

## **Additional Information Requirements For Linear Facilities**

Pursuant to Section 5(2) of the *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation* of the Clean Environment Act, this document is intended to assist proponents in preparing a registration submission for projects involving the above-mentioned sector. It should be read in conjunction with the General Information Requirements as outlined in the latest version of the Registration Guide. Note that the following items are requirements **in addition to** those outlined in the Registration Guide. The information requested in the Registration Guide must also be provided. For further assistance, please contact the Project Assessment and Approvals Branch, Department of Environment and Local Government at (506)-444-5382.

After reviewing a registration submission, the Technical Review Committee may require other information beyond the items listed below and in the Registration Guide.

Note: If your project involves any of the following components please contact the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Atlantic Region at (902) 426-0564 to determine if your project requires a comprehensive study under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act: a) an electrical transmission line that is 75 km or more in length, b) an oil or gas pipeline more than 75 km in length on a new right of way, c) a railway line more than 32 km long on a new right of way, d) a railway line designed for trains that have an average speed of more than 200 km/h, or e) an all-season public highway more than 50 km long.

### **Definition**

This guideline is applicable to linear facilities include major highways, pipelines, railways, electric power transmission lines and linear communications transmission systems that are listed as undertakings in Schedule “A” of the *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation*. To determine if registration is required for a specific project, please contact the Project Assessment and Approvals Branch at the number listed above.

### **1.0 THE PROPONENT**

See Registration Guide

### **2.0 THE UNDERTAKING**

#### **(v) Siting Considerations:**

- Provide a route selection study including appropriate environmental constraint mapping, indicating how the selected route would minimize impacts on areas of environmental significance. In selecting the route, the proponent should distinguish between features where mitigation is possible versus features where there is no feasible mitigation. The process for

selecting alternative routes should be described including any engineering, environmental and socio-economic constraints that were considered. This description should also address site location and design alternatives for ancillary activities or works that are directly linked to the linear project; for example: interchanges, borrow areas, waste rock and storage areas, rest areas, weigh stations, transformer stations, pump stations, etc.

- The route selection study should identify and compare the environmental impacts associated with the alternative routes. Where relative weightings or rankings are applied to the various environmental components listed above, these weightings or rankings should be explicitly stated and justified in the routing study.
- The sharing of existing linear corridors or right-of-ways should be considered where practicable and environmentally beneficial .
- Environmental features to be considered in the route selection study include but are not limited to the following:
  - acid generating rock
  - agricultural land;
  - archaeological resources (known or suspected);
  - avian migration routes including stopover, resting and feeding areas;
  - commercial/industrial activities;
  - communication facilities;
  - deer yards;
  - ducks unlimited sites;
  - environmentally significant areas;
  - First Nation lands and areas used by First Nations for traditional uses;
  - fish hatcheries;
  - hazard lands (flood plains, subsidence risk, steep slopes, etc.);
  - known contaminated sites;
  - fish populations and habitat;
  - forest (mature forest habitats, permanent forest sample plots, tree nurseries/plantations);
  - institutional lands (schools, etc.)
  - landfills;
  - migratory bird staging areas;
  - mines;
  - mineral claims;
  - military lands;
  - municipal well fields;
  - parks (private, municipal, provincial, federal);
  - power transmission lines, pipelines, other linear infrastructure;
  - protected watersheds;
  - protected coastal areas;
  - protected natural areas (terrestrial/marine)

- species at risk and other species of conservation concern; \*
- raptor nests;
- recreational areas (trails, Crown Land camp clusters, etc.)
- residences;
- sugar bush;
- watercourses;
- wetlands;
- wildlife reserves/game management areas; and
- wildlife travel corridors and habitats

\* All species found in the project area that are listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, identified as S1, S2 and S3 by the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, listed under the NB Endangered Species Act, or identified as a species of conservation concern should be highlighted for attention when selecting a route.

### **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT**

Include all relevant environmental features as noted in the Registration Guide.

### **4.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

All anticipated impacts should be described and discussed. These will depend on the scope and complexity of the project as well as the project location. See the Registration Guide for further information. Examples of impacts resulting from this class of project may include but are not limited to the following:

#### Highways

- Provide a description of the impact of the proposed facility on traffic patterns, travel times, traffic volumes, etc.
- Provide an assessment of anticipated pollutant loadings as a result of this project (construction, operation and maintenance phases). Reasonable consideration of project effects on air quality would include quantification of pollutant releases (e.g., particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the project (e.g., vehicle emissions during construction and operation). The contribution of asphalt plants to air pollution and GHG emissions should be highlighted and quantified in the EA. Also, methods to reduce GHG emissions associated with the project, and to minimize the loss of carbon sinks, should be adopted and described.
- Provide an analysis of the anticipated impact of the facility on wildlife movement/migration patterns, including proposed wildlife crossings, fish passage, wildlife fencing, etc. Note that

consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the NB Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be required to determine if wildlife crossing or fences are required. Note that the DNR does not support the approach of combining wildlife crossings with road overpasses or underpasses.

- Planning for highways should consider the effects of the construction, operation and maintenance activities on the quality of groundwater and surface water.

#### All Linear Facilities

- Provide an analysis of anticipated noise impacts on existing adjacent residential and institutional properties (e.g. due to vehicular traffic, compressor stations, transformer stations, etc.)
- Provide a description of existing trails, roads, etc. that would be permanently or temporarily blocked or re-routed as a result of the proposed facility, and a description of the resultant socioeconomic impacts.
- Describe the anticipated impacts to natural features and private lands resulting from increased public access (ATVs Snowmobiles, pedestrians, etc.) to lands via the proposed right-of-way, including a description of any proposed access control plans/features (signage, fencing, etc.).
- Describe the anticipated impact of facility lighting (if any) on migratory birds. Conduct a migratory bird survey (see Appendix 1) on the selected route. Results should be used as input to determine the final alignment.
- Provide an assessment of the impact of proposed maintenance activities (weed control, facility painting, facility cleaning, inspection activities, ice removal, etc.) on public health and safety and on the natural environment, including the quality of groundwater and surface water.

## **5.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED MITIGATION**

Describe all mitigative measures that will be employed to minimize the potential environmental impacts identified above. Measures may include but are not limited to the following:

- Site-specific watercourse crossing designs or procedures will normally be required as a condition of EIA Determination. Preliminary or typical designs should be submitted at the time of registration.
- Provide details as to how protection of groundwater resources will be achieved. Include a discussion of the proposed collection of any necessary baseline groundwater quality and quantity monitoring data for potentially affected wells. Note that in the event that wells are adversely affected by construction or maintenance activities, an alternative water supply must be provided.

- A comprehensive erosion and sediment control plan and re-vegetation/stabilization plan for all disturbed portions of the right-of-way will be required prior to construction. A preliminary or typical plan should be submitted at the time of registration. Final details will be required as a condition of EIA Determination.
- Describe procedures that will limit the impact of construction on migratory birds.

## **6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

See Registration Guide

## **7.0 APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING**

See Registration Guide

## **8.0 FUNDING**

See Registration Guide

## **9.0 SIGNATURE**

See Registration Guide

## **10.0 SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

See Registration Guide

## **OTHER APPLICABLE GUIDELINES**

Wetland Delineation Requirements for Linear Projects – Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Program – New Brunswick Department of Environment

**APPENDIX 1 – Provided by Environment Canada  
General Guidelines for Migratory Bird Surveys  
For Environmental Assessment of Linear Right-of-way Projects**

Version: July 2004

This protocol should be adopted in consultation with Environment Canada and the Department of Natural Resources.

**Main Areas of Concern** (Note: These areas may vary depending on site-specific sensitivities)

- Long term declines of some bird species;
- Loss of habitat and species dependant on those habitats;
- Species, which are little known or for which there exists little population information.

**General Approach**

1. Establish a list of priority bird species for the area of interest, using all available sources, including sources for bird species of special conservation concern<sup>1</sup>.
2. Using habitat maps (e.g. forestry, agricultural, wetland), screen the area for presence of broad habitat classes of avian concern, e.g. older/mature forest, wetlands, grassland/agricultural, salt marsh.
3. Select out largest and/or the most significant of those habitats.
4. Establish protocol for surveys for each of the habitat types (see Survey Protocols below).
5. It is important to consult with Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada and appropriate provincial departments (Natural Resources) regarding proposed methods and approach prior to the finalization of survey planning.
6. Conduct surveys.
7. Analyze results by screening for significant occurrences of bird species of special conservation concern including, but not necessarily limited to, target species identified in consultations with government departments.
8. Write report. Include full database of results, conclusions and recommendations. Review with EC.
9. Provide EC with a full electronic, geo-referenced database of results.

**Survey Protocols**

- Select a survey type that is most appropriate for obtaining information relevant to the case in hand. Survey types for consideration should include, but not be limited to, atlas-type surveys, point counts, transects and spot mapping.
- Surveys must be conducted during the peak of the breeding season (see Survey Timing below).
- Personnel highly skilled in identifying birds in the field should be used to conduct the surveys.
- Vocal playbacks should be used where beneficial (Owl survey, hawk species, some wetland species, species that do not vocalize regularly).
- The areas where surveys are to be focused should be prioritized in consultation with EC.

**Survey Timing**

- For Owl species and early woodpecker species – April. For all other species – early June to early July.

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<sup>1</sup> Bird Species of Special Conservation Concern includes species listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada [COSEWIC]; identified as S1, S2, and S3 by the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre [AC CDC]; designated in provincial listings, or of otherwise high conservation priority under the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI).