

Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process

Register of Panel Projects and Bulletin

Number 8, June 1979



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du Canada

Environmental
Assessment Review

Examen des évaluations
environnementales

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS

**REGISTER OF PANEL PROJECTS
AND BULLETIN**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW OFFICE
ENVIRONMENT CANADA
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INTRODUCTION

The Register and bulletin provide public and private agencies, interest groups, and members of the general public with information on the Environmental Assessment and Review Process.

The contents are arranged as follows:

1. **The Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process:
Brief Summary**
2. **Information on Panel Projects**

Projects submitted to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office for a formal, in-depth environmental assessment and review.

This section is subdivided as follows:

- project title
- project location
- identification of proponent and/or initiator
- project description
- possible environmental impacts
- status under the Environmental Assessment and Review Process
- Panel members
- future Panel events
- conclusion

3. **List of Reviewed Projects**

This section lists those projects that have been reviewed under the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process and on which an Environmental Assessment Panel has submitted its report to the Minister of the Environment.

4. **General Information on the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office**

This section provides information on the staff of the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, and general information on contacts, publications, etc.

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS: BRIEF SUMMARY

The decision to institute a federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process for federal projects, programs and activities was made by Cabinet on December 20, 1973 and further amended on February 15, 1977.

By the 1973 Decision, the Minister of the Environment was directed to establish, in cooperation with other ministers, a process to ensure that federal departments and agencies:

take environmental matters into account throughout the planning and implementation of new projects, programs and activities;

carry out an environmental assessment for all projects which may have adverse effect on the environment before commitments or irrevocable decisions are made; projects which may have significant effects have to be submitted to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office for formal review;

use the results of these assessments in planning, decision-making and implementation.

The Process established by the Minister of the Environment, through the Interdepartmental Committee on the Environment, is based essentially on the self-assessment approach. Departments and agencies are responsible for assessing the environmental consequences of their own projects and activities or those for which they assume the role of initiator, and deciding on the environmental significance of the anticipated effects.

As early in the planning phase as possible, the initiating department screens all projects for potential adverse environmental effects. One of the following four decisions is possible from this procedure:

- a) No adverse environmental effects, no action needed;**
- b) Environmental effects are known and are not considered significant. Effects identified can be mitigated through environmental design and conformance to legislation/regulations. The initiator is responsible for taking the appropriate action but no further reference to the procedures of the Environmental Assessment and Review Process is required.**
- c) The nature and scope of potential adverse environmental effects are not fully known. A more detailed assessment is required to identify environmental consequences and to assess their significance. The initiator therefore prepares or procures an Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE). A review of the IEE will indicate to the Initiator whether alternative (b) above or (d) below should be followed.**

d) The initiator recognizes that significant environmental effects are involved and requests the Executive Chairman, Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, to establish a Panel to review the project.

If the Initiator decides to submit a project for Panel review, that project may not proceed until this review is completed and recommendations are made to the Minister of the Environment.

The Panel established by the Executive Chairman, Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, issues guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), by the Initiator or associated proponent, reviews the EIS, obtains the public response to the EIS and acquires additional information deemed necessary. It then advises the Minister of the Environment on the acceptability (or otherwise) of the residual environmental effects identified.

The Minister of the Environment and the Minister of the initiating department decide on the action to be taken on the report submitted by the Panel. These are implemented by the appropriate Ministers and associated proponents.

A detailed description of process procedures and Panel responsibilities, including the definitions of terms used can be found in the "Revised Guide to the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process" (May 1979) which may be obtained from the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, 13th Floor, Fontaine Bldg., Hull, Que. K1A 0H3.

ALASKA HIGHWAY GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

Location

Southern sector of the Yukon Territory.

Proponent

Foothills Pipelines (South Yukon) Ltd.

Contact: 1600 - 205, 5th Avenue, S.W., Box 9083, Calgary, Alberta.
T2P 2W4

Initiator

Northern Pipeline Agency

Contact: Mr. A.B. Yates, Deputy Administrator, 400 - 4th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

Description

Construction and operation of a 48 inch diameter buried gas transmission line to initially transport Alaska gas to U.S. markets in the lower 48 states. The proposed Yukon section of the line runs from Beaver Creek in the western corner of the Yukon, along the existing Alaska Highway for 512 miles to Watson Lake in the southeast Yukon. At its northern end the pipeline is proposed to connect to 732 miles of pipeline in Alaska, and at its southern end to 1500 miles of proposed line in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The system will tie in at the 49th parallel with the U.S. system. The projected cost of the Beaver Creek to Watson Lake line is \$1.24 billion (1976 dollars).

Possible Environmental Impacts

1. Degradation of permafrost, subsidence and possible rupture of pipeline.
2. Siltation of streams, interruption of migratory fish runs, destruction of spawning and rearing areas.
3. Displacement of wildlife species such as Dall sheep from their traditional range.
4. Scarring of landscape in National Park areas.

Status Under EARP

The project was referred for formal Panel review in March 1977, and the Panel was formed in May, 1977. Panel members are:

F.G. Hurtubise
Executive Chairman
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Environment Canada, Ottawa
(Chairman)

C. Wykes
District Manager
Environmental Protection Service
Environment Canada
Whitehorse, Yukon

D.S. Lacate
Director, Pacific Region
Lands Directorate
Environment Canada
Vancouver, B.C.

O. Hughes
Geological Survey of Canada
Dept. of Energy, Mines and
Resources
Calgary, Alberta

R. G. Morrison
Chief, Environmental
Assessment Division
Dept. of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
Hull, Quebec

L. Chambers
Director, Natural Resources
Branch
Yukon Territorial Government
Whitehorse, Yukon

**Executive Secretary to the Panel: P.J.B. Duffy, FEARO, 13th Floor,
Fontaine Bldg. Hull K1A OH3 (819) 997-1000**

The normal procedure for environmental impact assessment provides for the establishment of an Assessment Panel which issues formal guidelines for the preparation of an environmental impact statement, conducts technical and public reviews of the statement and makes recommendations to the Minister of the Environment concerning project implementation. In this case, however, the federal government faced major decisions on competing pipeline proposals in the fall of 1977. The short lead time available to the Panel made a full environmental assessment and review of the project impossible at the time. Instead, the Minister instructed the Panel to review existing data, seek public and professional opinion and prepare an interim report by August 1, 1977 on the understanding that, if the project was a contender after decisions on competing proposals had been made, the normal panel procedure involving a full and complete review of the project would apply. Submission of an interim report by August 1 enabled the government to consider environmental factors associated with this project in its decision-making process. The report outlined the major environmental issues known at the time and identified the major data deficiencies.

The Panel held a preliminary meeting in May 1977 in Whitehorse to inform the public of the project and to obtain public feedback on the procedures

for the substantive hearings. The first part of the hearings were held June 13 to 17 in Whitehorse and dealt with the identification of environmental concerns. Community meetings along the proposed pipeline route were also held in May and June. The Panel conducted the second phase of the hearings, commencing July 5 in Whitehorse. This phase concentrated on obtaining further information from the public and from technical experts assigned to assist the Panel on the concerns raised in the June meeting.

The Panel delivered its report to the Minister in early August, 1977. The Governments of Canada and of the U.S.A. agreed in September, 1977 to use the Alaska Highway route for the southern transport of Alaska gas. Guidelines for a detailed environmental impact statement were issued to the proponent and the initiating department in December, 1977. The guidelines are available to interested parties on request.

An Environmental Impact Statement was prepared by the Proponent and distributed for public and technical review in January, 1979. Public hearings were held in Yukon communities, including Whitehorse, in March and April of 1979. The Panel concluded (on April 28, 1979) that the Proponent had not provided sufficient information, on certain aspects of the project, to enable the Panel to complete its environmental review at that time.

Future Events

The Panel will prepare a report in June, 1979 which will request that the Proponent complete its assessment of the project. Once this is done, the Panel will reconvene the technical hearings in public. Following the hearings, the Panel will report to the Federal Minister of the Environment on the adequacy of environmental planning on the project.

ARCTIC PILOT PROJECT

Location

Melville Island and waters of Barrow Strait, Lancaster Sound and the Eastern Arctic.

Initiator

Department of Indian and Northern Affairs

**Contact: J. Fyles, DINA, Les Terrasses de la Chaudière, Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H4**

Petro-Canada (for contact see Proponent)

Proponent

Petro-Canada

Contact: Menno Homan, P.O. Box 2844, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M7

Description

Involved in this project would be the construction of a small number of wells in the Drake Point area of Melville Island, a small gas plant, a pipeline to carry natural gas from the Drake Point area to Bridport Inlet on Southern Melville Island, a liquid natural gas plant to process 250 million cubic feet per day of gas, a harbor facility at Bridport capable of year around operation, and icebreaking LNG carriers designed to operate between Bridport Inlet and the east coast on a year around basis.

Possible Environmental Impacts

Possible environmental impacts could include effects on wildlife, terrain and vegetation, marine mammals and bird populations, and on fish and fish food organisms.

Status Under EARP

The project was referred for Panel consideration by both Petro-Canada and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in November 1977. An Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared and has been circulated to government agencies for review.

Panel members are:

J. S. Klenavic
Director, Operations
Federal Environmental
Assessment Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)

H. Blandford
Canadian Hydrographic Service
Ocean and Aquatic Service
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

D. G. B. Brown
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
Dartmouth, N. S.

M O. Berry
Arctic Hydrology Section
Atmospheric Environment Service
Environnement Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

R. W. Hornal
Regional Director
Northern Operations
Dept. of Indian and
Northern Affairs
Yellowknife, NWT

Executive Secretary to the Panel: R. G. Connelly

Future Events

Upon review of the EIS by the Panel and government agencies, the Panel will make the reviews public and issue a statement of deficiencies which will constitute guidelines for the completion of the assessment.

Public meetings are expected to take place in late 1979 or early 1980.

BANFF NATIONAL PARK HIGHWAY PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Location

The Trans-Canada Highway in Banff National Park from the eastern gate to Healy Creek. (27 kilometres)

Proponent

Federal Department of Public Works

Contact: F. Kimball, Public Works Canada, 9925 - 109 St., Edmonton, Alta.

Description

The proposal is for improvements to the existing highway to resolve traffic flow problems including increase to 4 lanes and interchange modifications. Relocation of the railroad and alternative routings along the Bow Valley for the extra lanes are under study.

Possible Environmental Impacts

**Effect on ungulates and other fauna due to habitat modifications.
Disturbance of landforms due to road-cuts and borrow pits plus general visual impact.
Land use policy implications of increased traffic capacity through a national park.
Loss of forest cover.**

Status Under EARP

The project was referred for Panel review in May 1978. A Panel has been formed. Panel members are:

**J. S. Klenavic
Director, Operations
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)**

**R. G. W. Edwards
Manager, Environmental Protection
and Surveillance
Alberta District Office, EPS
Environment Canada
Edmonton, Alberta**

**W.R. Binks
Professional Engineer
Ottawa, Ontario**

**J. Hartley
Chief of Planning
Parks Canada Western Region
Calgary, Alberta**

**W. Ross
Program Director
Environmental Sciences
Faculty of Environmental
Design
University of Calgary, Alberta**

Executive Secretary to the Panel: P.J. Paradine

**The review will take place in two parts (km 0 to 13 and km 13 to 27)
Guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement have
been issued. The EIS for the first section has been distributed for public
and technical agency review.**

Future Panel Events

**Public meetings for km 0 to 13 are scheduled for June. The Panel review of
km 13 to 27 will take place at a later date.**

BAY OF FUNDY TIDAL POWER GENERATION PROJECT

Location

**Chignecto Bay and Minas Basin sites, upper Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick/
Nova Scotia.**

Initiator

Bay of Fundy Tidal Power Review Board

**Contact: A.E. Collin, ADM Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment
Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0H3**

Description

A study entitled "Reassessment of Fundy Tidal Power" dated November 1977 has been released by the initiator and provides a detailed description of the proposed project which would involve a tidal barrier, generating plant and transmission lines. Discussions are taking place between the Federal and Provincial governments on cost-sharing of detailed engineering environmental studies.

Possible Environmental Impacts

Specific areas of impact are not yet known. Some general areas include:

- 1. Limitations or restrictions on resource use by man.**
- 2. Impacts on ecosystem stability in terrestrial and marine environments.**
- 3. Large borrow pit, quarrying and hauling operations.**

Status Under EARP

The project was referred for Panel review in April 1977. The Panel was formed October 1977 and two non-government members were added in June 1978.

**F.G. Hurtubise
Executive Chairman
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)**

**Arthur Collin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Atmospheric Environment Service
Environment Canada
Ottawa, Ontario**

**Robert Bailey
Executive Secretary
Coastal Zone Management
N.S. Dept. of the Environment
P.O. Box 2107
Halifax, Nova Scotia**

**Owen Washburn
Director
Environmental Services Branch
N.B. Dept. of the Environment
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B.**

Leo Brandon
Director General
Atlantic Region
Environmental Management Service
Environment Canada
P.O. Box 5111
Bedford, N.S.

J. G. Ogden III
Professor of Biology
Dalhousie University
Halifax, N.S.

T. W Goff
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Mount Allison University
Sackville, N.B.

Executive Secretary to the Panel: P.J.Paradine

Future Panel Events

A public information and participation program to enable the public to be informed of and become involved in the environmental impact assessment has been prepared and distributed. This includes discussion of the impact statement guidelines as well as public review of the impact statement.

Draft environmental impact statement guidelines have been distributed to the public for comment at future public meetings. These will be held after a decision to proceed with detailed studies has been announced. As a result of these meetings the guidelines will be finalized and forwarded to the initiator proponent upon incorporation of public comment.

REACTIVATION OF BOUNDARY BAY AERODROME

Location

Delta, British Columbia. The site is located some 25 miles south of Vancouver, near Boundary Bay.

Initiator

Federal Department of Transport
(Canadian Air Transportation Administration).

Contact: C. Heed, Pacific Regional Manager, Airports, Transport Canada,
739 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1A2

Description

The project was proposed as a result of the Master Planning exercise conducted by the initiator for the Lower Mainland area of British Columbia. For the general aviation aircraft category, the Plan concluded that by 1982 all of the existing capacity of the region's airports would be required plus a new airport. Reactivation of Boundary Bay would serve this purpose and would also encourage the shift of light aircraft from Vancouver International. It is projected that only propeller driven planes under 12,500 lbs. would use Boundary Bay. Projected costs and start of construction dates are not yet known.

Possible Environmental Impacts

1. The site is a major congregation area for migratory birds on the Pacific flyway. Changes in use of the site such as a new airport could have international repercussions.
2. The site is near large areas of agricultural land that is a central feeding area for wintering waterfowl.

Status Under EARP

The project was referred to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office for Panel review in October 1976. The Panel was formed in March 1977. Panel members are:

F.G. Hurtubise,
Executive Chairman
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
(Chairman)

J.P. Sector, Head
Environmental Services Section
Environmental Studies Division
British Columbia Ministry of
Environment, Victoria, B.C.

V. C. Brink
Agronomist
Vancouver, **B. C.**

L. I. Reftalvi, Head
Habitat & Ecological Assessment
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
Vancouver, B. C.

S. Veit
Social Science Researcher
Gal iano Island, B.C.

A.A. Bach
Regional Administrator
C. A. T. A.
Transport Canada
Vancouver, B. C.

Executive Secretary to the Panel: J.F. Herity, FEARO,
1870-1050 West Pender, Vancouver, B. C.
(604) 666-2431

The Panel issued draft guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for public and government agency comment and held a public meeting July 26, 1978, to hear comments. Final guidelines were issued to the initiator September 11, 1978. The initiator submitted the Environmental Impact Statement to the Panel in late February. The EIS has been distributed to the public for review.

Future Events

The Panel will be deciding upon the next stage of its review, including the nature and timing of public meetings, in the near future.

Documents Available:

Compendium of Written Submissions to the Panel on the draft Guidelines
Transcript of Public Meeting (\$3.00)
Guidelines for preparing an EIS.

CN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM - WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

Location

Northern section of Wood Buffalo National Park, Alberta and Northwest Territories.

Proponent

Canadian National Telecommunications

Contact: A.J. Kuhr, President, C.N. Telecommunications, 151 Front Street,
Toronto, Ontario. M6J 1G1

Initiator

Parks Canada, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs

Contact: S.F. Kun, Director, National Parks Branch, Parks Canada,
Indian and Northern Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0H4

Description

The proposed system consists of the construction of two 500 foot microwave towers and support systems in the northern section of Wood Buffalo National Park. The purpose of this system is to improve communications between Hay River (NWT), Fort Smith (NWT), and Fort Chipewyan (Alberta). The estimated cost is \$0.75 to \$1.25 million.

Possible Environmental Impacts

1. Disruption of the breeding grounds of the whooping crane.
2. Obstruction and interference to whooping cranes moving around their breeding grounds, and to the cranes' migration routes.
3. Landscape aesthetics of the National Park.

Status Under EARP

The project was referred for Panel review in April, 1977. Discussions are presently taking place involving C.N. Telecommunications, Parks Canada and the Department of Communications concerning alternative systems which would eliminate any hazard to the whooping cranes nesting in the Park.

Executive Secretary to the Panel: P.J.B. Duffy, FEARO, 13th Floor,
Fontaine Building, Hull K1A 0H3
(819) 9974000.

Future Events

The Panel review has been suspended pending further clarification of the project.

DEMPSTER PIPELINE PROJECT

Location

Mackenzie Delta, Northwest Territories, to a point at or near Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

Proponent

Foothills Pipelines (Yukon) Limited.

**Contact: 1600 - 205, 5th Avenue, S.W., Box 9083, Calgary, Alberta.
T2P 2W4**

Initiator

Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

**Contact: Dr. O. Løken, DINA, Les Terrasses de la Chaudière, Ottawa,
Ontario K1A 0H4**

Description

Construction and operation of a gas pipeline for transmission of Mackenzie Delta Gas in the Northwest Territories to a point at or near Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory to link up with the projected Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline. The route will follow closely the Dempster Highway and the Klondike Highway.

Possible Environmental Impacts

- 1. Degradation of permafrost-rich terrain**
- 2. Siltation effects, disturbance of fish habitats and fish migration**
- 3. Displacement of wildlife species**
- 4. Specific adverse effects on Porcupine Caribou herd**
- 5. Aesthetic effects**

Status Under EARP

The project was referred to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office in January, 1978. Panel members are:

**J.S. Klenavic
Director, Operations
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)**

**C. Wykes
District Manager
Environmental Protection
Service
Environment Canada
Whitehorse, Yukon**

J.P. Kelsall
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
5421 Robertson Road
Delta, B.C.

J.A. Heginbottom
Geological Survey of Canada
Energy, Mines and Resources
Ottawa, Ontario

L. Chambers
Director, Natural Resources Branch
Yukon Territorial Government
Whitehorse, Yukon.

M Hawkes
Government of the N.W.T.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

R. G. Morrison
Chief, Environmental
Assessment Division
Dept. of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
Hull, Quebec

Executive Secretary to the Panel: P.J.B. Duffy, FEARO, 13th Floor,
Fontaine Bldg. Ottawa, K1A 0H3 (819)-997-1000

Formal guidelines for the preparation of an environmental impact statement
have been issued publicly and are available from the Panel Secretary.

Future Events

- 1. The Panel will conduct technical and public review of the environmental impact statement when it is produced by the proponent.**
- 2. The Panel will subsequently make recommendations to the Minister of the Environment concerning the implementation of the project.**

EASTERN ARCTIC OFFSHORE DRILLING - NORTH DAVIS STRAIT PROJECT

Location

Waters of the north-eastern coast of Baffin Island.

Initiator

Department of Indian and Northern Affairs

**Contact: M Ruel, DINA, Les Terrasses de la Chaudière, Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H4**

Proponent:

Petro-Canada

Contact: Gerry Glazier, P.O. Box 2844, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M7

Description

Exploratory drilling for hydrocarbon in the waters of the Eastern Arctic.

Possible Environmental Impacts

Environmental impacts of offshore drilling may be manifested in several ways, but the most severe situation would likely occur in the case of an uncontrolled wellhead blowout causing the release of oil.

The waters along the east coast of Baffin Island are characterized by some of the most adverse physical conditions for offshore drilling in Canada's coastal region, thereby increasing the concern for the environment. The eastern Arctic is rich in biological resources. Many thousands of marine mammals and millions of seabirds reproduce in, and migrate through, the area each year.

Status Under EARP

The project was referred for Panel review in July, 1977. A task force has developed guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is presently being prepared.

Panel members are:

**J.S. Klenavic
Director, Operations
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)**

**E. J. Sandeman
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Newfoundland Biological Station
Water Street East
St. John's, Newfoundland**

M J. Mbrison
Assistant Regional Director
of Non-Renewable Resources
Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs
P. O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, NWT
XOE 1H0

J. R. MacDonald
Environmental Protection Service
Department of Environment
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3E4

Executive Secretary to the Panel: R. G. Connelly.

Future Events

Public meetings will be scheduled after the receipt of the Environmental Impact Statement.

ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED - EXPANSION OF URANIUM REFINING CAPACITY

Location

A potential site for the proposed refinery has been selected near Warman, Saskatchewan.

Initiator

Eldorado Nuclear Ltd.

Contact: R. Dakers, Vice-President, Eldorado Nuclear Ltd., 255 Albert Street, Suite 400, Ottawa, Ontario. K1P 6A9

Description

The proposed refinery would process yellowcake primarily from Saskatchewan mines to produce 9,000 metric tons per annum of intermediate and refined uranium products including uranium hexafluoride.

Possible Environmental Impacts

Possible environmental impacts could include effects of air and water emissions, solid waste disposal and effects on agricultural and neighbouring land.

Status under EARP

This project along with a proposal to construct a refinery in Ontario was referred to a Panel for review in July 1975. Guidelines for an Environmental Impact Statement were developed for both the Ontario and Saskatchewan projects by the Environmental Assessment Panel formed for the Ontario review. These were issued to Eldorado in June 1976. After study of 14 potential locations, Warman, near Saskatoon, has been selected by Eldorado for detailed environmental assessment.

Executive Secretary to the Panel: R. G. Connelly

Future Events

The Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be completed this summer.

FRASER RIVER TRAINING WORKS PROGRAM
(Deepening of Fraser River Shipping Channel)

Location

Fraser River Estuary, New Westminster to Georgia Strait, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Initiator

Federal Department of Public Works

Contact: E.O. Isfeld, Marine and Civil Engineering, Public Works Canada,
1110 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Description

Upgrading of the channel to a standard enabling safe passage on a year round basis for the current types of vessels in common usage. Proposed method of achieving this objective is by installation of training works to enable the river to become primarily self-scouring in specific areas of the main shipping channel to a depth sufficient to provide a maximum 40' draft.

Construction is projected over a 5 year period. Estimated cost (1976 dollars) is \$31 million.

Possible Environmental Impacts

1. Changes in water quality - sedimentation, salinity, effects of training walls.
2. Changes in aquatic and marsh flora and also invertebrates including variation in area of productive habitat in backwaters and mudflats.
3. Fish populations - fluctuations in area of available productive habitat, deterrents to migratory adult salmon, premature exposure of juvenile salmon to salt water.
4. Alteration of some bar fishing areas.
5. Effect of any increased velocity on commercial fishing vessels and on efficiency of gillnet fishing boats and other marine traffic. (Both positive and negative impacts will be assessed.)

Status Under EARP

Panel formed July 1976. Members are:

J.S. Klenavic
Director, Operations
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)

E. D. Johnson
Environmental Co-ordinator
Public Works Canada
Vancouver, B.C.

F. C. Boyd
A/Director
Habitat Protection Directorate
Fisheries & Marine Service
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Vancouver, B. C.

E. M. Clark
Regional Director
Pacific Region
Inland Waters Directorate
Environment Canada
Vancouver, B. C.

K. Kupka
Director,
Environmental Services Branch
Environmental Protection Service
Environment Canada
West Vancouver, B. C.

J.P. Selter, Head
Environmental Services Section
Environmental Studies Division
British Columbia Ministry of
the Environment
Victoria, B. C.

Executive Secretary to the Panel: Mr. J.F. Herity, FEARO
1870-1050 West Pender St.,
Vancouver, B. C. (604) 666-2431

Guidelines for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
have been issued by the Panel and are available to the public. Public Works
Canada has engaged a consultant to prepare the EIS. The EIS is expected to
be completed in early 1980.

Future Events

The Panel will initiate a public review of the EIS as soon as it has been
received from Public Works.

Panel Documents

Initial Environmental Evaluation Prepared by Public Works Canada

EIS Guidelines

HAMILTON AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECT

Location

Hamilton (Munt Hope), Ontario

Initiator

Federal Department of Transport (Canadian Air Transportation Administration).

**Contact: David Thomas, System Planning Branch, Ontario Region
Transport Canada, 4900 Yonge Street North, Suite 300,
Willowdale, Ontario, M2N 6A5**

Description

The selection, from among several options, of an airport expansion plan for the future development of air transportation facilities and services for the Hamilton area. Options include different configurations of an expansion of the existing airport. Projected cost and development schedule details are dependent upon the configuration selected.

Possible Environmental Impacts

The environmental effects will vary according to the configuration being considered. Some of the possible environmental effects determined from initial studies conducted are:

- 1. Limited withdrawal of agricultural land.**
- 2. Increased runoff to feeder streams causing increased susceptibility to erosion, reduced rates of ground water recharge and stream siltation.**
- 3. Increased ground traffic and its associated noise.**
- 4. A certain segment of the population would be affected by increased aircraft noise.**
- 5. Stream siltation and effects on fish spawning due to construction activity.**

Status Under EARP

The project was officially referred for Panel review, July 1976. The Panel was formed October 1976.

Panel members are:

**Patrick J.B. Duffy
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Interim chairman in the
absence of Mr. J.S. Klenavic)**

**Peter G. McInnis
Klein & Sears
147 Davenport Road
Toronto, Ontario**

**Alan MacDonald
Policy & Program Development
Directorate
Environmental Management Service
Environment Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E7**

**Joseph E. Piercy
Acoustics Laboratory
Division of Physics
National Research Council
Ottawa, Ontario**

**Rolf Hedman
Transport Canada
4900 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario**

Executive Secretary to the Panel: P.J.B. Duffy

Transport Canada will make known its choice from the three final configurations under consideration.

LOWER CHURCHILL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Gull Island & Muskrat Falls Generation sites

Labrador/Newfoundland Electric power transmission line & tunnel

Location

- a) Gull Island & Muskrat Falls on the Lower Churchill River
- b) Transmission line from Churchill Falls across Labrador to the Strait of Belle Isle and across the Island of Newfoundland to near St-John?.

Proponent

Lower Churchill Development Corporation (L.C.D.C.)

**Contact: B. Ledrew, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, St. John's,
Newfoundland, A1A 2X8**

Initiator

Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

**Contact: Dr. R.G. Skinner, Departmental Coordinator
Energy, Mines and Resources, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0E4.**

Description

The Lower Churchill Development Corporation is evaluating two dam sites on the Lower Churchill River; at Gull Island and Muskrat Falls. Power generated from either or both of these sites would be passed via extra high-tension DC transmission lines to the Island of Newfoundland. An AC intertie with the Churchill Falls power development on the Upper Churchill River would also be provided.

Possible Environmental Impacts

a) Damsites

- 1. The dams would create a reservoir which will impact on wildlife, fish and other resources.**
- 2. The construction camps and borrow areas will impact on areas of wilderness quality and on the wildlife and aquatic resources.**
- 3. Construction activities, including reservoir preparation, will have short-term and long-term effects on fish rearing areas and fish habitat.**

b) Transmission line

1. The transmission line will impact on moose, caribou and arctic hare populations.
2. The line will impact on areas of wilderness quality.
3. The construction of the line is potentially dangerous to certain fish species such as Atlantic salmon, brook trout, i.e. in the crossing of some 15 river systems significant for the production of these fish species.
4. Construction of the proposed Belle Isle Strait tunnel could have an effect on both fish and marine animals, i.e. blasting could disrupt migration patterns of cod, Atlantic salmon and harp seal.
5. Construction of the line could affect sensitive land types such as organic areas and unstable river crossings.

Status Under EARP

This project was under consideration before the federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process became operational. In December 1974, a preliminary environmental overview was produced under a federal-provincial cost-shared agreement. Subsequently, Panels were formed to look at Gull Island and the transmission line. With the referral of the Muskrat Falls site in 1979, the Panels were amalgamated and Panel members now include:

J.S. Klenavic
Director, Operations
Federal Environmental
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)

F.C. Pollett
Newfoundland Forest
Research Centre
Environment Canada
St. John's, Newfoundland

J.H.C. Pippy
Fisheries and Marine Service
Newfoundland Biological Station
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Water Street, East
St. John's, Newfoundland

G.E. Beanlands
Director, Lands Directorate
Atlantic Region
Halifax, N.S.

E.M. Warnes
Chief, Generation and Transmission
Energy, Mines & Resources Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

Irene M Baird
Director of Social Policy
Planning and Priorities Secretariat
Executive Council, Confederation
Bldg.
St. John's, Newfoundland

Executive Secretary to the Panel: P.J. Paradine

- a) Guidelines for the generation sites environmental impact statement have been issued and environmental studies are being carried out during 1978/1979.
- b) The Panel did not produce guidelines for the transmission line as a preliminary environmental impact statement was in existence. Following public and technical agency review of the EIS, the Panel published a statement of issues requiring further information. LCDC is presently preparing a response to the Panel's statement.

Future Events

Public meetings for the transmission line will take place after receipt of LCDC's response. Meetings on the generation sites will take place after receipt of the EIS and public and technical review of its contents; probably during 1980.

MACKENZIE DELTA GAS GATHERING SYSTEM

Location

Mackenzie River Delta Region, Northwest Territories

Proponents

Imperial Oil, Gulf Oil and Shell Oil

Initiator

Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

**Contact: Dr. O. Løken DINA, Les Terrasses de la Chaudière, Ottawa,
Ontario. K1A 0H4**

Description

Construction and operation of three gas processing plants and transportation facilities by the above oil companies to supply a Dempster pipeline moving gas south to market in southern Canada. In the summer of 1977 these three projects were suspended. However, an environmental impact statement for the Imperial Oil plant (Taglu) has been prepared for review. The estimated cost of the Taglu development (Imperial Oil) is \$500 million (1975 dollars).

Possible Environmental Impacts

- 1. Removal and/or disturbance of vegetation during construction resulting in permafrost degradation and or soil erosion.**
- 2. Temporary disturbance or displacement of wildlife and harassment causing seasonal or permanent abandonment of habitats.**
- 3. Reduction of productivity caused by disturbing nesting populations in adjacent migrating bird sanctuaries and at other nesting sites.**
- 4. Permafrost degradation under and around pads and dykes used for site developments. Thaw settlement could be extensive on ice rich soils and dyke failure could release toxic substances which could affect terrestrial and aquatic habitats.**
- 5. Extraction of certain construction materials and timber could have an important bearing on terrain and vegetation disturbance, wildlife and aquatic resources.**
- 6. Large volumes of fuels and chemicals stored at these sites and associated transfer operations present potentials for spills into adjacent river channels.**

Status Under EARP

The official request for Panel review was received in January 1975, and the Panel was formed in the same month. Panel members are:

J.S. Klenavic
Director, Operations
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office, Ottawa
(Chairman)

M.J. Morrison
Assistant Regional Director
Non-Renewable Resources
Dept. of Indian and Northern
Affairs
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

A.W. Mansfield
Director, Arctic Biological Station
Fisheries and Marine Service
Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans
Ste-Anne de Bellevue, P.Q.

D. Surrendi, Chief
Migratory Bird Management
Division
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
Edmonton, Alberta

R. Frith
Environmental Protection Service
Environment Canada
Edmonton, Alberta

Executive Secretary to the Panel: **P.J.B. Duffy, FEARO, 13th Floor,
Fontaine Bldg. Hull K1A 0H3
(819) 997-1000**

Guidelines for the production of the environmental impact statement were issued to the initiator May, 1975. They are available to the public.

Future Events

The Taglu environmental impact statement will be distributed in the near future for technical review. In connection with the Dempster Pipeline Project (described in this register) an overview will be submitted to consolidate the description and mitigation of gas processing plant and pipeline impacts. The Panel will make arrangements for technical review of the Taglu environmental impact statement after which a report to the Minister will be prepared.

POLAR GAS PROJECT

Location

High Arctic Islands via Northwest Territories to markets in southern Canada.

Proponents

Polar Gas Consortium and Panarctic Gas Ltd.

**Contact: J. Riddick, Polar Gas Project, P.O. Box 90,
Commerce Court West, Toronto, Ontario. M5L 1H3**

Co-Initiators

Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (for Northwest Territories portion).

**Contact: M Ruel, DINA, Les Terrasses de la Chaudière, Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0H4**

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (for area south of 60th parallel).

**Contact: R.G. Skinner, Science and Technology, EMR, 580 Booth St.,
Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0E4**

Description

The project includes extraction and purification of gas from fields in the High Arctic, and construction of a large diameter pipeline for natural gas transmission through the Northwest Territories and one or more provinces to a junction with an existing pipeline in southern Canada. The projected total cost for the pipeline component, south from Spence Bay ranges from \$4.5 billion to \$6.2 billion, the variation being a function of the route taken.

Possible Environmental Impacts

The general impact could be similar to related Arctic pipeline projects in Canada and the U.S. e.g. effects on fish, animal and bird habitats, disruption of terrain and vegetation, degradation of permafrost-rich terrain.

Status Under EARP

An official request for a Panel review was received in November 1975. A Federal Government Task Force was set up in February 1975 to produce draft EIS guidelines for an Environmental Assessment Panel. The Panel was formed in March 1976.

Members are:

J.S. Klenavic
Director, Operations
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)

J.A. Heginbottom
Geological Survey of Canada
Energy, Mines and Resources
Ottawa, Ontario

D.P. Scott
Fisheries and Marine Service
Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans
501 University Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Allan H. Jones
Indian and Northern Affairs
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
Ottawa, Ontario

F.A. Doe
Chief, Environmental Assessment
& Review Support
Manitoba Department of Mines, Resources
and Environmental Management
Winnipeg, Manitoba

A.R. Milne
Institute of Ocean Sciences &
Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans
Sidney, B.C.

Executive Secretary to the Panel: R.G. Connelly

The guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement have been finalized by the Panel and issued to the initiators for distribution to the proponents. The Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared and distributed to the Panel. Copies of the EIS have also been distributed to technical review agencies and the public strictly for information purposes.

Future Events

An alternate route, the "Y" line proposal, is being considered by Polar Gas. It would involve piping natural gas reserves from the Arctic Islands with those from the Mackenzie Delta and the Beaufort Sea to southern Canada. The review of the EIS for the "applied-for" route is in abeyance pending a decision by Polar Gas on route selection.

QUEBEC PORT EXPANSION
(Creation of a Harbour and Industrial Zone)

Location

Downstream from Quebec City, the left bank of the St. Lawrence below the mouth of the Saint-Charles River.

Initiator

National Harbours Board, Department of Transport.

**Contact: Yvon Bureau, directeur de la gestion des propriétés
10, rue de Quercy, P. O. Box 2268, Quebec (Quebec) B1K 7P7
Tel. (418) 694-3568.**

Description

Plans are to add 330 hectares of land during the next twenty years to the already developed 115 hectares partially reclaimed from the river previously; this new land would be gained by landfilling the left bank of the St. Lawrence River at the site known as the "Beauport wetlands". Fill would be taken from the St. Lawrence and Saint-Charles riverbeds. These lands will be developed into three parallel zones: harbour, industrial and mixed.

The harbour zone (180 hectares), about 400 meters deep, will be developed for the handling and storage of bulk solid products and general merchandise.

Parallel to this zone, an area of 100 hectares, varying from 200 to 450 meters in depth, will be set aside as an industrial zone for the establishment of various industries (metal products, chemical products, agro-food industry and so forth).

Finally, the mixed zone (48 hectares) will be developed between the existing residential zone and the planned industrial zone; it will provide a buffer (about 250 meters deep) between these two zones and be reserved for the use of office buildings, para-industrial activities and so forth. Estimated project cost: \$200 million (1977 dollars).

Possible environmental Impacts

- 1. Reduction of the width of the St Lawrence River by the placing of dredge materials on the left bank.**
- 2. Degradation of the intertidal zone, St. Charles river mouth and various inlet environments caused by the landfill and dredging operations and by water pollution.**
- 3. Effects on wildlife (riparian plantlife, benthic organisms and use of the shore and certain shallows by migratory birds) due to landfill works and the changes they will bring to the natural environment.**

4. Degradation of the atmospheric environment caused by suspended solid emissions from the handling and outdoor storage of bulk materials and by industrial activities.
5. Conflict between the commercial and recreational use of neighbouring waters.
6. Visual pollution and the reduction of shoreline accessibility and use by riparian residents.

Status Under EARP

The project was submitted for Environmental Assessment panel review at the start of September 1978. The Panel was established and comprises the following members:

F.G. Hurtubise
Executive Chairman
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Environment Canada, Ottawa
(Chairman)

Raymond Dufour
7053, Place Montclair
Charlesbourg, Quebec
G1H 5R1

Vincent Lemieux
Département de science
politique
Pavillon de Koninck
Université Laval
G1K 7P4

L. Ouimet
Conseil québécois des Loisirs
2360, Chemin Ste Foy
Ste-Foy, Quebec
G1V 4H2

Marcel Lortie
Environmental Management Service
Environment Canada
P. O. Box 10,000
Ste-Foy, Que.

Gabriel Filteau
Fisheries and Marine Service
901, rue Cap Diamant
Quebec, Que. G1K 7X7

Fernand Tremblay
819, rue Mbreau
Ste-Foy, Que G1V 3B5

**Executive Secretary to the Panel: Yvan Vigneault, 2700 Laurier Boulevard,
Quebec, Québec. G1V 4H5
Tel. (418) 694-3921**

Public hearings were held at the end of November 1978 to review the proposed guidelines for preparing the environmental impact statement. The Panel has completed the final version of the guidelines and forwarded them to the National Harbours Board.

Future Events

As soon as the Panel receives the environmental impact statement, it will organize public meetings to hear all comments from people interested in this study.

Panel Document

Guidelines for preparation of the environmental impact statement.

EXPANSION OF AIR TRAFFIC CAPACITY OF VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Location

Vancouver International Airport, Richmond, British Columbia.

Initiator

Federal Department of Transport (Canadian Air Transportation Administration)

Contact: Mr. C. Heed, Pacific Regional Manager, Airport Branch, Transport Canada, 739 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Description

Improvement to the aircraft handling capability of Vancouver International Airport, Sea Island, south of Vancouver, to provide for the demand projected by the initiator. The initiator's preferred alternative is the proposed construction of a parallel runway and related facilities inside the dyke at Vancouver International.

Possible Environmental Impacts

1. Removal of land from agricultural use.
2. Reduction in the availability of the Sea Island area as habitat for migrating birds, resident birds and other wildlife.
3. Increase in aircraft noise and the resultant effect on wildlife and the surrounding residential areas of Vancouver and Richmond.

Status Under EARP

Project submitted to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office in August 1976. Panel formed November 1976. Members are:

F.G. Hurtubise
Executive Chairman
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)

A.A. Bach
Regional Administrator
C.A.T.A., Airports
Transport Canada
Vancouver, B.C.

R.W. Stewart
Director General
Ocean and Aquatic Sciences
Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans
Sidney, B.C.

B.A. Heskin
Regional Director General
Environmental Protection Service
Environment Canada
West Vancouver, B.C.

**J.P. Selter, Head
Environmental Services Section
Environmental Studies Division
British Columbia Ministry of the
Environment
Victoria, B.C.**

**V.C. Brink
Agronomist
Vancouver, B.C.**

**S. Veit
Social Science Researcher
Galiano Island, B.C.**

**Executive Secretary to the Panel: Mr. J.F. Herity, FEARO,
1870-1050 West Pender St.,
Vancouver, B.C. (604) 666-2431**

Public hearings were held by the Panel in September 1977 to receive comments on draft Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines.

Dr. V.C. Brink and Ms. Suzanne Veit were appointed by Minister Len Marchand to the Panel. These appointments are from outside government.

The guidelines were finalized by the Panel and issued to Transport Canada in July 1978. The guidelines are available to the public.

Future Events

Transport Canada will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, based on the Guidelines and will submit that to the Panel for public review.

Panel Documents

**Guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.
Compendium of written submissions to the Panel on the draft guidelines.
Transcript of public hearings on the draft guidelines (\$5.00).**

SOUTH YUKON TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Location

The study includes consideration of alternatives within the Yukon Territory principally between Whitehorse and Ross River with possible links to British Columbia, Alaska or the Northwest Territories.

Initiator

Federal Department of Transport

Contact: D. J. Schmirler, Western Coordinator, Railway Transportation Directorate, Transport Canada, 2760-200 Granville Street, Vancouver, B. C.

Description

Improvement of transportation systems in the Yukon involving the study of several alternate railway and one road development strategies. The ultimate purpose of the project is to aid in the development of the natural resource potential of the Yukon. The alternates range in capital costs from \$35 million to \$370 million (1974 dollars).

Possible Areas of Environmental Impact

Not known at present

Status Under EARP

The project was referred for Panel review in October 1976. The Panel was formed in December 1976. Panel members are:

F. G. Hurtubise
Executive Chairman
Federal Environmental Assessment
Review Office
Ottawa, Ontario
(Chairman)

G. A. E. Jones
Manager, Northern B. C.
and Yukon Branch
Fisheries Management
Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans
Vancouver, B. C.

C. E. Wykes
Director, Yukon Branch
Environmental Protection Service
Environment Canada
Whitehorse, Y. T.

M. Dennington
Wildlife Advisor
Canadian Wildlife Service
Yukon Territory
Environment Canada
Whitehorse, Y. T.

J. Hawryszko
Senior Policy and Economic Advisor
Arctic Transportation Agency
Transport Canada
Ottawa

W.A. Bilawich
Special Projects Coordinator
Government of Yukon
P. O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon

Executive Secretary to the Panel: Mr. P.F. Scott, FEARO,
1870-1050 West Pender St.,
Vancouver, B.C. (604) 666-2431

Guidelines to assist in the environmental analysis of alternatives have been prepared by the Panel and forwarded to Transport Canada. These are available to the public.

Future Events

When Transport Canada has completed the evaluation of alternatives and is ready to concentrate study on a specific proposal, the Panel will decide what further environmental investigation may be necessary. This first phase of study by Transport Canada is expected to last a number of years.

Panel Documents.

Guidelines for analysis of alternatives.

LIST OF REVIEWED PROJECTS UNDER
THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW PROCESS

- Point Lepreau, New Brunswick
Nuclear Power Station
Report to the Minister, May 1975**
- Wreck Cove, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia
Hydro Electric Power Project
Report to the Minister, August 1976**
- Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline project, Yukon Territory
Interim report to the Minister, August 1, 1977**
- Eldorado Nuclear Limited, Uranium Refinery, Port Granby, Ontario
Report to the Minister, May 12, 1978**
- Shakwak Highway Project, Northern B.C. and Yukon
Report to the Minister, June 1978**
- Eastern Arctic Offshore Drilling, South Davis Strait Project. N.W.T.
Report to the Minister, November 1, 1978**
- Lancaster Sound Offshore Drilling Project, Northwest Territories
Report to the Minister, February, 1979**
- Eldorado uranium hexafluoride refinery, Ontario
Report to the Minister, February, 1979**
- Roberts Bank Port Expansion, Roberts Bank, B.C.
Report to the Minister, March 1979**

POINT LEPREAU NB NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

This project was referred to an Environmental Assessment Panel in June 1974 by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Considerable planning on this project had been carried out before the Environmental Assessment and Review Process was established. In order to meet previously announced deadlines, the Panel received a preliminary Environmental Impact Statement and, in cooperation with New Brunswick officials, held public hearings in St. John, New Brunswick on the project during which over fifty briefs were received.

The Panel made its Report to the Minister of the Environment in May 1975. It concluded that the proposed nuclear generating station could be built at Point Lepreau without significant adverse environmental effects, provided a number of recommendations were followed. These included completion of a final EIS, to include aquatic data to be used in design of water inlet and outlet structures and data on the impact from the proposed freshwater supply facilities.

The Panel also recommended that a long term monitoring program be initiated and that a research program on short and long term effects of radioactive emissions be undertaken. It also recommended that a national policy for storage, disposal and reprocessing of radioactive waste be developed as soon as possible.

The final EIS was received in May 1977 and considered satisfactory following technical review.

The recommendations of the Panel were accepted by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

WRECK COVE HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT

The hydroelectric power generating project involved the diversion of the head waters of seven rivers to the generating station at Wreck Cove on the east coast of the Island. The project area is located on the southern boundary of Cape Breton Highlands National Park. It was proposed to use part of the former Park lands in the Cheticamp Lake area, which were federal crown lands. Although parts of the project were already under construction, work in the Cheticamp section, where the major federal interest lay, was projected to start in 1977.

As a result of an agreement between the federal and provincial Environment Ministers, the project became a Panel candidate in March 1975. Given that the construction of the project had been approved by the Nova Scotia Government subject to a phased environmental assessment, the agreement specified that the focus of the EIS was to be on a phased study related to the project's proposed construction phases. The EIS study was to concentrate primarily on consideration of alternatives for the Cheticamp area and their environmental impacts, in addition to an overall assessment of the project stages already well advanced, where the emphasis would be on the design of adequate mitigation measures.

The Environmental Impact Statement guidelines produced by a federal-provincial Task Force were approved and issued by the Panel to Nova Scotia Power Corporation, September 1975. An interim statement was received by the Panel in May 1976. A public meeting to review the statement and for presentation of briefs was held at Baddeck, Cape Breton Island, in July 1976. This was co-chaired by the federal Panel and the provincial Department of the Environment. Minutes and answers to questions raised by the public at the Baddeck meeting have been made publicly available by the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment.

A Panel Interim Report was presented to the Minister in August 1976. It concluded that the interim EIS had major deficiencies and recommended that construction affecting the Cheticamp area not proceed until more information was provided.

The final impact statement was distributed in May, 1977. After review by the public and the Panel in May-June, 1977, the Panel reported to the federal Minister of the Environment in July, 1977. It concluded that the Cheticamp portion of the project might be constructed and operated with acceptable environmental impact provided that a number of recommendations in the report were implemented.

The Report was accepted by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs.

ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED - EXPANSION OF URANIUM REFINING CAPACITY
PORT GRANBY, ONTARIO

The proposed project made by Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. was to construct a uranium refinery with a capacity of 9,000 metric tons natural uranium in the form of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆). The refinery would process ore concentrates (yellowcake) primarily from mines located in Ontario to produce uranium hexafluoride for United States and overseas market.

The Panel submitted its report to the Minister of the Environment, Len Marchand on May 12, 1978. The report stated that the refinery and plant process were environmentally acceptable if certain conditions could be met. While the refinery would provide a net economic benefit to Canada, however, the Panel could perceive little economic or social benefit to the local community. Of greatest importance to the Panel, however, was the unacceptable precedent of locating the facility on what is some of the best agricultural land in Ontario and in an area where the long-term character is essentially rural and based on an agricultural lifestyle. At the same time, the Panel found the waste management system as proposed by Eldorado to be unsuitable for the storage of refinery wastes. In its conclusion, the Panel recommended that the facility be located in an existing industrial area provided that the waste management problems could be solved.

The Minister of the Environment endorsed the recommendations made by the Panel.

For more details, see Report No. 4, May 1978

SHAKWAK PROJECT (HAINES ROAD/ALASKA HIGHWAY)

This project involves the reconstruction and paving of that portion of the Alaska Highway from the Alaska/Yukon border to Haines Junction in the Yukon, and the Haines Road from Haines Junction to the B.C./Alaska border. Existing alignments will be used for the major portion of the project. The project is being financed by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration, and will be constructed by Public Works Canada.

The request for a Panel was received July, 1974, and the Panel was formed March, 1975.

Guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were issued by the Panel in May, 1976. The EIS was prepared by Public Works Canada and submitted to the Panel in January, 1978. The EIS was widely distributed for public and government review in Canada and at the same time was also reviewed in the United States.

Public hearings were held by the Panel in Whitehorse and communities along the project corridor in March, 1978.

The Panel report containing its recommendations on the project was submitted to the Minister of the Environment in June, 1978. In its report, the Panel concluded that it will be possible to carry out the project without significant adverse environmental or social impacts if appropriate procedures are followed and certain conditions are met. The report and its recommendations were accepted by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Public Works. Construction is now under way and is expected to take a number of years to complete.

In accordance with the Panel's recommendations, an Environmental Review Committee has been established to monitor the design and construction activities and report annually to the Minister of the Environment and to the Yukon Territorial Government.

For more details, see Report. No. 5, June 1978

EASTERN ARCTIC OFFSHORE DRILLING
SOUTH DAVIS STRAIT PROJECT

In the summer of 1976, a consortium of oil companies composed of Imperial Oil Limited (effective September 1, 1978, Imperial Oil Limited transferred its interests in this project to ESSO Resources Canada Limited), Aquitaine Company of Canada Limited, and Canada-Cities Service Limited presented a proposal to conduct exploratory offshore drilling programs to test the sedimentary basin of southern Davis Strait for hydrocarbons.

Drilling would take place during open water seasons in water depths ranging to 6,000 feet, utilizing dynamically-positioned drill ships or semi-submersible platforms.

The Panel requested and received relevant information from a variety of sources. Public meetings were held at various communities on the southern part of Baffin Island and in Frobisher Bay to provide an opportunity for the residents to express their views about the proposed project.

The Panel related the probability associated with a major oil well blowout against the impact it might have as a measure of the environmental risk of the project.

In its report to the Minister of the Environment, the Panel recommends that the project be allowed to proceed as proposed, only if the following conditions meet the satisfaction of the relevant regulatory agencies:

- a) The Proponent's detailed oil spill contingency plan be developed and in place, six months prior to the commencement of drilling. The effectiveness of the plan in carrying out control and clean-up response action for an oil well blowout should be demonstrated prior to the commencement of the drilling operation.
- b) A government contingency plan be developed and in place prior to drilling that would delineate the responsibilities of all government agencies when oil spills occur in the Davis Strait area.
- c) The Proponent is able to provide same-season relief well capability.
- d) Liability and compensation provisions under existing regulations be examined by responsible regulatory authorities to ensure their adequacy under current circumstances.
- e) The Proponent continue to carry out adequate information programs in order to explain the progress of the drilling program to the residents of south Baffin Island.

The Minister of the Environment endorsed the Panel's recommendations.

For more details, see Report No. 6, November, 1978.

LANCASTER SOUND DRILLING

In 1977, Norlands Petroleum Limited proposed to drill a single expendable exploratory well during the open water season to obtain stratigraphic information which might determine any hydrocarbon potential. Drilling would take place in approximately 770 metres of water utilizing a dynamically positioned drill ship.

The Panel requested and received information from a variety of sources. Hearings were held in the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, and Pond Inlet for the purpose of providing an opportunity for the residents to express their views about the proposed project to the Panel. Two phases of general hearings took place in October and November, 1978 in Pond Inlet, where a more structured set of procedures was pursued to hear written and oral briefs presented to the Panel.

The Panel assessed the future and prospective uses of Lancaster Sound as well as the Proponent's proposal; the Panel concluded that a meaningful assessment of exploratory drilling in Lancaster Sound would not be made in isolation from the broader issues that affect all uses of the area.

The Panel considered potential impacts ranging from the physical and biological to the socio-economic. The ultimate conclusion of the Panel was that the Proponent was not sufficiently prepared to undertake the proposed drilling in a safe manner and with minimum risk to the environment. Accordingly, the Panel recommended that exploratory drilling of the Dundas K-56 be deferred until such time as

- a) the government has addressed the issue of the best use(s) of Lancaster Sound.
- b) the Proponent has demonstrated both a capability to deal safely and effectively with the physical hazards in Lancaster Sound and operational preparedness to mitigate the effects of a blowout.

In addition, the Panel outlined a number of specific conditions that the Proponent, or any other prospective company, must meet, if and when drilling operations are allowed to proceed in Lancaster Sound.

The Panel also addressed the request for regional environmental clearance of Lancaster Sound and concluded such clearance would be premature, based upon the information contained in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the results of the review.

For more details, see Report No. 7, February 1979.

ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED - EXPANSION OF URANIUM REFINING CAPACITY
ONTAR IO

On July 27, 1978, Eldorado notified the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office that it planned to submit for review an environmental impact statement on each of three possible locations for the Company's proposed Ontario uranium refinery with a capacity of 9,000 metric tons uranium in the form of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆). The refinery will process ore concentrates (yellowcake) primarily from mines located in Ontario to produce uranium hexafluoride for United States and overseas market. The three sites proposed were in the Blind River, Port Hope and Sudbury regions.

The Panel report was submitted to the Minister of the Environment on February 23, 1979.

The Panel's review has led to the conclusion that all three sites are acceptable for the project if certain conditions are met. In finding the refinery and its processes acceptable, the Panel recommends adherence by Eldorado to specific conditions regardless of the plant location.

The Panel agrees that the proposed design for the refinery would be capable of meeting government requirements concerning air emissions and water discharges. The Panel, however, believes that further investigation should be conducted to improve the detection of spills affecting the wastewater systems and the resulting design improvements incorporated in the Safety Report required by the Atomic Energy Control Board.

The Panel believes that during start-up a more extensive monitoring program should be conducted followed by normal or routine monitoring during plant operations. Further, a monitoring program for contingencies and a monitoring plan for decommissioning is required.

The Panel believes that Eldorado should introduce a comprehensive occupational health monitoring system which would include provision for post-employment follow-up to aid in the detection of any future health trends.

The Panel accepts that precautions taken to ensure transportation accident risks associated with the refinery would be no greater than for other industrial activities.

As a further condition for proceeding, the Panel recommends that Eldorado produce detailed plans for plant decommissioning upon completion of its operation as part of its licensing applications. The panel also recommends a number of conditions which are site-specific.

The Minister of the Environment endorsed the recommendations made by the Panel.

For More details, see Report No. 8, February 1979.

ROBERTS BANK PORT EXPANSION

The present Roberts Bank Port facility consists of a 20 hectare coal port terminal at the end of a 5 km causeway. The facility is located in Delta, about 30 km south of Vancouver. The project, proposed by the National Harbours Board (NHB) calls for the construction of up to 110 hectares of additional terminal space for the export of bulk commodities such as coal, sulphur, potash, grain and bulk liquids.

The project was referred for a Panel review in May, 1975.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) guidelines were issued by the Panel in March, 1976 and the completed EIS was received from the NHB in November, 1977. The EIS was reviewed by the Panel, government agencies and the public. Following this review, the Panel issued to the NHB a list of deficiencies in the EIS. The NHB's response to this deficiency list was received in June, 1978.

The final stage of the Panel review involved the holding of public hearings in the period October 24 to November 2, 1978.

Following the hearings, the Panel report was prepared and submitted to the Minister of the Environment in March, 1979. The report recommends against the full scale expansion on the basis of unacceptable impacts on the estuarine ecology and the potential for adverse social impacts. The panel concluded, however, that the ecological impacts would be minimal and other impacts could be reasonably mitigated if port expansion were limited to no more than two terminals occupying a maximum of 40 hectares. If it is decided to proceed with the limited expansion, the Panel has recommended that the NHB undertake a number of environmental design studies.

The Minister of the Environment has endorsed the Panel's key findings and the Panel's recommendations have been forwarded to the Minister of Transport.

For more details, see Report. No. 9, March 1979.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW OFFICE

Administration and Staff

Process procedures, particularly the operation of Panels are administered by a permanent Executive Chairman appointed by the Minister of the Environment. The present Executive Chairman is Mr. F.G. Hurtubise. He (or his delegate) chairs all Panels established to review projects and he reports to the Minister of Environment on recommendations made by Panels. The office administered by the permanent chairman was previously known as the Environmental Assessment Panel Office. This title has since been changed to Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office and the title of the permanent chairman to Executive Chairman. This adjustment in designation does not in any way change the responsibilities of the permanent chairman (or his office) under the Process, but is designed to clarify the difference between the separate Environmental Assessment Panels established to review each project, and the permanent chairman's administrative obligations for the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process as a whole.

The staff of the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office in Ottawa are listed below:

NAME & TITLE

GENERAL DUTIES

Mr. J.S. Klenavic
Director, Operations

Chairman Panel Projects
Responsible for panel operations
Develops public participation
plans
Implements operational
policy and procedures.

Dr. Patrick J.B. Duffy

Executive Secretary to panels.

Mr. R.G. Connelly

Executive Secretary to panels.

Mr. P.J. Paradine

Executive Secretary to panels.

Mr. Yvan Vigneault

Executive Secretary to the "Port of Québec
Expansion" panel.

Mr. J.M. Thomas	Manager, publications Executive secretary to panels
Mr. W.S. Tait Director, Policy Coordination and Evaluation	EARP policy coordination and evaluation Liaison and coordination with federal departments and agencies.
Mr. Paul G. Wolf	Senior analyst, EARP process development
Mr. J.G. Gainer	Analyst, EARP process development
Mr. C.D. Robertson	Senior analyst, EARP process evaluation and review.
Dr. W.J. Couch	Analyst, EARP process evaluation and review.

A Regional Office has been established in Vancouver. The Manager of the Office is Mr. John Herity assisted by Mr. Paul F. Scott. One of the principal functions of this office will be as point of contact with the public on panel projects.

For information concerning the Environmental Assessment and Review Process or specific Panel projects, contact:

**Office of the Executive Chairman
Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office
Department of Environment
Ottawa K1A 0H3 Telephone: (819) 997-1000**

**or: J.F. Herity
Manager, Pacific Region
Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office
1050 West Pender St., Room 1870
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 3S7 Telephone: (604) 666-2431**

Publications

The following publications are available from the following offices:

**Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office
13th Floor, Fontaine Building
200 Sacré Coeur Boulevard
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3**

**Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office
1870 - 1050 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 3S7**

1. **"A Revised Guide to the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process"**
2. **"Register of Panel Projects and Bulletin."** (Quarterly. For placement on the mailing list for the Register please write to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, Fontaine Building, 200 Sacré Coeur Boulevard, Hull, P.Q. K1A 0H3)
3. **"Guidelines for preparing Initial Environmental Evaluations"**
4. **"A Guide for Environmental Screening"**
5. **Guidelines for the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements prepared by the Panels for the following panel projects:**

Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. - Expansion of Uranium Refinery Capacity.

Polar Gas Project

Mackenzie Delta Gas Gathering System

Mackenzie River Dredging Program

Shakwak Project (Haines Road/Alaska Highway)

Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline Project

Expansion of Air Traffic Capacity of Vancouver International Airport

Fraser River Training Works Program
Roberts Bank Bulk Loading Facility Expansion
South Yukon Transportation Study
Eastern Arctic Offshore Exploratory Drilling
Reactivation of Boundary Bay Airport.
Dempster Lateral Pipeline
Quebec Port Expansion

6. Panel reports to the Minister of the Environment on the following Panel Projects:
1. Nuclear Power Station at Point Lepreau, New Brunswick (May 1975)
 2. Hydro Electric Power Project, Wreck Cove, Cape Breton Island, N.S., (August 1976)
 3. Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline Project, Yukon Territory Interim Report. (August 1977).
 4. Eldorado Uranium Refinery Proposal, Port Granby, Ontario. (May 1978)
 5. Shikwak Highway Project, Yukon, (June 1978).
 6. Eastern Arctic Offshore Drilling - South Davis Strait Project. N.W.T. (November 1978).
 7. Lancaster Sound Drilling, N.W.T. (February, 1979.)
 8. Eldorado Uranium Hexafluoride Refinery in Ontario (February 1979)
 9. Roberts Bank Port Expansion (March 1979).