

Section 16(a) of the CEAA identifies the factors that must be addressed in the screening (see Table A-2). The screening must include consideration of all phases of the project, such as construction, operation, modification, decommissioning, abandonment and other undertakings.

TABLE A-2
FACTORS TO BE ADDRESSED IN A SCREENING
(SECTION 16(A) OF THE CEAA)

- The environmental effects of the project, including:
 - the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project; and
 - any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out.
- The significance of the environmental effects.
- Public comments, if applicable or received in accordance with the regulations (under current regulations, providing opportunities for public comment is mandatory for comprehensive studies and public reviews, but not for screenings).
- Technically and economically feasible measures that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project.
- Any other matter relevant to the assessment that the RA may require, such as the need for and alternatives to the project.

Some federal departments and agencies may be a source of baseline data, knowledge, or expertise relevant to the EA. Under the CEAA, these federal authorities, known as expert federal departments, must provide specialist information and expertise on the project when requested by the responsible authority. You should ensure that all relevant expert federal departments have had an opportunity to provide specialist information and expertise during preparation of the screening or to comment on the scientific and technical accuracy of the report.

Public input into the preparation of the screening report may be useful in some cases, such as when the proposed project has generated considerable public interest, or if a specific group is likely to be particularly affected by the project. Public involvement often can identify new information or help a proponent identify and respond to specific concerns that could otherwise lead to costly delays in the project.

Step 3: Decide whether or not to proceed with the project, and undertake further action if required

In most cases, you should be able to determine whether or not funding or other support needed by the project can be granted on the basis of the information provided in the screening report and any public comments received on the proposal. You must determine one of the following: