

# Project Classification – Template

## INSTRUCTIONS:

After concluding that an authority must make an environmental effects determination (see Step 1 of the Guidance document<sup>1</sup>) and after posting the Notice of Intent on the Registry<sup>2</sup> (see Step 2 of the Guidance), complete the following form in order to classify your project as either **basic** or **non-basic**. Certain sections include explanation and guidance to assist authorities in properly completing the form.

See Step 3 of the [“Projects on Federal Lands and Outside Canada” Guidance document](#) for additional help.

## Section A: Project Identification

<b>Project Title:</b>	
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	
<b>Project End Date:</b>	
<b>Project Location:</b>	
<b>Lead authority:</b>	
<b>Contact Name:</b>	
<b>Contact Title:</b>	
<b>Telephone No.:</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>	
<b>Other authority (ies):</b>	
<b>Other authority (ies) contact information (if required):</b>	
<b>Brief description of the project:</b>	

## Section B: Biophysical Effects

Consider the questions below when answering Section B:

- Does the project have the potential to alter, disturb or destroy vulnerable natural features (e.g. habitat for vulnerable or at risk species, water source for a town, wetlands)?
- Does the project have the potential to contravene sections: 32(1), 33, 36(1), 58 or 60(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*?
- Does the project have the potential to release a polluting substance on or into the land, water, or air?

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<sup>1</sup> Any time the term “Guidance document” is used, it refers to the *Projects on Federal Lands and Outside Canada Guidance document*

<sup>2</sup> Any time the term “Registry” is used, it refers to the *Canadian Impact Assessment Registry*

- Does the project have the potential to cause land use changes (e.g. resource extraction, deforestation, clearing of vegetation)?
- Does the project have the potential to affect any wildlife species (flora and fauna)?
- Does the project have the potential to result in alteration of water level, quality, flow or management regime in a water body, or result in other important changes to surface or groundwater resources (including well water)?
- Does the project have the potential to cause sensory disturbances such as noise and/or vibrations?
- Does the project have the potential to produce GHG emissions and impacts on carbon sinks?

**NOTE:** Answering “Yes” to any of these guidance questions will likely result in an answer of “Yes” for Section B. Further project information or research may be required to answer these questions.

#### Does the project have the potential to cause changes to the environment?

☐ Yes – *Continue to Section B-1*

☐ No – (Classified as a basic project) – *Complete the following Sections D and E, and **MMF (form called Basic Project Mitigation Measures)***

☐ Unknown (Classified as a non-basic project) – *Complete the following Sections D and E, and **EEE (form called Non-Basic Project Environmental Effects Evaluation)***

## Section B-1: Mitigation Measures

The term “**effective and established mitigation measures**” differentiates between mitigation measures that are effective and established versus mitigation measures requiring closer analysis and planning.

Mitigation measures are considered effective and established if they meet all of the following criteria:

- measures have been implemented successfully before in similar situations;
- measures are well understood and are considered reliable
- measures are technically and economically feasible; and
- measures fall in the category of **avoid** or **reduce**:
  - **avoid**: mitigation measure avoids the environmental effects altogether;
  - **reduce**: mitigation measure reduces the magnitude or duration of the impact.

All mitigation measures required for basic projects should meet the above definition for being effective and established mitigation measures. Where mitigation measures that do not meet this definition are required, projects should be classified as non-basic.

#### Can all of the effects caused by changes to the environment be reduced to a minimal or insignificant level by “effective and established” mitigation measures?

☐ Yes – *Continue to Section C*

☐ No (Classified as a non-basic project) – *Complete the following Sections D and E, and **EEE (form called Non-Basic Project Environmental Effects Evaluation)***

## Section C: Impact on Indigenous Peoples and Health, Social and Economic Conditions

Consider the questions below when answering Section C:

- Does the project have the potential to result in changes to the environment that may affect Indigenous peoples, specifically<sup>3</sup>:
  - social, economic, and health conditions, including community health (e.g. impact to an Indigenous fishery resulting from a change in fish population);
  - physical and cultural heritage;
  - use of lands and resources for traditional purposes;
  - any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance;
  - Indigenous culture; and/or
  - potential impacts on rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*?
- Does the project have the potential to result in changes to the environment (e.g. air quality, noise or vibration or availability of food or water) that may affect human health or community health<sup>4</sup>?
- Does the project have the potential to result in changes to the environment that may affect social factors, such as<sup>5</sup>:
  - Services and infrastructure
  - Land and resource use and recreation
  - Navigation
  - Community well-being
  - Structure, site, things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance
- Does the project have the potential to result in changes to the environment that may affect economic conditions, including impacts on specific industries (e.g. commercial or recreational industries)<sup>6</sup> such as:
  - forestry and logging operations;
  - commercial, recreational and sport fishing, hunting, trapping;
  - commercial outfitters;
  - commercial, recreation and tourism; and/or
  - agriculture, including predicted effects to livestock health and productivity?

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from section [19] "[Effects to Indigenous People](#)" of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Template for Designated Projects Subject to the *Impact Assessment Act*.

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from section [16] "[Effects to Valued Components – Human Health](#)" of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Template for Designated Projects Subject to the *Impact Assessment Act*.

<sup>5</sup> Adapted from section [17] "[Effects to Valued Components – Social](#)" of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Template for Designated Projects Subject to the *Impact Assessment Act*.

<sup>6</sup> Adapted from section [18] "[Effects to Valued Components – Economic](#)" of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Template for Designated Projects Subject to the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Consult section 81 of the IAA for more clarity on what constitutes an environmental effect. Note that views and concerns from the public and Indigenous peoples regarding potential adverse environmental effects of the project should be considered in determining whether the project is basic or non-basic.

<b>Is the project likely to have an impact on Indigenous peoples or on health, social and/or economic conditions, resulting from a change to the environment?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – <i>Continue to Section C-1</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> No (Classified as a basic project) – <i>Complete the following Sections D and E, and <b>MMF (form called Basic Project Mitigation Measures)</b></i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown (Classified as a non-basic project) – <i>Complete the following Section D and E, and <b>EEE (form called Non-Basic Project Environmental Effects Evaluation)</b></i>

## Section C-1: Mitigations Measures

The term “**effective and established mitigation measures**” differentiates between mitigation measures that are effective and established versus mitigation measures requiring closer analysis and planning.

Mitigation measures are considered effective and established if they meet all of the following criteria:

- measures have been implemented successfully before in similar situations;
- measures are well understood and are considered reliable; and
- measures fall in the category of **avoid** or **reduce**:
  - **avoid**: mitigation measure avoids the environmental effects altogether;
  - **reduce**: mitigation measure reduces the magnitude or duration of the impact.

All mitigation measures required for basic projects should meet the above definition for being effective and established mitigation measures. Where mitigation measures that do not meet this definition are required, projects should be classified as non-basic.

<b>Can all of the impacts on Indigenous peoples and effects on health, social and economic conditions be reduced to a minimal or insignificant level by “effective and established” mitigation measures?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Classified as a basic project) – <i>Continue to the following Sections D and E, and <b>MMF (form called Basic Project Mitigation Measures)</b></i>
<input type="checkbox"/> No (Classified as a non-basic project) – <i>Complete the following Sections D and E, and <b>EEE (form called Non-Basic Project Environmental Effects Evaluation)</b></i>

## Section D: Project Classification Conclusion

<b>Based on the answers above, the project identified in Section A of this form classifies as a:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Basic project</b> – <i>Requires the completion of MMF (form called Basic Project Mitigation Measures)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-basic project</b> – <i>Requires the completion of EEE (form called Non-Basic Project Environmental Effects Evaluation)</i>

## Section E: Signatures and Approval of Project Classification

Form completed by:

_____	_____	_____ (yyyy/mm/dd)
Signature	First and last name	Date

Approved by:

_____	_____	_____ (yyyy/mm/dd)
Signature	First and last name	Date