

Environmental Considerations for Renewable Energy Projects in Saskatchewan

SaskPower IPP Renewable Energy
Meeting

November 17, 2016

Presentation Overview

- Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Renewable Energy Projects
- Wind Siting Guidelines
- Planning Information & Resources



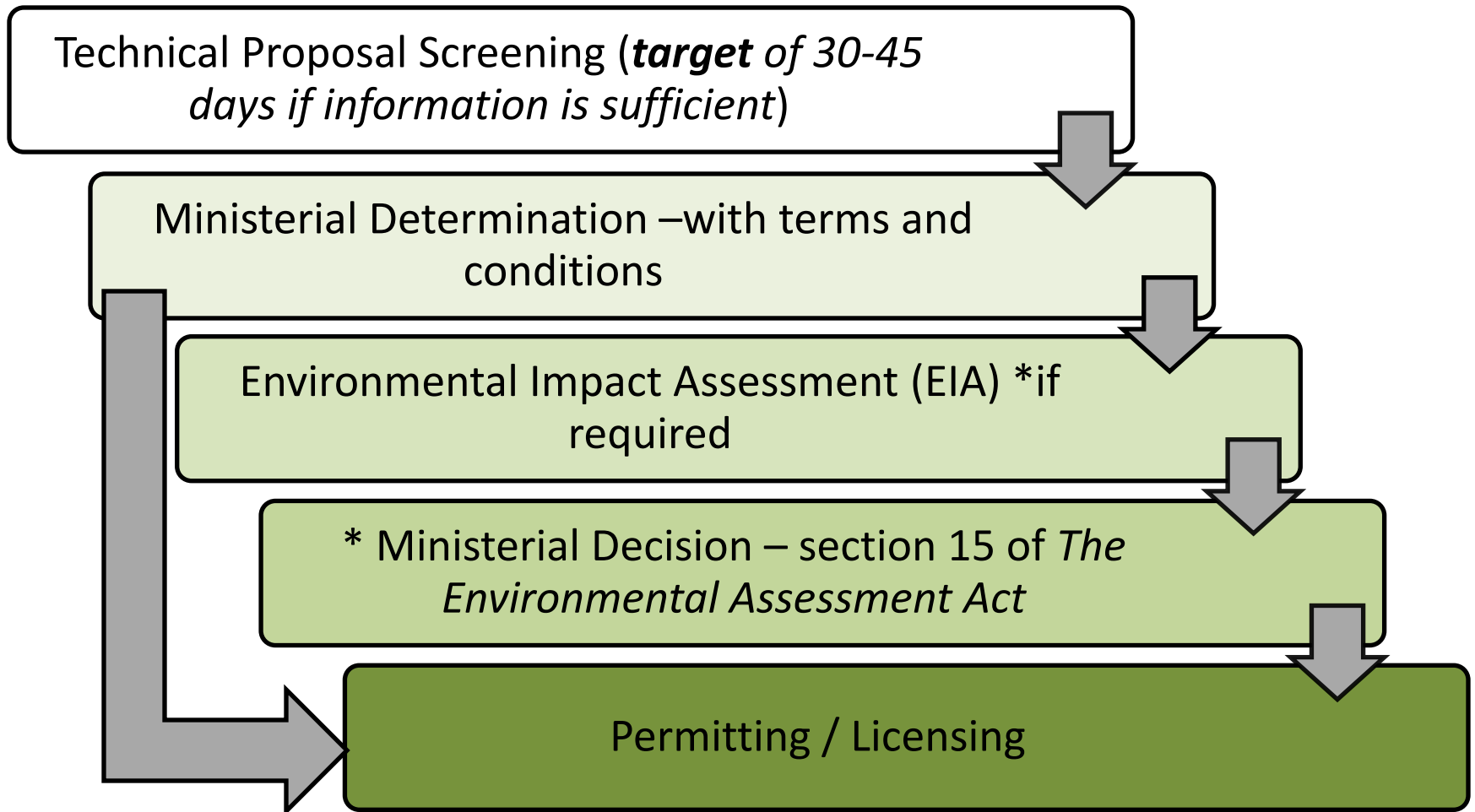
Environmental Review Process for Renewable Energy Projects

- EA Mandate, Legislation and Review Process
- Permitting Requirements
- Proponent Guidance
- Compliance Assurance
- Emerging Trends in EA

Environmental Assessment

- Environmental Assessment (EA) is a process used to assess and predict the environmental effects of a proposed project before it is carried out.
- In Saskatchewan, process is formalized through *The Environmental Assessment Act*
- Ensures that development in Saskatchewan proceeds with suitable environmental safeguards in a manner that is broadly understood by the public.

Environmental Approval Process



Environmental Impact Assessment

- “development” defined in section 2(d) of *The Environmental Assessment Act* as:
 - Effect on unique, rare or endangered feature of environment
 - Substantial use of provincial resource (pre-empting other uses)
 - Cause emission of unregulated waste or pollutant
 - Cause widespread public concern because of environmental changes
 - Involve new technology
 - Have a significant impact on the environment or necessitate further development likely to have significant impact

Environmental Impact Assessment

- Includes a series of legislated and policy steps
- Provides both technical experts and the public an opportunity to review project details
- Information collected from public and government reviewers informs Minister's decision to:
 - Approve the project with terms and conditions; or
 - Refuse to approve the project



Provincial Permitting Requirements

- *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*
 - *The Hazardous Substance and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations*
 - Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit
- *The Wildlife Act, 1998*
 - Species Detection Permits
 - Species Detection Survey Protocols
 - Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species
- *The Heritage Property Act*



Municipal Permitting Requirements

- *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*
 - Development permits – * PDA definition
 - *The Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations*
 - *The Dedicated Lands Regulations*
 - Municipal zoning permits issued under bylaw

Proponent Guidance on EA

Environmental Assessment in Saskatchewan



A High-Level Overview of the Environmental Assessment Process for Developments within Saskatchewan under [The Environmental Assessment Act](#)

June 2014

saskatchewan.ca/environmentalassessment



Environmental Assessment in Saskatchewan

- Provides an overview of EA steps from start to finish, providing contact information and links to EA website as well as additional guidelines

Proponent Guidance on EA

Technical Proposal Guidelines



A Guide to Assessing Projects and Preparing Proposals under
[The Environmental Assessment Act](#)

June 2014

saskatchewan.ca/environmentalassessment



Technical Proposal Guidelines

- Includes emphasis on public engagement
- **Key areas of proposal:**
 - 1) Field survey data,**
 - 2) Public engagement,**
 - 3) Specifics of proposed mitigation plan**

Proponent Guidance on EA

Guidelines for the Preparation of the Terms of Reference



A Guide to Developing the Terms of Reference for a Proposed Project (Or Development) Under The Environmental Assessment Act

June 2014

saskatchewan.ca/environmentalassessment



Guidelines for the Preparation of the Terms of Reference:

- A TOR template serves as a starting point regarding information needed in the TOR
- TOR includes a plan on how the proponent will solicit public input in the project area:
 - Identifying groups to be engaged
 - Holding public meetings

Compliance Assurance

- *The Environmental Assessment Act* includes measures for compliance assurance
 - Ability to investigate compliance with terms & conditions
 - Strong deterrent for non-compliance
- Compliance will also be monitored through on-site inspections by ministry staff
- Ministry of Environment Compliance Audit group may also perform periodic audits

Emerging Trends in EA

- Increased public scrutiny / involvement
- Increased expectation for public consultation
- Social media



Questions



saskatchewan.ca

Brianne England
Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator
Ministry of Environment
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch
brianne.english@gov.sk.ca