

Practical application of Provincial and Federal requirements (what is an EIS and why do I need one?)

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Mines and mills, and features of mineral exploration are subject to the Newfoundland *Environmental Assessment Act (NEAA)* and may be subject to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)*. Requirements of both processes vary from project to project depending on the type of project, its

location, and associated environmental issues. The role of a project proponent is to present information on the environmental effects of a project prior to its commencement. The legislated requirements can range from presentation of existing information with no public consultation to collection

of environmental baseline data with extensive data analysis and comprehensive public involvement. This paper will describe how legislated requirements can be practically applied by proponents.

Both *NEAA* and *CEAA* require a description of the project and existing environment, proposed mitigation measures (as appropriate), an assessment of environmental effects, and proposed monitoring plans (or follow-up) as appropriate. The description of the existing environment can be broadly categorized into: atmospheric, terrestrial, freshwater, marine, archaeological, and socio-economic. The data collection

methods and analytical tools will be dependent on the scope of work required. Depending on the level of the environmental assessment, other requirements may include: purpose of the project, an assessment of alternatives, and a program for public consultation.

Project proponents should be aware of scheduling and budgeting implications of *CEAA* and *NEAA* when work plans and budgets are being prepared, and be in a position to anticipate the scope of work required. The role and responsibilities of proponents will be discussed.