ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND PLAN RELATED DOCUMENTS

A Brief Overview of Environmental Assessments (EA) and Application of Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP) Documents (e.g. Land and Resource Management Plans) in the EA Process

Presentation Overview

This presentation is a brief overview of Environmental Assessment (EA) with a focus on how Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP) Documents are used in an EA.

Look at:

- EA in general
- EA process
- How SLUP documents are used in the EA context
- Example use of Kalum Land and Resource Management Plan (KLRMP) on a project

What is EA?

Different meanings depending on context and audience

- Biological studies
- Social, environmental, and economic information gathering
- Snapshot of the environment at a point in time (baseline)
- Environmental impact assessment
- Reference to a specific legislation
- Some or all of the above

What is EA?

EA in this context looks at relevant:

- environmental,
- health and safety,
- socioeconomic,
- community and First Nation interests,

assesses the positive and negative effects of a project on these interests, and as a result, enables a determination of the significance of those effects.

What is EA?

Different terminology for EA in this context:

- Environmental Impacts
- Impact Assessment
- Environmental Impact Statement

What is the EA process?

- In BC, a form of EA is conducted on most, if not all, land or water development projects
- EA are conducted under various legislations and regulations
- In BC, the highest level legislation of EA are the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) and the BC Environmental Assessment Act
- CEAA has 4 levels: Screening (eg: Fisherman's Park Boat Launch), Comprehensive (eg: KLNG), Mediation, and Panel Review (eg: Kemess North; Enbridge Gateway)

What is the EA process?

- Only projects with specific characteristics are legislated under the BC or Canadian EA Acts
- Characteristics are identified in the associated regulations

  BCEAA Reviewable Projects Regulation

  CEAA Inclusion List Regulations

- If a project triggers an EA Act, no agency may issue a permit under a different Act until after the project receives approval under the EA Act

What is the EA process?

Projects that are not subject to an EA Act must still conduct an EA at the permitting stage

- To satisfy individual act and regulation permit requirements

- To satisfy land and/or water tenure requirements

    L&W Tenure Database:

    http://www2.lwbc.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp

All Land and Water tenure applications are referred to all government ministries, local gov'ts, and First Nations

Where does a SLUP Document come in?

Conducting an EA:

- Describe the project (*potentially here*)
- Gather baseline environmental information (*here*)
- Identify overlap and effects between the project and the environment (*potentially here*)
- Mitigate negative effects (*potentially here*)
- Assess residual effects (*potentially here*)
- Determine if effects are significant (unacceptable) or acceptable (*potentially here*)

Where does a SLUP Document come in?

Example: Small hydroelectric project within KLRMP area – Overview of project fit with LRMP (initial step)

- Overview for key interests: Refer to maps

KLRMP Web Page

- Review LRMP and focus on <u>relevant</u> items (Section 2 of KLRMP)

Where does a SLUP Document come in?

Example: Small hydroelectric project within KLRMP area – Detailed example

- Use KLRMP Section 2.2.8 Fish and Fish Habitat
- Where there is an effect, develop mitigation strategies and review residual effect against LRMP objectives

Where does a SLUP Document come in?

Key questions commonly asked:

- Who decides if a project followed the LRMP?

  Permitting agencies and referral stakeholders

- What happens if the LRMP was not followed?

  Depends – on the effect, the significance, the higher-level benefits

Summary

Looked at (very briefly!)

- EA overview

- EA process

- Where SLUP document fits in an EA process

- Example of a project in the KLRMP area

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