
FACTSHEET

Ministry of Environment
Environmental Assessment Office

Equivalency Agreement between B.C. Environmental Assessment Office and the National Energy Board

- In 2008, the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office signed an agreement with the Canadian National Energy Board that states that a B.C. Environmental Assessment Certificate is not required for projects when an assessment is undertaken under the National Energy Board Act.
- The B.C. Environmental Assessment Office determined that reviews led by the National Energy Board in those circumstances were substantially equivalent to assessments conducted by B.C. Environmental Assessment Office.
- The National Energy Board reviews consider the same potential environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects as EAO's assessments and include aboriginal and community consultation with technical experts.
- While not explicit in the agreement, the planning of each project by BC's Environmental Assessment Office and federal agencies (i.e.: NEB, CEAA) ensures the appropriate provincial agencies and interests are represented.
- Further, the agreement does not fetter or limit the applicability of all BC provincial permits or authorizations.
- This agreement was updated in June of 2010 and was fundamentally the same as the one signed in 2008. The 2010 version is the one usually referenced in public comments.
- Projects that would involve an NEB review include trans-boundary projects such as interprovincial pipelines or transmission lines or off-shore oil or gas facilities.

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