

Environmental Assessment Office

Posting Public Comments

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the type of information that will be posted as a public comment on a project to the Environmental Assessment Office's (EAO) electronic Project Information Centre (ePIC).

2. Context

Environmental assessment (EA) in British Columbia is an issue-driven technical review process that leads to an informed decision by Ministers. The consideration of public comments is an important part of the EA review process as established in the Public Consultation Policy Regulation of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

A public comment period conducted as part of an EA review should not be treated or considered as an opportunity to be used as a poll or a referendum on a project. Therefore, the EAO does not generally accept form letters or petitions.

3. Policy

The EAO in compliance with the *Copyright Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* has determined the following guidelines for the type of information that will be posted as a public comment.

The EAO **will post** the following information to ePIC:

- Comments submitted by a member of the public during a formal public comment period that includes their name and complies with the guidelines below.
- References to scientific findings from published material if:
 - Publishers have not prohibited the use of the material and only a brief description of the published material (including newspaper or magazine articles) is provided and either an Internet link to the full material is included or the published material is properly cited by providing the author's full name, title of the piece, name of the publication where the material is printed, and date of publishing.

The EAO **will not post** the following information to ePIC:

- Full newspaper or magazine articles, reports or scientific studies unless explicit permission is given to the EAO by the author and/or publisher.

- Personal information such as names, home addresses and telephone numbers, or personal email addresses of persons other than the author of the public comment period submission unless explicit permission is given to the EAO by the named individual.