

- the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects and DFAIT's involvement can proceed; or
- the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be justified and DFAIT's involvement in the project cannot proceed.

You cannot grant funding or support if the screening establishes that the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be justified in the circumstances. If you determine that the project can proceed, you must:

- ensure that the appropriate mitigation measures are implemented; and
- arrange for a follow-up program, if appropriate, to verify the accuracy of the EA or determine the effectiveness of any mitigation measures that have been implemented.

In rare cases, further review of the project's environmental effects may be required by means of a panel review or mediation. A panel review will be needed if:

- it is uncertain whether the project is likely to have significant adverse environmental effects;
- the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, and a determination must be made whether these effects are justified in the circumstances; or
- public concerns warrant a panel review.

If any of the above three conditions can be applied to the project under review, proceed to step 4.

**Step 4: Carry out panel review - if required (contact JEN for assistance)**

In exceptional cases, as noted in Step 3, further review of a project may be warranted. The Minister of Foreign Affairs would then refer the project to the Minister of the Environment, who would in turn refer the project to mediation, a panel review, or an advisory committee. The POC Regulations also provide for the substitution of these processes by a foreign review process (such as that of another country or international organization) or by a joint panel review with a foreign state. Any substituted process must meet the general spirit and intent of the CEAA.

If the project is referred to a panel review, you cannot issue financial support to the project until the review is completed. Contact the Environmental Services Division (JEN) for further advice and assistance on the Panel Review process for projects outside Canada.

**Step 5: Inform the public**

If support is provided to the project, you must inform the public of the decision. To realize this requirement, you simply forward a copy of the project screening to the Environmental Services Division (JEN).

The CEAA seeks to promote public participation in the EA process. To help achieve this objective, each responsible authority is required to provide for timely and convenient public access to EA information through a "public registry". The registry includes a listing of all records produced, collected or submitted with respect to each project undergoing an EA. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has established a government-wide registry of such listings in its Federal Environmental Assessment Index. JEN maintains the DFAIT listings on the Federal Index (generally updated monthly).