- It was clarified by Committee members that IIC members do not participate on behalf of Indigenous nations but instead provide experienced opinions from the perspective of nations.
- As there are many regulations, policies and documents required to implement the Act, specific ones are being prioritized for engagement. For example, extensive engagement is planned to inform the Reviewable Projects Regulation (RPR) including with the general public. Other items will not require the same level of public consultation.

Future Meetings and Priorities

- The next meeting will have an overview of the Act, with a focus on the RPR, and one or two other substantive topics that still to be decided on. The IIC can provide feedback on areas to focus on based on review of the honeycomb diagram.
- Materials for meetings will be provided one week in advance.

Action Items

- EAO to provide a list of all contacts to share with all IIC members including names, emails, titles and representation.
- EAO to update the Terms of Reference (TOR) to provide a clear description of the co-chair's role (including responsibilities and estimated time commitment), the dates of meetings, clarify references to which principles, and add free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
- The members of the IIC will hold a separate meeting without EAO or FNEMC to select a representative for the role of co-chair.