



Energy, Mines and Resources Fact Sheet

EMR's mandate is to responsibly manage and develop Yukon's land based natural resources.

Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA)

What's changed now that YESAA is in effect?

The *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) replaces the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). This means that the Yukon government is no longer responsible for conducting environmental assessments on new projects.

Environmental and socio-economic assessments will now be conducted by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) or one of its six Designated Offices.

What remains the same once YESAA comes into effect?

The Yukon government continues to be the decision maker and to be responsible for regulating and enforcing development projects which fall under its legislated authority.

Our staff is ready to guide you through requirements for both the assessment and the regulatory stages of your project.

To determine your regulatory requirements early on, please talk with your government regulator before submitting your project proposal to YESAB or one of its Designated Offices.

Transition:

The change from one environmental assessment regime to the other has created a transition period for projects that have already entered the existing process on or after November 13, 2004 but are not yet permitted or licensed. This means that your application will be assessed under both EAA and YESAA. This is due to the legal requirements of both pieces of legislation. Measures are in place to ensure that your application is jointly assessed under both processes in a smooth and timely manner.

For these transition projects, Yukon government staff will work with assessors from YESAB on the assessment of your project. Our staff is available to assist you through the process and we appreciate your patience during this transition period.

Energy, Mines and Resources

Background on YESAA:

The *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) creates a new development assessment process for the Yukon. It replaces the existing *Yukon Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and the application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) in Yukon.

The new legislation provides for a single assessment process for projects under federal, territorial or First Nation jurisdiction. This assessment is part of the overall review and approval process that proponents who are applying to undertake development projects in Yukon such as mining, oil & gas exploration, agriculture or timber harvesting projects go through.

The arms-length Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and six regional offices throughout the Yukon are now in place and staff are preparing to conduct project assessments. Environmental assessments will no longer be undertaken by the Yukon government. Assessments will now be conducted by YESAB or one of its six Designated Offices.

YESAB and Designated Offices will conduct their assessments within specific time lines and provide clear information requirements to the proponent. The YESAA assessors are required to seek input from government and First Nations and will provide opportunities to interested parties and the public to provide input to assessments.

YESAB has an on-line public registry that will be accessible to you. This registry contains all information related to YESAA assessments. For YESAB contact information go to: <http://www.yesab.ca>.

YESAA will ensure that the environmental and socio-economic effects of projects and appropriate mitigation are carefully considered before providing a recommendation to the Yukon government on your project. Yukon government will then decide whether to accept, reject or vary the assessment recommendation.

We invite you to contact your regular Energy, Mines and Resources branch office if you have any questions regarding regulatory requirements.

Contact Information:

YESAB's Main Office
3059-3rd Ave
Whitehorse

Tel: (867) 668-6420
Fax: (867) 668-6425

Email: yesab@yesab.ca
www.yesab.ca

Yukon Government Executive Council Office
Development Assessment Process (DAP) Branch
310-300 Main St.
Elijah Smith Building
Whitehorse

Tel: (867) 456-3818
Fax: (867) 667-3216

Email: dapinfo@gov.yk.ca
www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap

Regulatory EMR Information

Lands - Whitehorse
Agriculture - Whitehorse
Mining - Whitehorse
Oil & Gas - Whitehorse
Forestry - Whitehorse

Tel: (867) 667-5215
Tel: (867) 667-5838
Tel: (867) 667-3107
Tel: (867) 667-3427
Tel: (867) 456-3999

Email: emr@gov.yk.ca
www.emr.gov.yk.ca



November 29, 2005