

UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

ALASKA HIGHWAY ABORIGINAL PIPELINE COALITION
WORKSHOP

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Tuesday May 6, 2008

Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Effects assessment (EA) in context
- Why do an effects assessment?
- What is an effects assessment?
- Stages of an effects assessment
- Outcomes of an effects assessment
- How can you effectively participate?
- Review of presentation and opportunity for questions

Assessment in the Regulatory Process



Why are Effects Assessments Conducted?

The main purposes of an effects assessment are to:

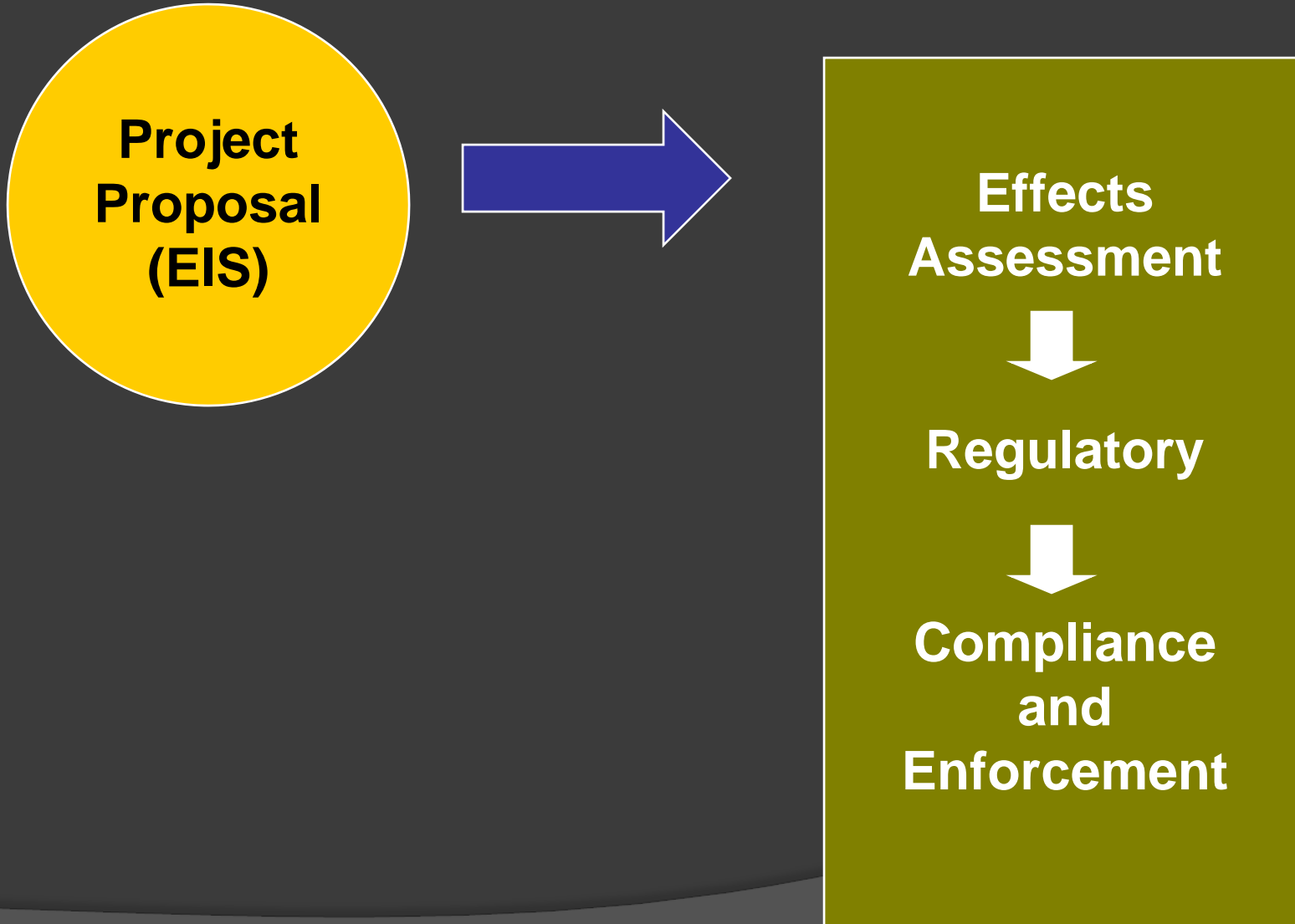
- To provide for public participation in the assessment process
- Minimize or avoid adverse project effects before they occur
- Incorporate environmental and socio-economic considerations into decision making

What is an Effects Assessment?

A process that:

- Provides for public participation
- Identifies possible effects of a proposed project
- Proposes measures to mitigate potential adverse effects
- Predicts if there will be significant adverse effects after mitigation
- Presents information to decision makers

Initiating the Process



Stages in an Effects Assessment

- ① Adequacy review of proposal
- ② Comment period
- ③ Assessment process
- ④ Recommendations

Stages in an Effects Assessment

- Adequacy review of proposal
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Adequacy Review of the Proposal

- ① Identification of the proposed project area and activities
- ② Description of the existing environmental and socio-economic conditions (baseline)
- ③ Predicted project effects
- ④ Suggested mitigations to reduce/avoid potential significant adverse effects
- ⑤ Consideration of cumulative effects assessment

Stages in an Effects Assessment

- Adequacy review of proposal
- **Comment period**
- Assessment process
- Recommendations

Comment Period

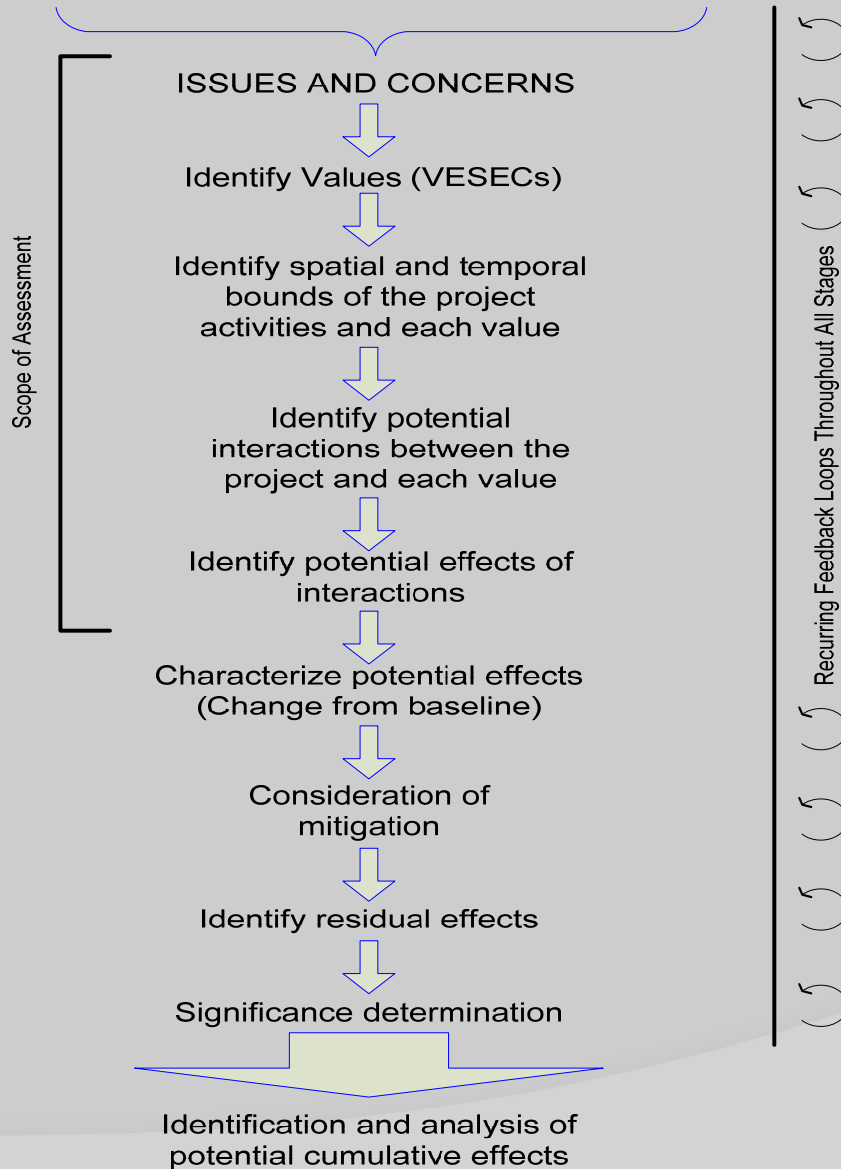
- ⦿ Defined period of time
- ⦿ Provides opportunities for input
 - e.g. public, First Nation, experts
- ⦿ Input such as comments, experiences, concerns and additional information are critical to the assessment
- ⦿ Provides opportunities for dialogue and discussion between parties

Stages in an Effects Assessment

- ⦿ Adequacy review of proposal
- ⦿ Comment period
- ⦿ **Assessment process**
- ⦿ Recommendations

Generic Process for Assessing Effects

Knowledge of the Environmental and Socio-economic/Cultural Context +
Knowledge of Proposed Project (Project Scope) +
Value Judgments



Stages in an Effects Assessment

- ⦿ Adequacy review of proposal
- ⦿ Comment period
- ⦿ Assessment process
- ⦿ Recommendations

Expected Outcomes of an Effects Assessment

A report that details:

- Public comments
- Possible effects of a proposed project
- Proposed measures to mitigate potential adverse effects
- Predictions of potential significant adverse effects after mitigation efforts
- Potential cumulative effects

Role of the Report in the Project Regulatory Process

- Provides recommendations to the regulators as part of their decision making process
- Regulators implement the report recommendations as appropriate

How do you effectively
participate in the
environmental assessment
process?

Providing Effective Comments

1. What do you value in the proposed project area?
2. How might those values be affected or impacted by the proposed project, and why?
3. Do you have any suggestions for how these effects could be reduced or eliminated?
4. Are your concerns based on your own experience, studies you are familiar with or information passed on to you from someone else?

What do you value in the proposed project area?

- *Values may include specific wildlife species/populations, environmental elements (land, air, water), aesthetics, social/cultural values (trapping, way of life), etc. How do you use or interact with the area?*

How might those values be affected or impacted by the proposed project, and why?

- *Explain how you think these values would be affected if the project goes ahead. How would this be different from the way it is now?*

Do you have any suggestions for how these effects could be reduced or eliminated?

- *Include any measures you believe may lessen project effects, and why you think these measures would be successful.*

Are your concerns based on your own experience, studies you are familiar with or information passed on to you from someone else?

- *This will help assessors consider your information and allow them to follow-up with questions, if necessary.*

Presentation Summary

- EA is part of the assessment-regulatory process
- Goals and outcomes of an EA process
- Stages of a generic EA process
- How you can effectively participate in the EA process

Thoughts or Questions?