

Environmental Regulatory Approval Processes

Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC)

Legal Authority

The *Environment Act* is the main legal authority for most environmental approvals by which ECC regulates.

Three primary regulations are:

Environmental Assessment (EA) Regulations

Describes types of projects that require environmental assessments and the assessment process. Decisions are Ministerial, ~10-15 annually.

Activities Designation Regulations

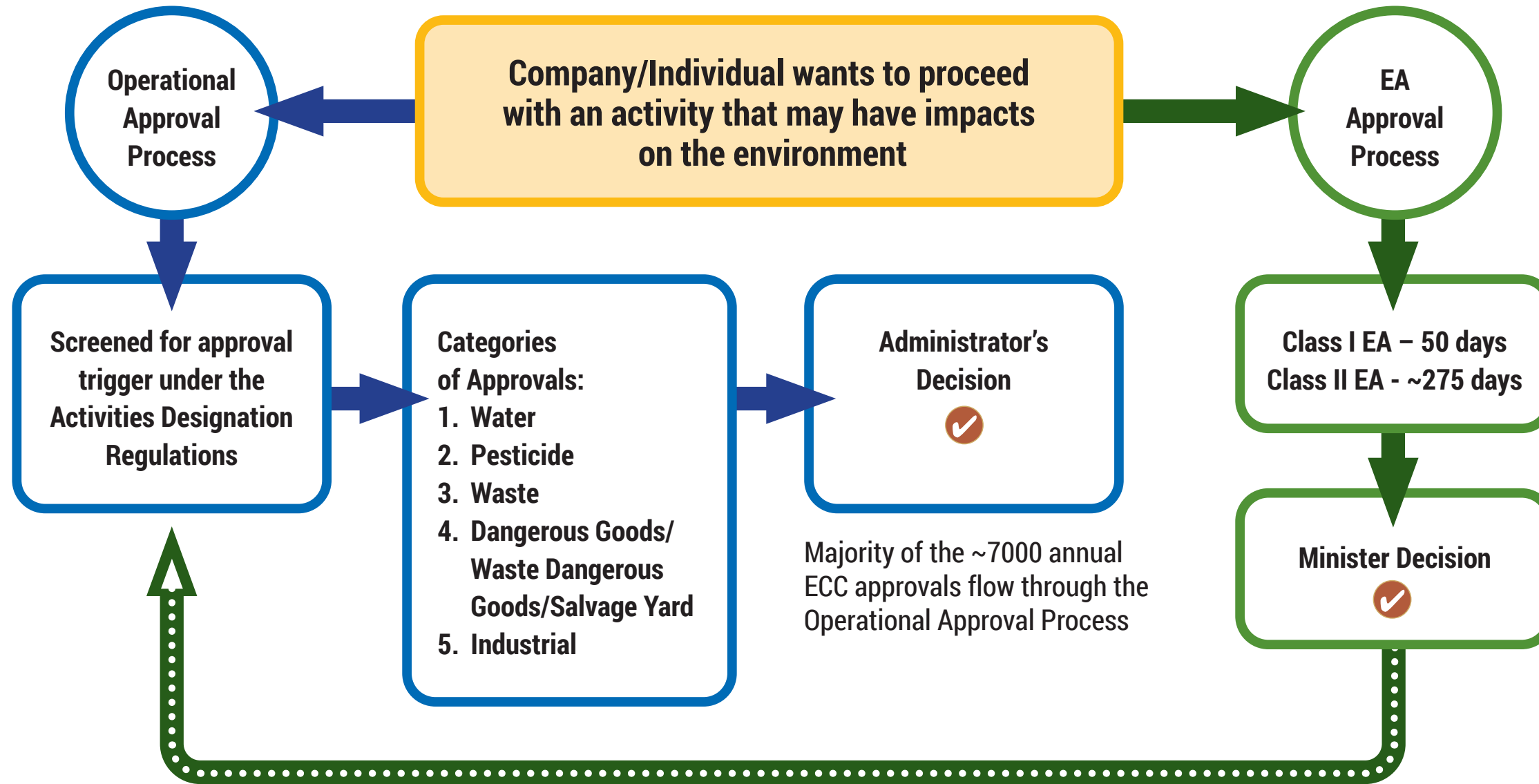
Describes more than 140 activities that require approvals. Decisions are made by administrators, ~7,000 annually.

Approval and Notification Procedure Regulations

Describes information an applicant has to submit and the approval process.



ECC Approval Process



Crown consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on a particular project can also occur on other government permits in addition to the Environmental Assessment process.

If EA approved, operational approvals may also be required

Environmental Assessment

Environment Assessments (EA) support planning for large projects.

- EAs ensure that companies identify and mitigate potential impacts to the environment of their proposed projects prior to projects being constructed
- This allows sustainable development to occur while the environment is protected

Environmental Assessment *(continued)*

What projects need EA?

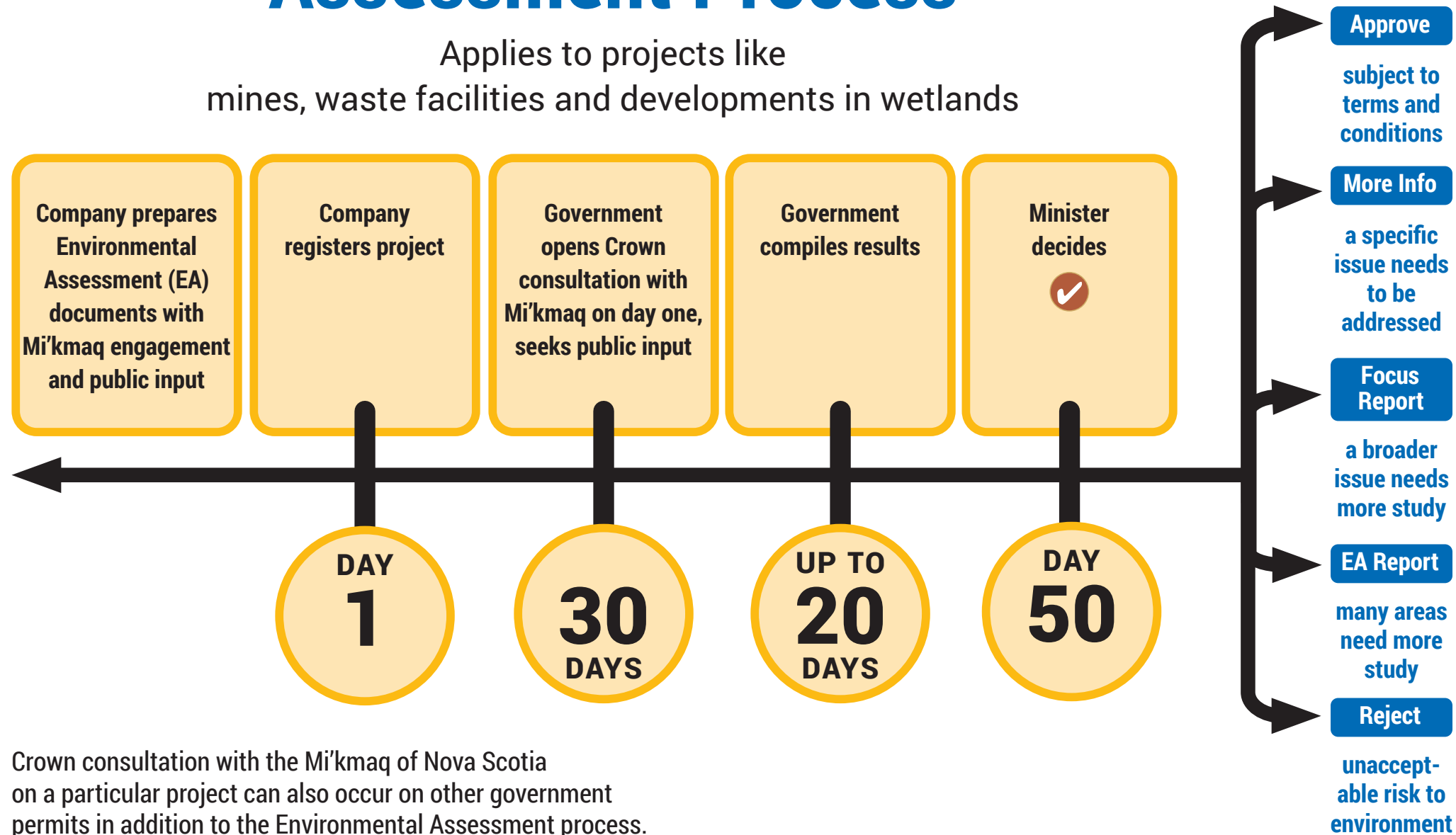
Any project listed in Schedule A of the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*

What is the outcome of an EA?

- A successful EA results in an approval with terms and conditions, set by the Minister
- The terms and conditions ensure the environment remains protected through the life of the project
- Terms and conditions are the basis for compliance

Class I Environmental Assessment Process

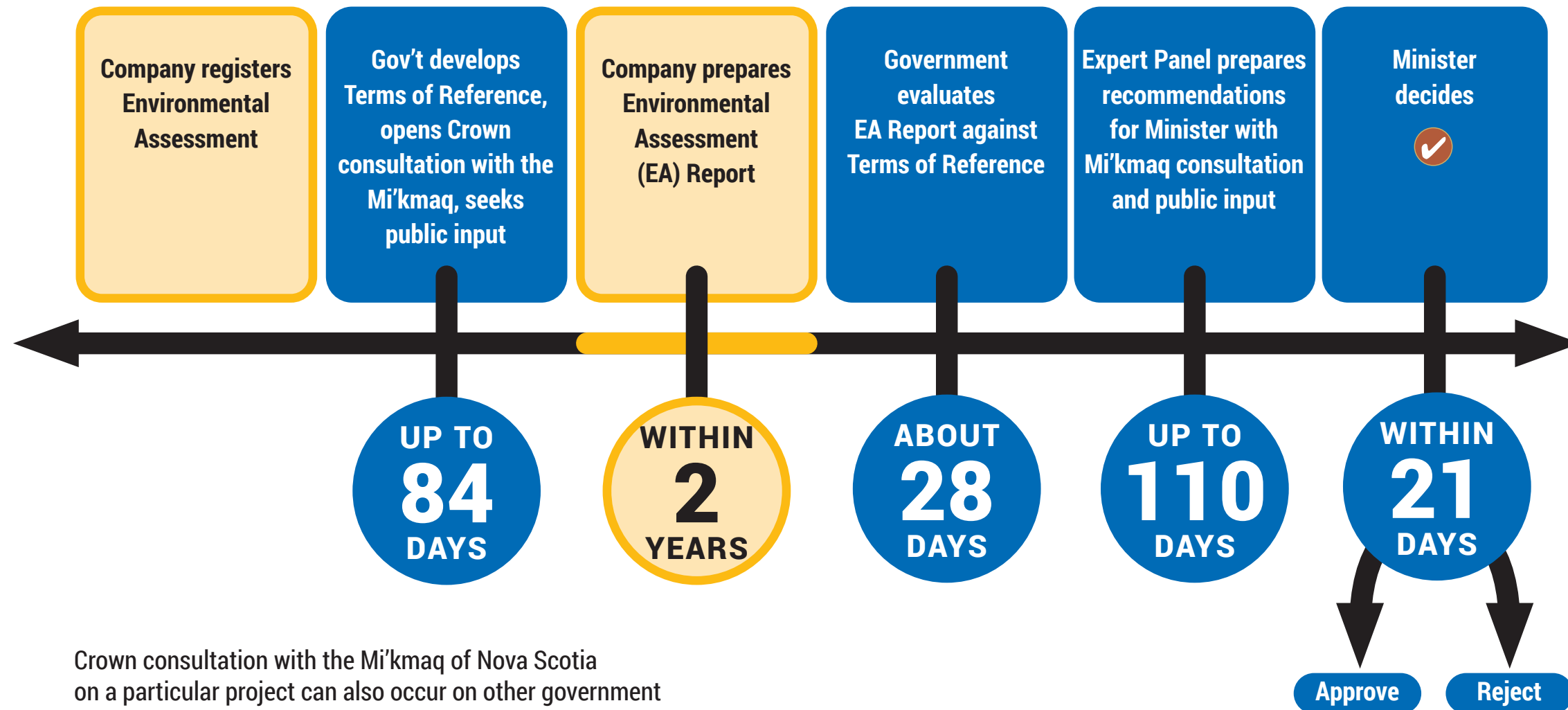
Applies to projects like
mines, waste facilities and developments in wetlands



Crown consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on a particular project can also occur on other government permits in addition to the Environmental Assessment process.

Class II Environmental Assessment Process

Applies to large-scale projects like solid waste incinerators, petrochemical facilities, and pulp plants



Crown consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on a particular project can also occur on other government permits in addition to the Environmental Assessment process.

Operational Approvals

Operational approvals may also be required from ECC

They ensure that operations mitigate risk to the environment

What projects require operational approvals?

- ➔ Any activity listed in the *Activities Designation Regulations*
- ➔ Activities fall into the following five categories:
 - ➔ Water;
 - ➔ Pesticide;
 - ➔ Waste;
 - ➔ Dangerous Goods/Waste Dangerous Goods/Salvage Yard;
 - ➔ Industrial

Operational Approvals *(continued)*

What is the process for operational approvals required under ADR?

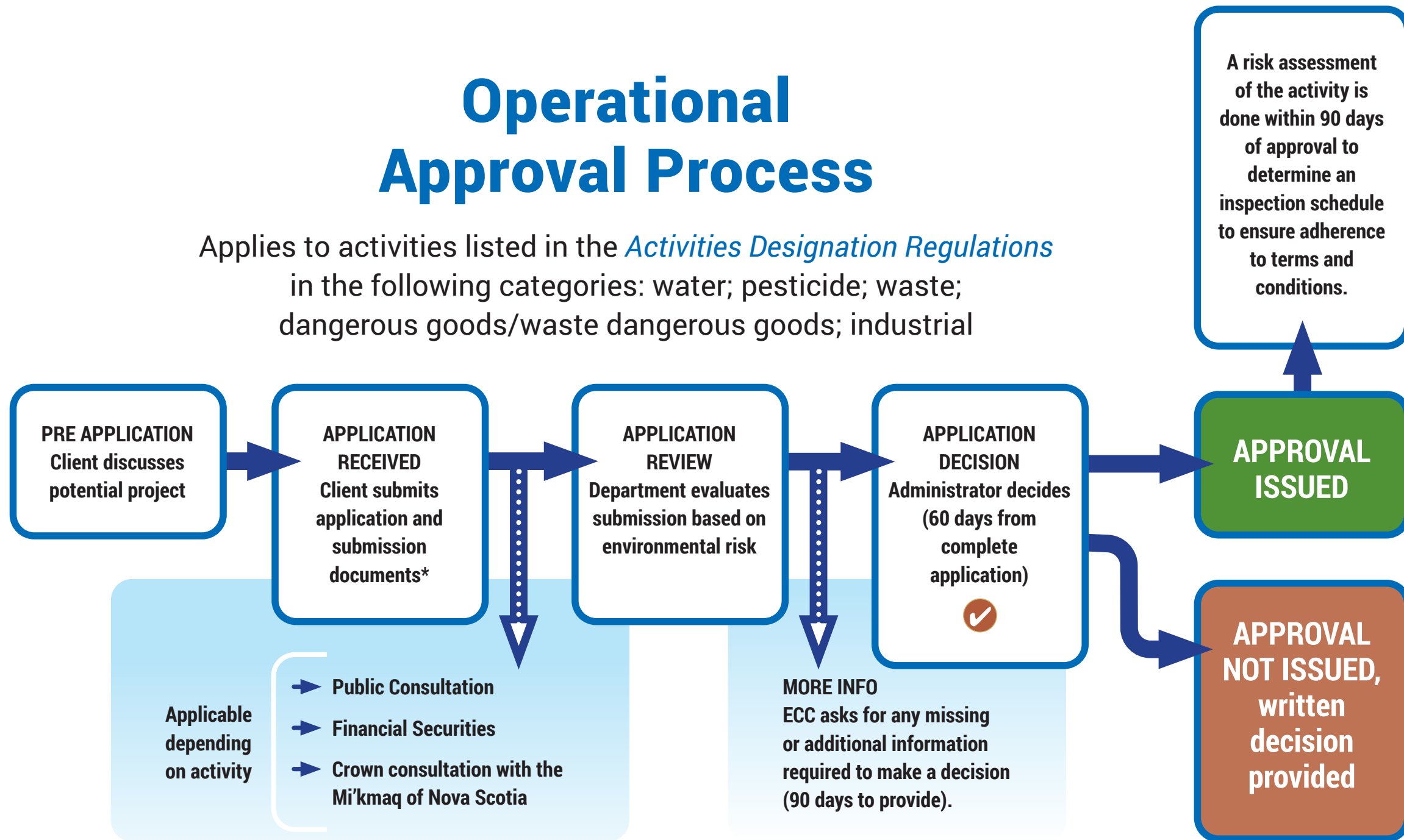
The process is outlined in the *Approval and Notification Procedure Regulations*

What is the outcome of these approvals?

- Approvals contain terms and conditions, set by the administrator
- These terms and conditions are the basis for compliance of the activity

Operational Approval Process

Applies to activities listed in the *Activities Designation Regulations* in the following categories: water; pesticide; waste; dangerous goods/waste dangerous goods; industrial



Crown consultation with Mi'kmaq is required for some projects.