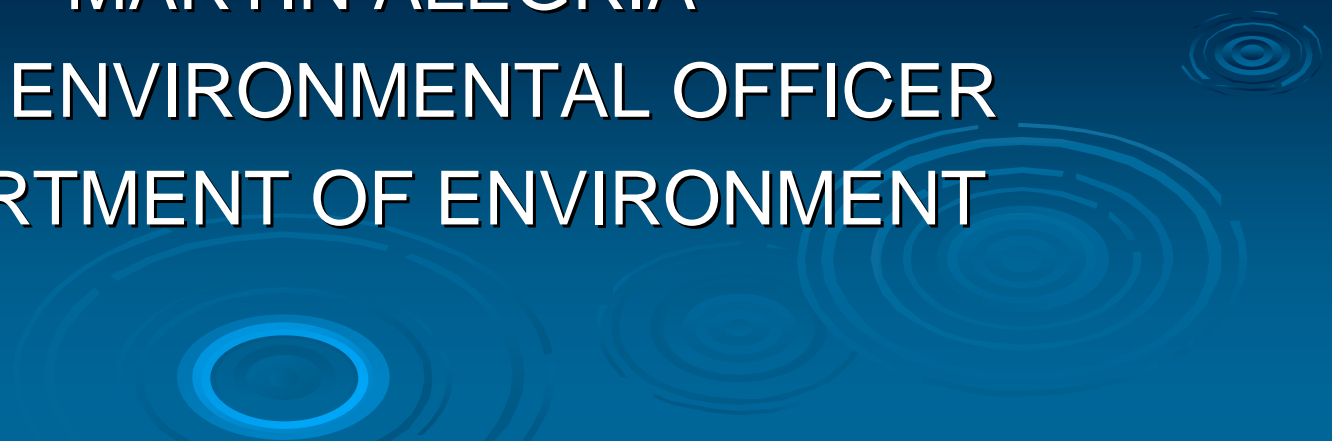


ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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LEGISLATION

The **Environmental Protection Act (EPA), 1992** requires that any project or activity which may have significant impact on the environment may be required to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as set forth in the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 1995**.

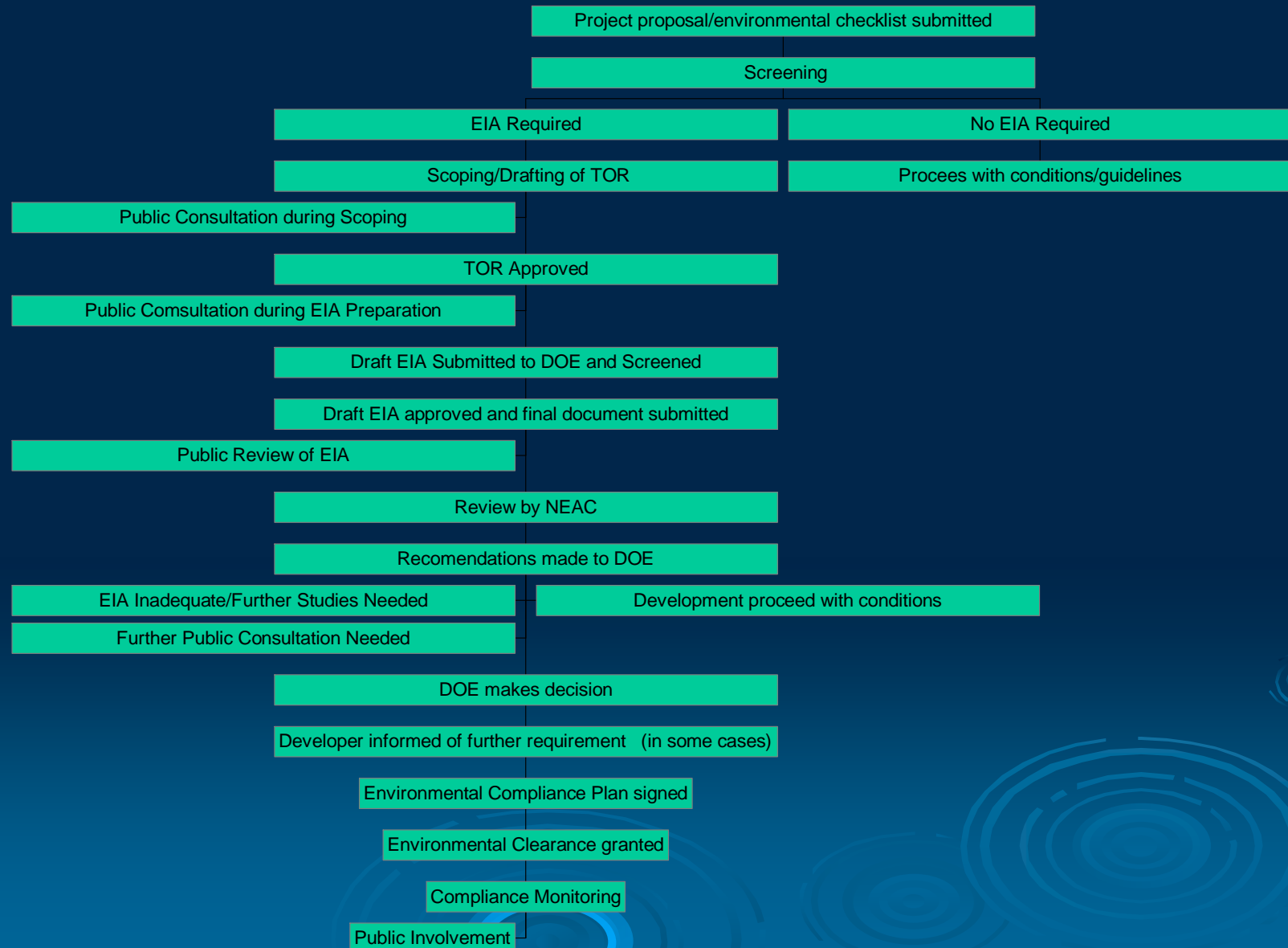
Legislation

- A Full EIA must occur for the following projects in Schedule 1:
 - Oil Production
 - Oil Refining
 - Manufacturing of Drugs & Pharmaceuticals
 - Energy Projects
 - Industrial Processing of Metals
 - Construction of National highways
- The items in schedule 2 require an EIA dependent on the size and location of the project:
 - Land Reclamation (> 10 acres)
 - Large-scale housing development
 - Resort and recreational development
 - Infrastructure Projects
 - ETC.....

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Is a planning tool for promoting environmental sound development practices.
- Used to examine both the adverse and beneficial environmental consequences of a project design.
- Ensures the development of mitigation measures to address the environmental consequences during project development.

EIA PROCESS FLOW CHART



Screening Process

- Regulation 3(2) of the EIA Regulation, 1995 requires any developer (private or public) prior to the commencement of any project or activity to apply to the DOE to determine if an EIA is required for said project.
- A completed environmental checklist along with a project proposal/ business plan shall be submitted to the Department for review.
- In accordance with regulation 14, subject to review of the submitted documents the Department may determine:
 - a) An environmental impact assessment is required
 - b) Subject to regulation 8, an environmental impact assessment may be required; or
 - c) An environmental impact assessment is not required.

EIA Not Required

- In accordance with Regulation 10, if the Department determines an EIA is not required, the project is granted clearance subject to any other Acts, conditions, regulations or guidelines set forth by the Department.

SCOPING

- Scoping of a project occurs when an EIA is required.
- During this process a Terms of Reference (TOR) is drafted for the EIA.
- Draft TOR identifies major environmental issues which may be affected during the development of the project which should be addressed in the EIA.
- The TOR is approved and the EIA is developed by the developer and submitted to the DOE.

EIA REPORT

In accordance with regulation 19, an EIA must contain:

- ❖ A summary of the proposed project
- ❖ The policy, legal and administrative framework which may impact the project
- ❖ Description of the project with scaled maps and designs
- ❖ A description of the present Environment for the project
- ❖ Significant environmental impacts which the development may have on the environment
- ❖ Public Hearings (if any)
- ❖ Likely direct and indirect impacts the project may have on human beings, flora and fauna, soil, water, air, cultural heritage, etc
- ❖ Reasonable alternatives to the proposed project, including a no-action alternative.
- ❖ Environmental consequences of the project both long & short-term of the project to the environment.
- ❖ Mitigation Plans
- ❖ Monitoring Plans

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

- The Decision to approve an EIA is made by the DOE on the recommendation of the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) who evaluates the EIA.
- NEAC may recommend:
 - That the EIA is inadequate and requires further investigation.
 - That further public consultation is necessary
 - That the development not proceed
 - That the development proceed subject to conditions

NEAC

- In Accordance with Regulation 25(1) a National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) was appointed to review all EIAs.
- The NEAC comprises of the following:
 - Chief Environmental Officer- Acts as Chairperson
 - Commissioner of Lands
 - Housing and Planning Officer
 - Chief Forest Officer
 - Fisheries Administrator
 - Chief Hydrologist
 - Director of the Institute of Archeology
 - Director of Geology and Petroleum Department
 - Chief Agricultural Officer
 - Two NON-Governmental Representatives

Public Participation in EIA Process

● Consultation during the EIA Scoping:

- ❖ Aids in identifying key issues in developing the EIA Terms of Reference.

● Consultation during the EIA Preparation:

- ❖ Aids in clarifying misconceptions and enhance social acceptability.

● Consultation in the EIA Review:

- ❖ Occurs on the recommendation of NEAC through a public meeting at which time the public:
- ❖ Participates in the evaluation of proposals through offering advice, expressing opinions, providing local knowledge, proposing alternatives and commenting on how a proposal might be changed to better protect the environment;
- ❖ Becomes more informed and involved in the administration and outcome of the environmental impact assessment process
- ❖ Takes an active role in seeking out and presenting objective information about issues of concern for proposed projects .

Approval Process

- After an EIA is approved, an Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) is developed by the DOE and signed between the developer and DOE.
- An ECP is an agreement/contract which outlines the conditions upon which environmental clearance was granted for the project.
- A portion of the ECP is dedicated to monitoring.

Compliance Monitoring

- ❖ Compliance monitoring is the use of monitoring to show how well an undertaking has been constructed, implemented and operated in accordance with the standards, terms and conditions of approval and commitment contained in the EIA report and the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP).
- ❖ This monitoring is conducted by DOE personnel with assistance from the public.

BENEFITS OF AN EIA

- Reflects a preventative approach in environmental management rather than responding to environmental problems after the fact.
- Enables decision makers to avoid problems before they occur.
- Evaluates the expected effects on human health, and on the natural and cultural environment. It considers alternative project designs as well as mitigation measures or environmental safeguards that should be incorporated into project design to ensure from the onset that the project is sound and sustainable.

Conclusions

- ❖ An EIA is a tool for promoting sound environmental development.
- ❖ Through this process, the Department of the Environment promotes a balance between the environment and development.



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