

SEEA Process Bulletin 2024-4: Submission of completed CNELs to ECCC SEEA Secretariat

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Context

Departments and agencies are asked to submit their completed Climate, Nature and Economy Lens (CNEL) templates to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on a regular basis for quality assurance purposes.

Objectives

The Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment (SEEA) Secretariat at ECCC oversees the SEEA process. The practice of collecting completed CNELs enhances the SEEA Secretariat's ability to assess the health of the SEEA process, notably by:

- Monitoring the function
- Enabling quality assurance
- Identifying needs for future support and training

The regular collection of completed CNELs is distinct from the review of high environmental or economic impact proposals by ECCC and Finance Canada prior to finalization of the assessment and final decision by Cabinet or ministers.

The regular collection of CNELs is *not* intended to create a challenge function of individual proposals parallel to central agency oversight.

When to submit CNELs

A CNEL should be submitted once the sponsoring department or agency finalizes a proposal for which a SEEA is conducted, and the proposal is submitted to the relevant central agency for consideration.

- This includes CNELs that do not include a detailed analysis—i.e., proposals that exercise an exemption as described under Section 2.2 of the Directive and those that do not go beyond the preliminary screening questions.

Where to submit CNELs

The method for submitting CNELs depends on the sensitivity of the overall proposal. Generally, a CNEL should have the same categorization as the proposal it assesses.

- CNELs marked Protected B or lower can be submitted via internal Government of Canada e-mail using Entrust encryption to the OCNE-CNEL mailbox (ocne-cnel@ec.gc.ca).

- For CNEs marked Secret or above, please contact the SEEA Secretariat at the address above to arrange submission.

Additional Resources

For additional resources and guidance, drafters should contact the SEEA experts within their department or agency. Questions from SEEA experts can be directed to the SEEA Secretariat at ECCC at ees-seea@ec.gc.ca.