



Cumulative Effects at the Interface of Regional Land Use Planning and Development Assessment

YESAA Forum on Cumulative Effects Assessment Management & Monitoring
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RLUP Role and CE

- Objectives of RLUP (Chapter 11 UFA and FNFAs) include, amongst other objectives, minimizing actual or potential LU conflicts and ensuring that appropriate policies are applied to management, protection and use of land and water... “to ensure sustainable development”
- YLUPC can make recommendations to Government and affected FNs in relation to LUP, policies, goals and priorities
- RLUP Commissions grapple with CEs and absence of CE assessments to inform their work, and ultimately the RLUP in a manner to minimize actual and potential LU conflict while considering other objectives in their terms of reference (e.g. promote sustainable development)
- YLUPC staff are directly involved in undertaking CEAs, in contributing to the work of Commissions and post commission to approved plan Implementation

Regional plans – An avenue for CEAM

- CEAs are better done by others as an input to the planning process and for broad application in an integrated management framework
- CE thresholds determined by LMU can support project level assessments under YESAA, effectively linking Chapters 11 and 12
- RLUPCs can also recommend that CEAs be undertaken as part of implementing a regional plan
- If RLUPCs are to assume greater responsibility for CEA, they will require additional support and authority

Regional plans integrate information over time and space

- Regional planning occurs at a landscape scale over long temporal horizons
- A wide array of land uses and their accumulated impacts can be modeled and considered through a regional planning lens
- CEA, however, may require larger areas and longer timeframes
- Studies and management frameworks at the global, national or broader regional scale also need to be considered
- Regional planning won't solve *all* our problems

Building a consistent approach to CEAMM through early engagement

- VESECs should be generally consistent across the management spectrum
- Consistent terminology and methodology are critical
- Early engagement in the planning process can help to build consistent approaches

A comprehensive regional planning program can support CEAMM

- Commissions exist for short periods of time and appear episodically in the resource governance structure
- Under the current model, reliance on commissions to address CEs systematically across the territory is not supportable

We need to collectively engage in CEAMM

- No one organization is explicitly mandated to undertake CEAs
- CEA is a requirement for some, implied for others, and yet of vital importance to all of us in our respective mandates

YESAB doesn't directly assess cumulative effects

- YESAA is a project-based assessment framework
- Role of assessors is to determine whether proposed activities are likely to result in significant adverse effects
- YESAB does not conduct separate and discrete CEAs and YESAA does not provide the express authority to do so

Cumulative effects factor prominently in project assessments

- Assessors must consider CEs in determining the significance of project-level effects
- CEs are an important part of the *context* in which project assessments are conducted
- CEs can define the threshold for significance against which the effects of project activities are evaluated
- Consideration of CEs has a profound influence on assessment outcomes

Information drives consideration of CEs in project assessments

- Limited information means the consideration of CEs is qualitative at best
- No express authority under YESAA to acquire information on CEs
- Project proponents have a limited role in CEA
- Project-based assessment is ill-equipped for CEA; other tools and inputs are required
- Regional planning can be an avenue or conduit for information on CEs and for setting significance thresholds

Scoping the relationship between Chapters 11 and 12

- Collaborative opportunities between YLUPC and YESAB
 - Exploring analytical capabilities and applications of the YOR
 - Early dialogue between RLUPCs and YESAB assessors
 - Understanding how regional plans can best support project assessments
 - Working together with other parties to explore means of informing planning and project assessment earlier about cumulative effects

Leveraging regional studies of CEs

- Section 112 of YESAA provides for regional studies of CEs
- Section 112 has never been exercised – no requests have been made of the Executive Committee of YESAB
- Process is unclear leading to confusion and uncertainty
- Regional CE studies can inform regional planning, other planning initiatives and project assessments

Considering regional-scale assessment

- Information on cumulative effects at a regional scale is vital to planning and project assessment
 - Who is best placed to undertake regional assessments and how would they be funded?
 - How should they be structured and staged to best inform planning and project assessment?
 - How would regional-scale assessments be triggered and prioritized? How would they be bounded temporally and spatially?
 - Are we looking at a tiered planning and assessment framework and does this imply an overarching CEAMM strategy?

Conclusion

- We have pointed out both challenges and opportunities for the YLUPC, planning commissions and YESAB to further contribute to the evolution of CEA in Yukon
- We look forward to working with you in advancing CE assessment, management and monitoring in Yukon

Thank you!