
Developments That Require Environmental Assessment

Developments required to undergo an environmental assessment are called undertakings and are divided into two classes, Class 1 and Class 2. An undertaking can be any enterprise, activity, project, structure, work or proposal. The Minister may also decide that a policy, plan or program that has an adverse effect or environmental effect is an undertaking, as well as a modification, extension, abandonment, demolition or rehabilitation of an undertaking.¹

Schedule “A” of the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*, lists those undertakings which are required to register for environmental assessment.²

Contact the Environmental Assessment Branch to obtain official clarification that a proposed project is considered an undertaking under the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*.

CLASS 1 UNDERTAKINGS

A. Industrial Facilities:

1. A storage facility with a total capacity of over 5000 m³ intended to hold liquid or gaseous substances, such as hydrocarbons or chemicals other than water.
2. A facility for the manufacture of wood products that are pressure treated with chemical products.
3. A facility that produces fish meal.
4. A rendering plant.

¹ Please refer to the *Environmental Assessment Regulations* for the official definition of “undertaking”.

² This document is a guide only. Where the following information differs from the regulations, the regulations shall prevail.

5. An onshore pipeline 5 km or longer, other than a pipeline that carries any of the following:
 - a) natural gas, if the pipeline has a maximum operating pressure below 3450 kPa (500 psig);
 - b) water;
 - c) steam;
 - d) domestic wastewater.
6. A natural gas processing plant.
7. A paper product manufacturing plant.
8. An oil refinery that:
 - a) produces no more than 15,000 L of hydrocarbon products per day;
 - b) uses feedstock that meets all of the following criteria:
 - (i) it contains no more than 1% sulphur compounds by weight;
 - (ii) it does not contain halogenated compounds.

B. Mining:

1. A facility that extracts or processes any of the following:
 - a) metallic or non-metallic minerals;
 - b) coal;
 - c) peat;
 - d) peat moss;
 - e) gypsum;
 - f) limestone;
 - g) bituminous shale;
 - h) oil shale.
2. A pit or quarry, other than a pit or quarry exempted under Section 4 of the regulations for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, that is larger than 4 ha in area for extracting on the following:
 - a) ordinary stone;
 - b) building or construction stone;
 - c) sand;
 - d) gravel;
 - e) ordinary soil.

C. Transportation:

1. The construction of a new paved highway that is longer than 2 km and is designed for 4 or more lanes of traffic.
2. The construction of a new paved highway that is longer than 10 km and is designed for 2 or more lanes of traffic.

D. Energy:

1. A corridor for 1 or more electric power transmission lines that have a cumulative voltage rating equal to or greater than 345 kVA.
2. An energy generating facility, other than an emergency generator, that meets any one of the following:
 - a) it has a production rating of at least 2 MW derived from wind, tides or waves,
 - b) it has a production rating of at least 2 MW and no more than 25 MW derived from hydroelectricity, other than run-of-the-river facilities under 10 MW,
 - c) it has a daily fuel input rating of at least 11 000 GJ and no more than 31 000 GJ derived from natural gas,
 - d) it has a daily fuel input rating of at least 250 GJ, and no more than 2500 GJ derived from fossil fuels other than natural gas,
 - e) it has a daily fuel input rating of at least 4000 GJ and no more than 10 000 GJ derived from fuels other than fossil fuels, but excluding solar power.

E. Waste Management:

1. A facility for storing, processing, treating or disposing of waste dangerous goods that were not produced at that facility, except all of the following facilities:
 - a) a facility operated by, or on behalf of, a municipality or Provincial agency for waste dangerous goods collected only from residential premises,
 - b) a facility in which asbestos waste is stored, if waste dangerous goods are not otherwise processed, treated or disposed of at that facility,
 - c) a facility in which lead acid battery waste is stored, if waste dangerous goods are not otherwise processed, treated or disposed of at that facility.
2. A facility for treating, processing or disposing of contaminated materials that is located at a site other than where the contaminated materials originated.
3. A thermal treatment facility as defined in the *Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations* made under the Act.

F. Other:

1. An undertaking that involves transferring water between drainage basins, if the drainage area containing the water to be diverted is larger than 1 km².
2. An undertaking that disrupts a total of 2 ha or more of any wetland.

CLASS 2 UNDERTAKINGS

A. Industrial Facilities:

1. A facility for manufacturing, processing or reprocessing radioactive materials.
2. A heavy water plant.
3. A pulp mill.
4. A petrochemical manufacturing plant.
5. A cement plant.
6. An oil refinery other than an oil refinery listed as a Class 1 undertaking.
7. A non-ferrous or ferrous metal smelter.
8. A lead acid battery plant.
9. A ferro-alloy plant.

B. Energy:

1. An energy generating facility, other than an emergency generator, that any one of the following:
 - a. it has a production rating of more than 25 MW derived from hydroelectricity;
 - b. it has a daily fuel input rating of more than 31,000 GJ derived from natural gas;
 - c. it has a daily fuel input rating of more than 2,500 GJ derived from fossil fuels other than natural gas;
 - d. it has a daily fuel input rating of more than 10,000 GJ from fuels other than fossil fuels, but excluding solar power.
2. A water reservoir that has a storage capacity of 10 000 000 m³ or more than the mean volume of the natural water body source for which it is a reservoir.

C. Waste Management:

1. An incinerator as defined in the *Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations* made under the Act.