



NWMO Adaptive Phased Management Project Federal impact assessment process and next steps

SOUTH BRUCE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING – JUNE 1, 2023



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada

Outline

- The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- Overview of the Impact Assessment Process
 - Public Participation Opportunities
- Integrated Review Panel Process
- Pre-Planning and Planning Phases
- Next Steps





The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

OVERVIEW



The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency):

- a federal government body;
- accountable to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

The Agency leads federal impact assessments that:

- contribute to informed decision-making in support of sustainable development; and
- help to eliminate or reduce a project's potential adverse effects.



The *Impact Assessment Act*

The *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) outlines a process for assessing the impacts of major projects, including the assessment of:

- positive and negative environmental, economic, health and social effects; and
- potential impacts of projects on Indigenous Peoples and their rights as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.





FEDERAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:
GUIDING CANADA'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



The Impact Assessment Process



KEY PARTICIPANTS IN THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM



Site Selection and Impact Assessment Process



For the Adaptive Phased Management Project, **the impact assessment process will begin *after* site selection has been completed.**



Public Participation in Impact Assessments

Public participation is an essential part of an open, informed and meaningful impact assessment process.

Members of the public may:

- Identify benefits of a project
- Raise areas of concern related to a project
- Provide knowledge specific to their community
- Help inform mitigation measures that could lead to better outcomes



Public Participation in Impact Assessments

When a project assessment begins, a project page will be made publicly available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry

The public may sign up to receive updates on the assessment from the Agency.

There will be various opportunities where participants can share their views on the project:

- Public comment periods
- Information sessions or open houses
- Public hearing



Consultation with Indigenous Peoples

- The Agency seeks to work with Indigenous Peoples to advance reconciliation
- The process provides opportunities to Indigenous Peoples to identify issues of importance, and shares these with the proponent
- Comments sought on key documents throughout the impact assessment process
- Collaboration in the development of the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
- Weaving in of Indigenous Knowledge



Participant Funding Program

The Participant Funding Program:

- helps the public and Indigenous Peoples participate and share valuable insight, perspectives and knowledge

Funding is available during public participation opportunities at key stages of the assessment process.





Integrated Assessments under the *Impact Assessment Act*

OVERVIEW



Integrated Assessments

When a project includes activities regulated under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, the Minister must refer the impact assessment to an independent review panel.

The Agency and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will cooperate, to the extent possible, with the common objective that all their requirements are achieved as “**one project, one assessment**”.

The Agency and the CNSC have developed an agreement that outlines how integrated assessments will be carried out.





Integrated Review Panel

- A review panel is a group of independent experts appointed by the Agency to conduct an impact assessment.
- Review panel members are:
 - selected for their knowledge, experience and expertise relative to a project and its potential effects;
 - selected for their knowledge of the interests and concerns of the Indigenous peoples that are relevant to the assessment; and
 - must be free from bias or conflicts of interest related to the project.
- An **integrated review panel** with the CNSC conducts an integrated assessment that meets the requirements of both the *Impact Assessment Act* and the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*.
 - At least 1 member of the integrated review panel must be from the CNSC roster.



Overview of Pre-Planning Phase and Planning Phase

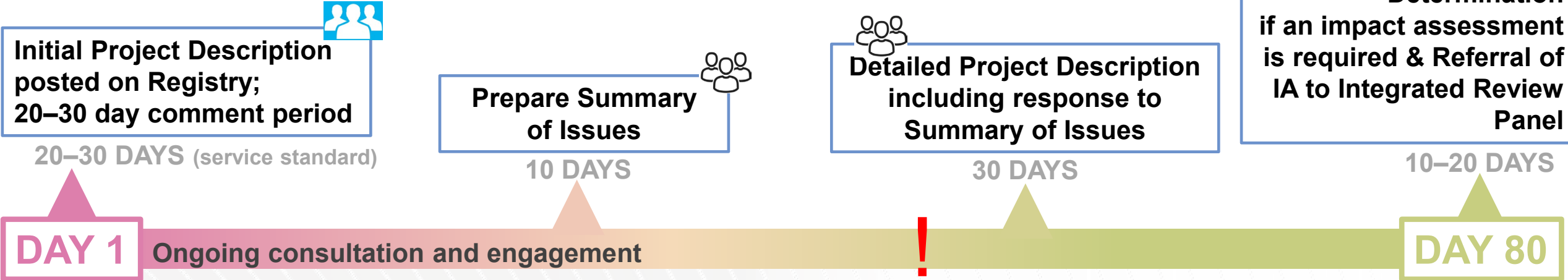
OBJECTIVES, TIMELINES AND KEY DOCUMENTS IN PRE-PLANNING AND PLANNING PHASES



Planning Phase

Key Steps and Timelines


Planning Phase – First 80 days





 Grant Funding released

Proponent may request a time limit suspension
 (After receiving Summary of Issues and before submitting Detailed Project Description, for example)

Key documents

 INITIAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

 SUMMARY OF ISSUES

 DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND RESPONSE TO SUMMARY OF ISSUES

Planning Phase

Key Steps and Timelines

 PUBLIC
 NOTIFICATION Only

Planning Phase – Next 100 days

Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) and Plans

30 DAYS (service standard)

Engage on draft TISG and Plans

30 DAYS

Finalize TISG and Plans

40 DAYS

Issue Notice of Commencement and posts final TISG, Plans, and Notice of the Establishment of Time Limits for the IA Phase

DAY 80



Consultations and engagement continue

\$ Grant Funding released

DAY 180



Key documents

  COOPERATION PLAN

  PERMITTING PLAN

  INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

  PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

  TAILORED IMPACT STATEMENT GUIDELINES

Initial Project Description

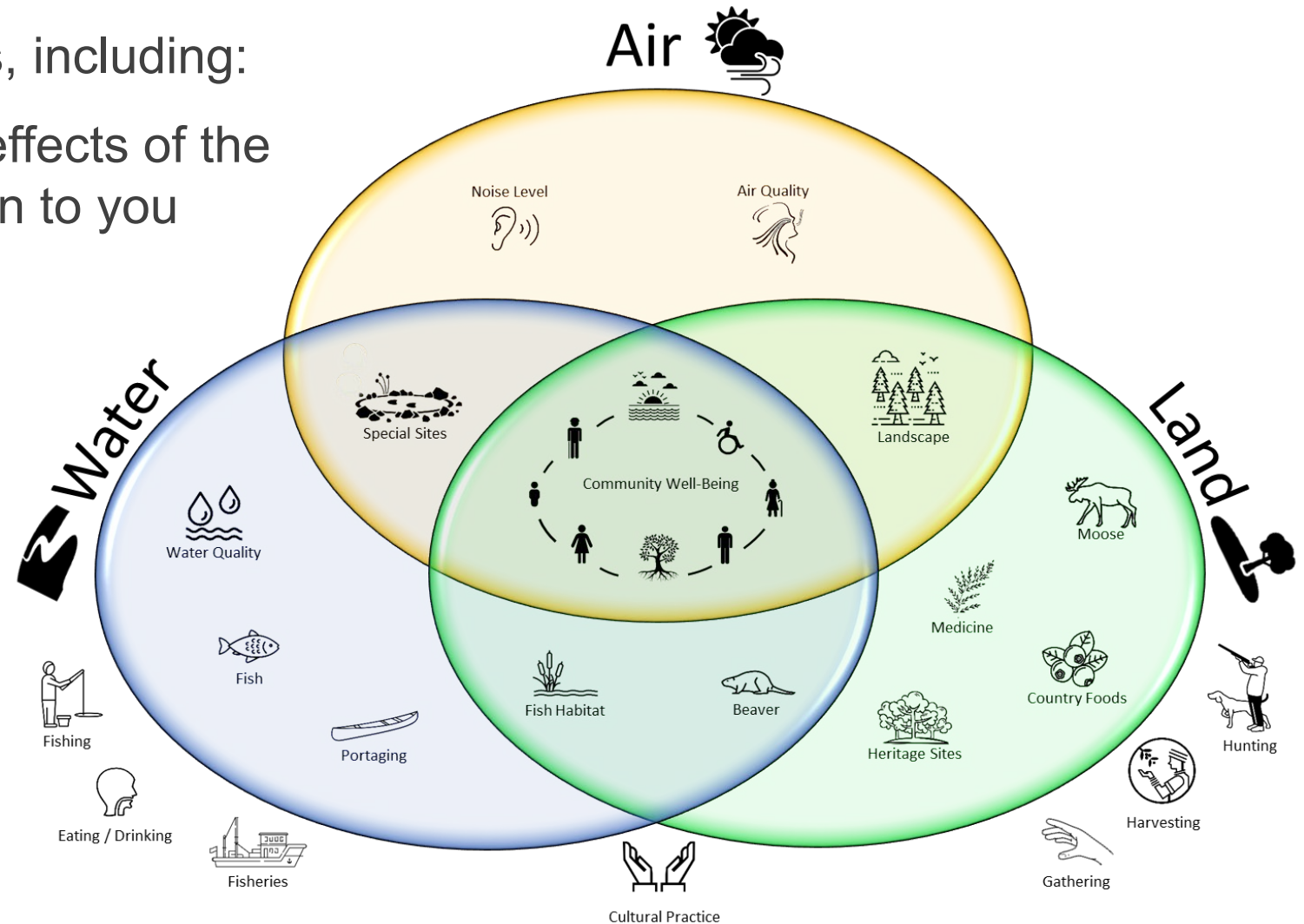
- Prepared by the Proponent
- Includes a description of:
 - the Project and its location;
 - existing conditions (environmental, health, social and economic);
 - potential effects (environmental, health, social and economic); and
 - any Indigenous, federal, provincial or municipal involvement.
- A plain-language summary of information in the Initial Project Description will also be provided



Comments on Initial Project Description

Consider providing comments, including:

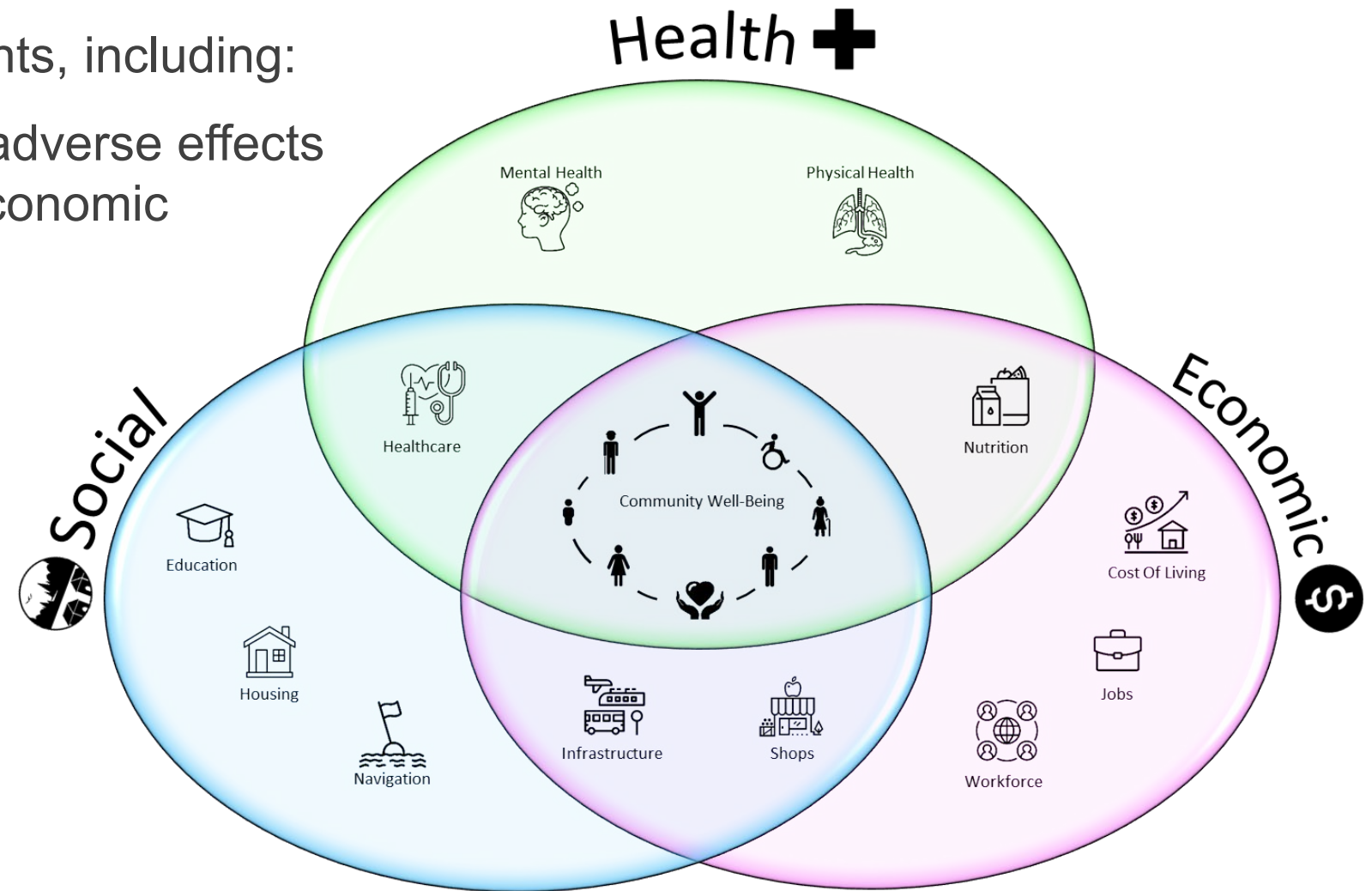
- Potential environmental effects of the project that are of concern to you



Comments on Initial Project Description

Consider providing comments, including:

- Potential positive and adverse effects to health, social and economic conditions



Comments on Initial Project Description



Consider providing comments:

- Identifying potential effects that are of concern to you.
- Identifying places, wildlife, things, or conditions that are important to you.
- Suggesting how the Agency and how the Proponent should engage with you during the assessment process.





Next Steps

NEXT STEPS AND TAKE-HOME MESSAGING



Next Steps

- The Agency and CNSC will continue to participate in pre-assessment engagement and capacity-building activities
- Once a final site is selected, the NWMO will be required to submit an Initial Project Description (IPD), to begin the impact assessment process
- Once the IPD is accepted, the Agency and CNSC will notify the public and Indigenous communities and commence a public comment period on the IPD



Take-Home Messages

- The impact assessment process will begin *after* site selection has been completed
- The Agency and CNSC will notify communities of any next steps in the pre-planning phase of the impact assessment process

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