



File: 30010-02/EAOAR

Reference: 419834

March 10, 2026

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Subject: Seeking input: Proposed Framework for Expedited Environmental Assessments**

Dear environmental group,

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) is currently undertaking a legislative review of the *Environmental Assessment Act* to ensure our regulatory framework remains responsive to the needs of British Columbia while continuing to provide a stable, transparent, and rigorous foundation for major project assessments. As a key component of this work, we are initiating engagement on the development of an expedited environmental assessment (EA) process.

Attached to this letter, please find the “Discussion Paper: A Preliminary Framework for Expedited Environmental Assessment.” This paper describes a proposed 20-month pathway for projects designated under the *Infrastructure Projects Act*. While these assessments will remain governed by the *Environmental Assessment Act*, this new pathway is designed to leverage a proponent’s advanced state of readiness and mature working relationships with First Nations to provide a more streamlined regulatory process.

The Ministry of Infrastructure is currently developing regulations to designate eligible projects and anticipates finalizing this framework by mid-2026. The EAO is now seeking your perspective on the proposed expedited EA process to ensure it maintains the technical and procedural integrity of British Columbia’s environmental assessment process.

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## Information Sessions

We invite you to attend an information session to hear directly from the Ministry of Infrastructure and the EAO. This session will provide an overview of the Ministry of Infrastructure's Project Designation Process and the proposed expedited EA process. The session for environmental groups will be held via Zoom:

- March 26, 2026, from 10AM to 12PM ([register here](#)).

## Timelines and Providing Feedback

To ensure your input informs the initial drafting of the expedited EA regulation, we request your written feedback on the attached Discussion Paper by April 10, 2026. Submissions can be directed to [EAO.ActReview@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EAO.ActReview@gov.bc.ca).

Please note, submissions on behalf of a group's membership, e.g. form letters, petitions, etc. must follow the guidelines in the [EAO Public Comment Policy](#).

To support a predictable regulation development process, the EAO is following a three-stage consultation and cooperation timeline:

1. Phase 1 (March – April 2026): Gathering initial feedback and identifying key priorities regarding the proposed framework.
2. Phase 2 (April – May 2026): Exploring potential solutions and refining regulatory concepts.
3. Phase 3 (Mid-2026): Target for Cabinet decision and finalizing the regulatory framework.

Additional information on the EAO's review of the *Environmental Assessment Act* can be found on our dedicated web page at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/environmental-assessments/environmental-assessment-process/act-review>.

We look forward to the discussions ahead as we work to design the expedited EA process together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Narwani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "N".

Tara Narwani  
Executive Director  
Strategic Policy  
Environmental Assessment Office  
[Act Review Website](#)