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Sent: July 19, 2016 12:44 AM
To: EA Review / Examen EE (CEAA)
Subject: EA review panel: terms of reference

Comments re the environmental assessment review panel

First I would like to register my thanks to the government of Canada for undertaking this critically important review of the environmental assessment process in this country.

The review process as currently laid out is good. There are however, some areas that I believe are either not included or are inadequate as the terms of reference stand.

Major concerns:

The panel needs to consider how assessments will be structured to take into account how Canada will meet the obligations undertaken at COP21 in Paris.

As well as considering environmental impacts both local and regional, upstream and downstream, the committee needs to consider how impacts beyond our borders can be included in the assessment. It is unconscious to offload on other nations the environmental impacts, either on products we export or those we import. For example can not consider that the environmental impacts or local pollution and health effects we inflict by their use of our products is not our concern (asbestos, coal and tar sands material are prime examples).

The panel needs to receive public comment and have its own discussion re the purpose and goals of environmental assessment.

The panel needs to Include expert opinion/papers on relevant topics to be included in the assessment process. In particular it should give careful consideration to the best contemporary solutions to issues such as cumulative effects both local and regional and how they will be considered in the assessment process.

It is important not only to have the comments received by the panel made public or a summary thereof, but for the public to clearly understand how and why the panel incorporated or declined to incorporate those suggestions in their report.

Thank you for considering these points.

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