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.  

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

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.

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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.


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.


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.


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.