

Workshop Agenda

Workshop Agenda	
8:30-9:00	- Registration
9:00-10:30	- Introduction to Draft Environmental Assessment Initiation Guidelines: Concept and Rationale - Group Questions
10:30 - 10:45	- Coffee and Snack Break
10:45-12:00	- Introduction to Draft Environmental Assessment Initiation Guidelines: Content - Breakout Groups
12:00 - 1:30	- Lunch
1:30 – 3:00	- Breakout Groups
3:00 – 3:15	- Coffee and Snack Break
3:15 – 4:00	- Group Discussion and Wrap-up - Closing Comments



Draft EA Initiation Guidelines Workshop

Concept and content development

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Mackenzie Valley
Review Board

Guideline Development Process

- Initial research & thinking ✓
- Concept Paper ✓
- Workshop
 - Concept & content
 - Initial feedback
- Develop complete draft
- Full public review & consultation
 - Written comments
 - Opportunity for meetings
- Review Board decision on how to proceed



Purpose of workshop

We want to hear from you!

Our function:

- Present the concept, purpose, and prospective content of the draft guidelines
- Facilitate session
- Listen

Your function:

- Provide initial feedback
- Share experiences and knowledge



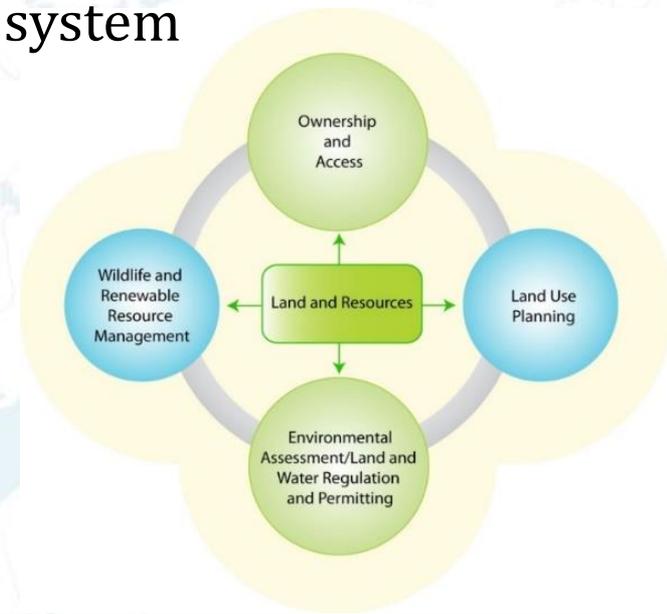
Presentation Outline

- Introduction
 - The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
- Part 1: EA Initiation Guidelines - Concept
 - Why EA Initiation Guidelines?
 - Objective & Purpose
 - EA Initiation Package
 - EA Initiation Guidelines – Outcomes
- Part 2: EA Initiation Guidelines - Content

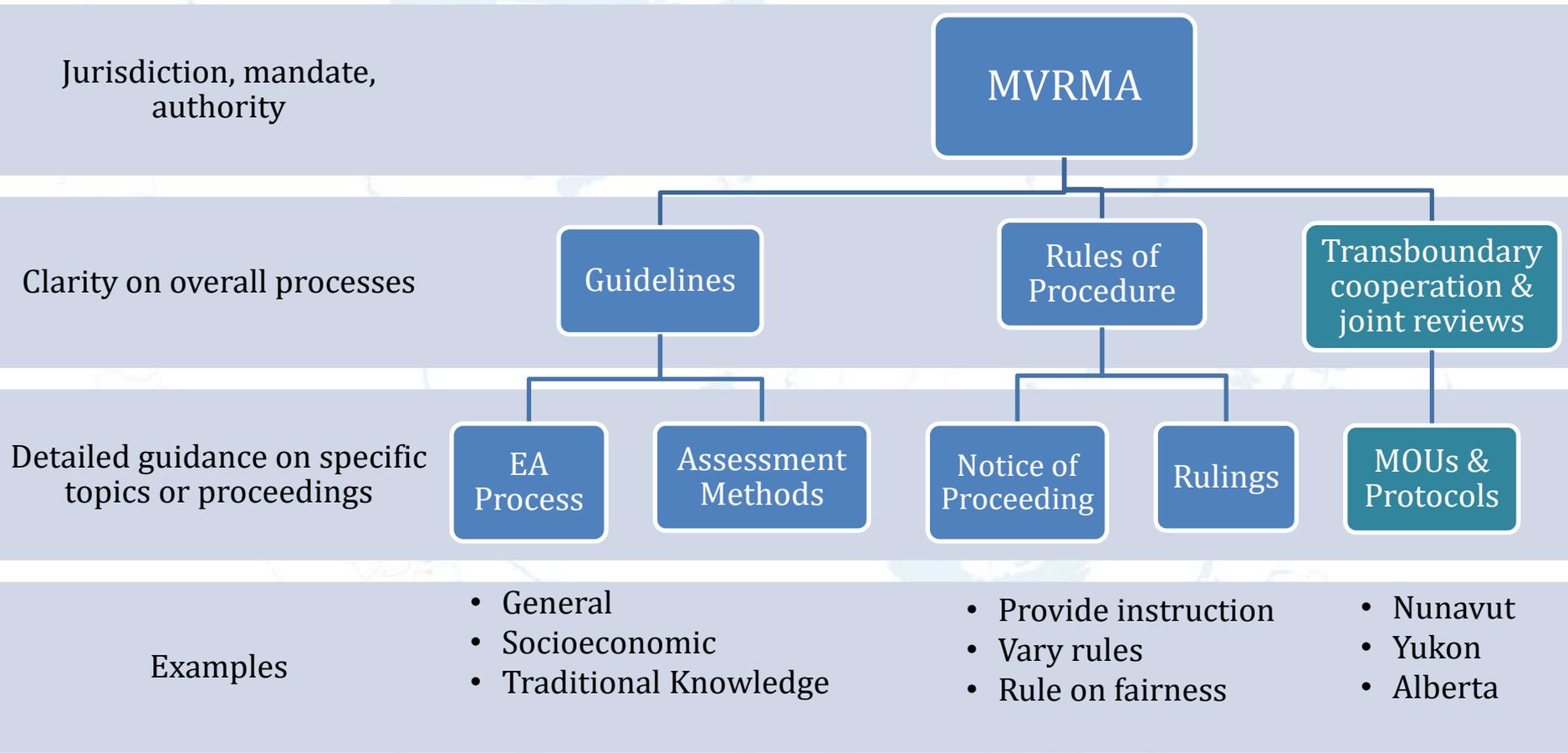


Mackenzie Valley Review Board

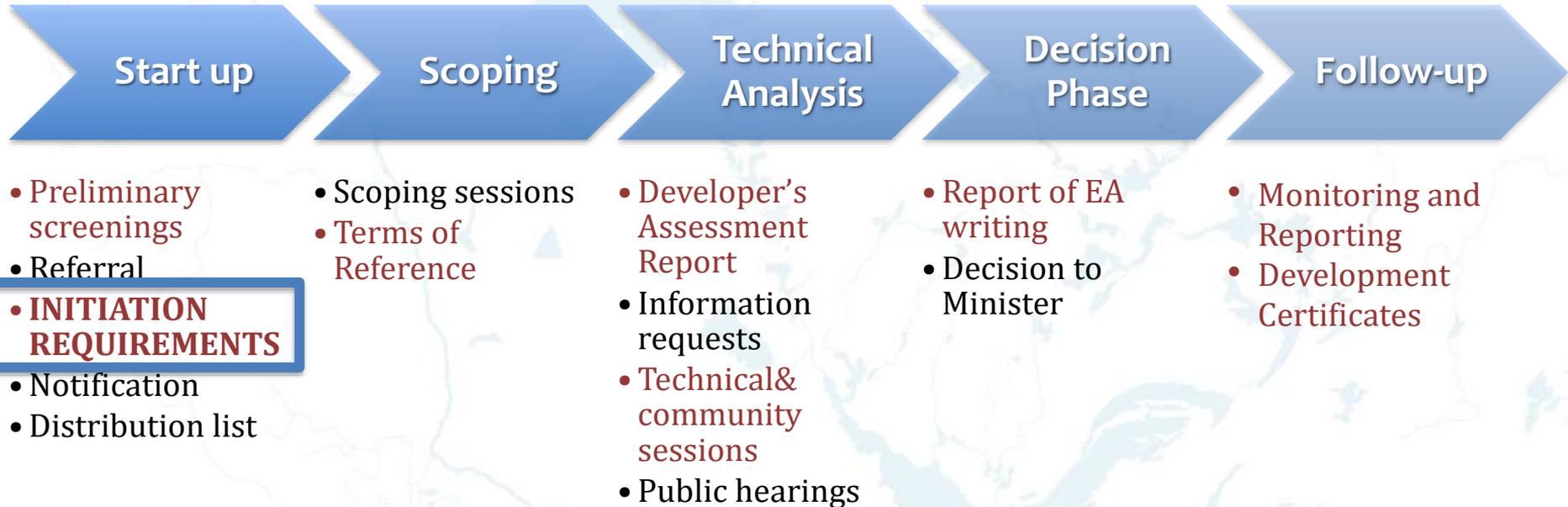
- Court-like tribunal responsible for Environmental Assessment in the Mackenzie Valley
 - Created out of land claim agreements & through MVRMA
 - Part of integrated resource management system
 - Co-management (50% aboriginal)
- Decision maker in EIAs for large or controversial projects
- Guideline and rule-making authority



Policy Framework



EA Phases: New & Future Initiatives



Also: EIA Guidelines, Rules of Procedure, Engagement Policy, Regional/Strategic EA



Part 1: Concept

Environmental Assessment Initiation Guidelines

Information Required to Initiate an
Environmental Assessment



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

Goal

To facilitate a **good understanding of project proposals at the beginning of an EA** to support **efficiency and effectiveness** during EA scoping, and throughout the entire EA process.

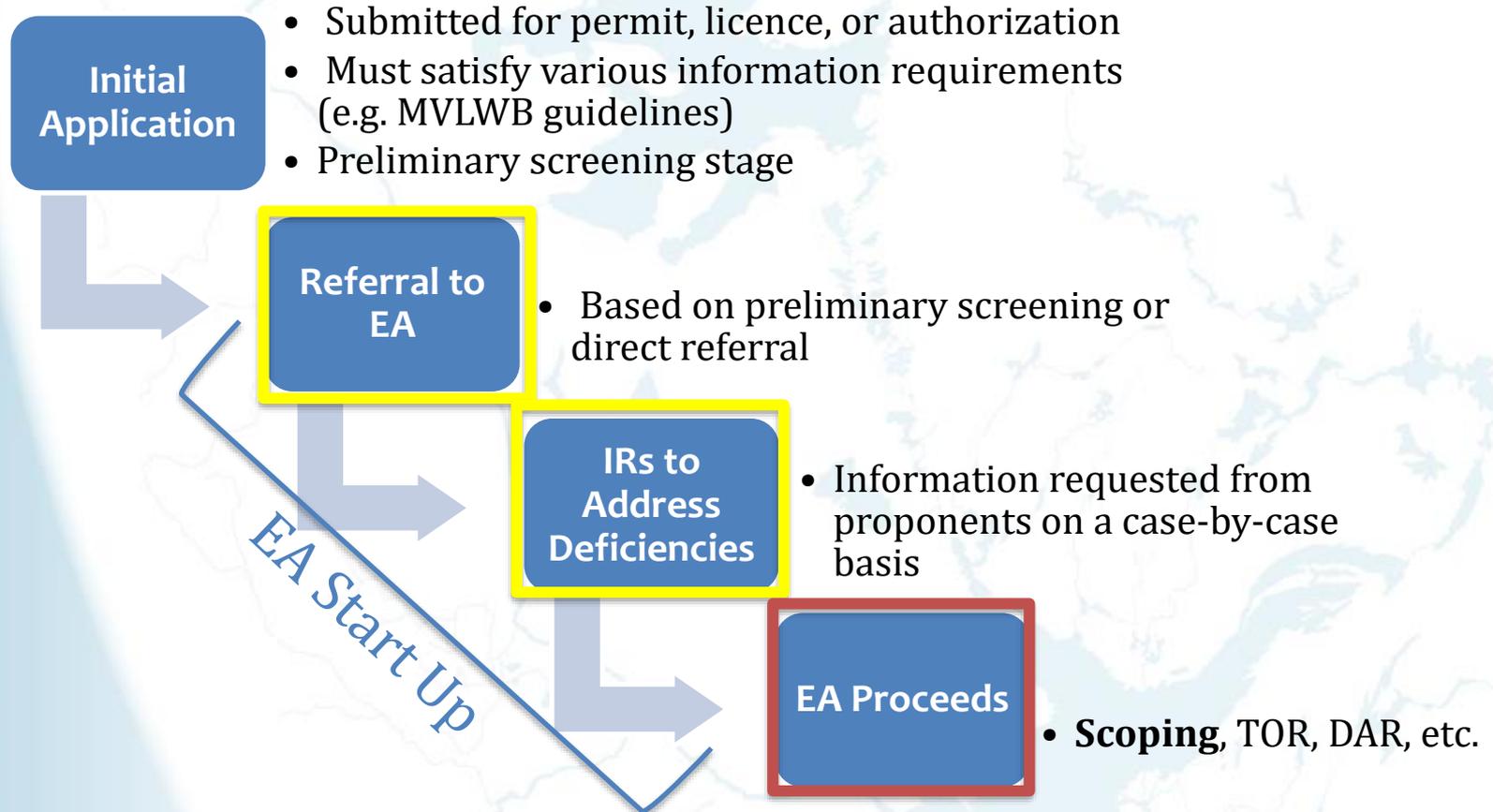
How?

Establish standard information requirements and provide **better up-front guidance to proponents.**



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

The Importance of Scoping



Scoping

- Forms the basis of assessment and frames the subsequent stages of an EA
- **Prioritizes issues** that will be investigated further
 - Most important
 - Least well understood



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

The Importance of Scoping



To scope you need to know...

- **What** is the project
- **What** is the existing environment
- **When** the project would occur
- **How** the project would affect the environment
- **How** the project would be managed
- **How** are people being engaged



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

The Importance of Scoping



Thorough Project Information
+
Accessible Format, Language,
and Presentation

=

Better **understanding** and
informed participation



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

A closer look at EA start up challenges



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

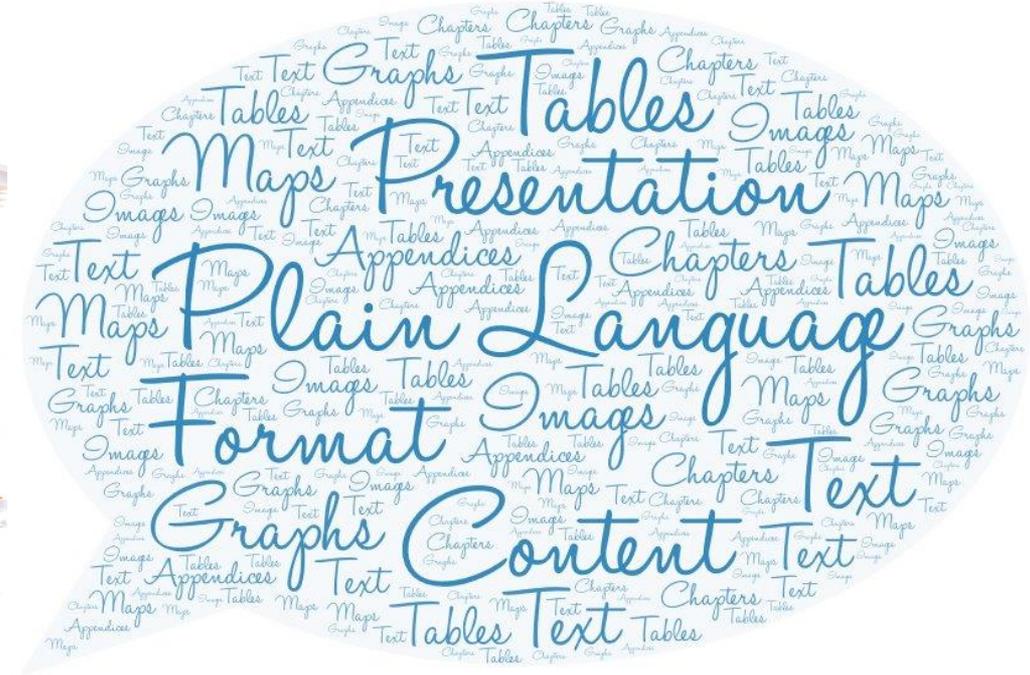


- **Purpose** of the application
- **Experience** of the developer
 - In the Mackenzie Valley
 - In EA
 - In industry
- **Uncertain** project details (e.g., timelines, feasibility)
- **Available guidance**



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

Initial Application

- Process begins with initial applications...
 - Permit/licence application information not entirely relevant - may be too detailed in some areas, lacking in others
 - May not be organized in the most usable way for participants in EA scoping (e.g., templated forms)
 - May need more information or be re-packaged for EA scoping
 - Certain project details may not be ready



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

**Initial
Application**

Information required for EA

**Information for
authorization
application**



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

Referral to EA

- Preliminary Screening referral...
 - Screenings need to consider the whole environment, but start with applications for specific land, water, or other permits
 - Screening applies the “might” test – cursory evaluation
 - EA scoping questions are different than screenings – more and different information can be needed
 - Depth and level of detail changes



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

Referral to EA

- Direct referral...
 - Can be a path to EA
 - Potential to bypass preliminary screening processes, but little or no screening-level review is conducted (project assessment or application completeness)
 - Potential for proposals to focus on EA-related information, but no guidance exists



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

IRs to address
deficiencies

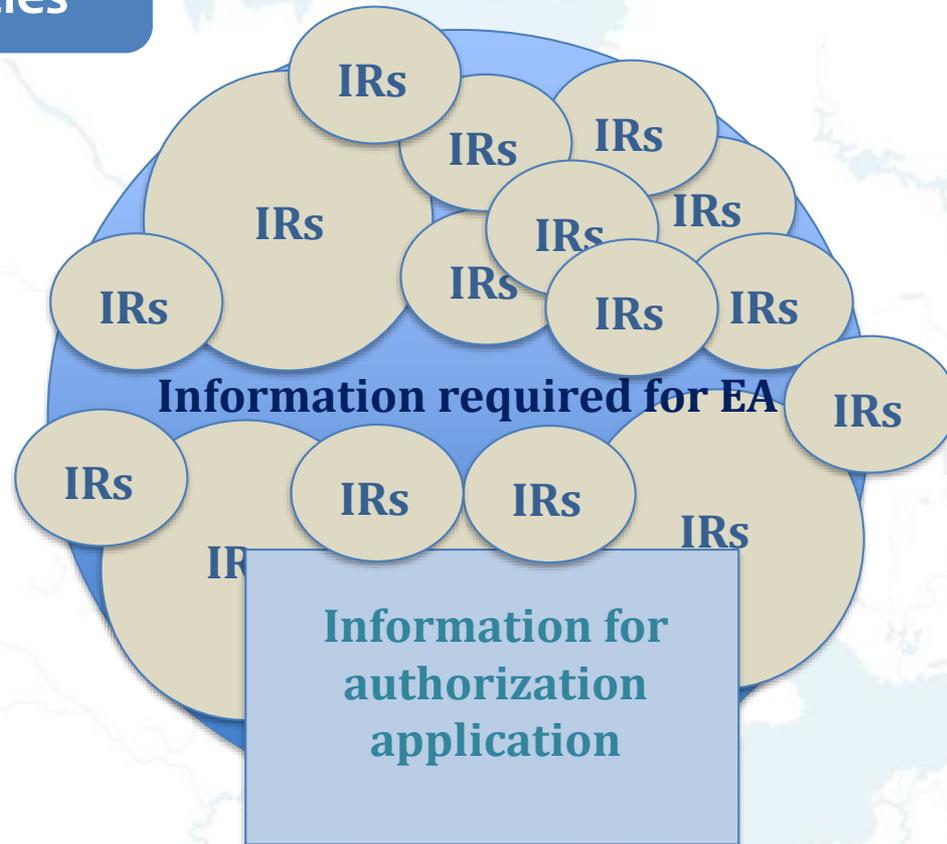
- Information requests to fill project information gaps...
 - Often delays the EA process (e.g., time to identify gaps, respond to IRs, develop additional information as needed)
 - Creates disjointed information package – it's better to build correctly than to repair
 - Distracts from the main focus of EA – understanding and mitigating potential impacts
 - Minimize IRs related to describing the project



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

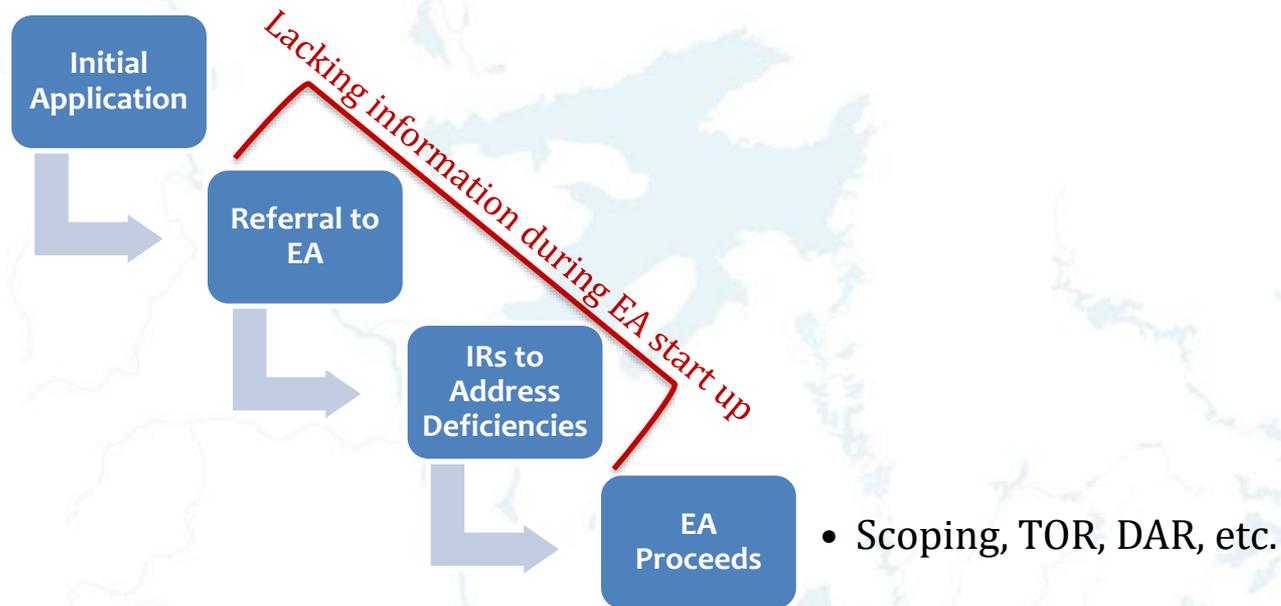
EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

IRs to address deficiencies



Why EA Initiation Guidelines?

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley



- If scoping is ineffective it could result in...
 - Revisiting the scope of assessment later in the EA
 - A less focused DAR – bigger, missing details
 - Process delays
 - A less effective and efficient EA for all parties



EA Initiation Guidelines

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

The Solution: EA Initiation Guidelines - Information Required to Initiate an Environmental Assessment

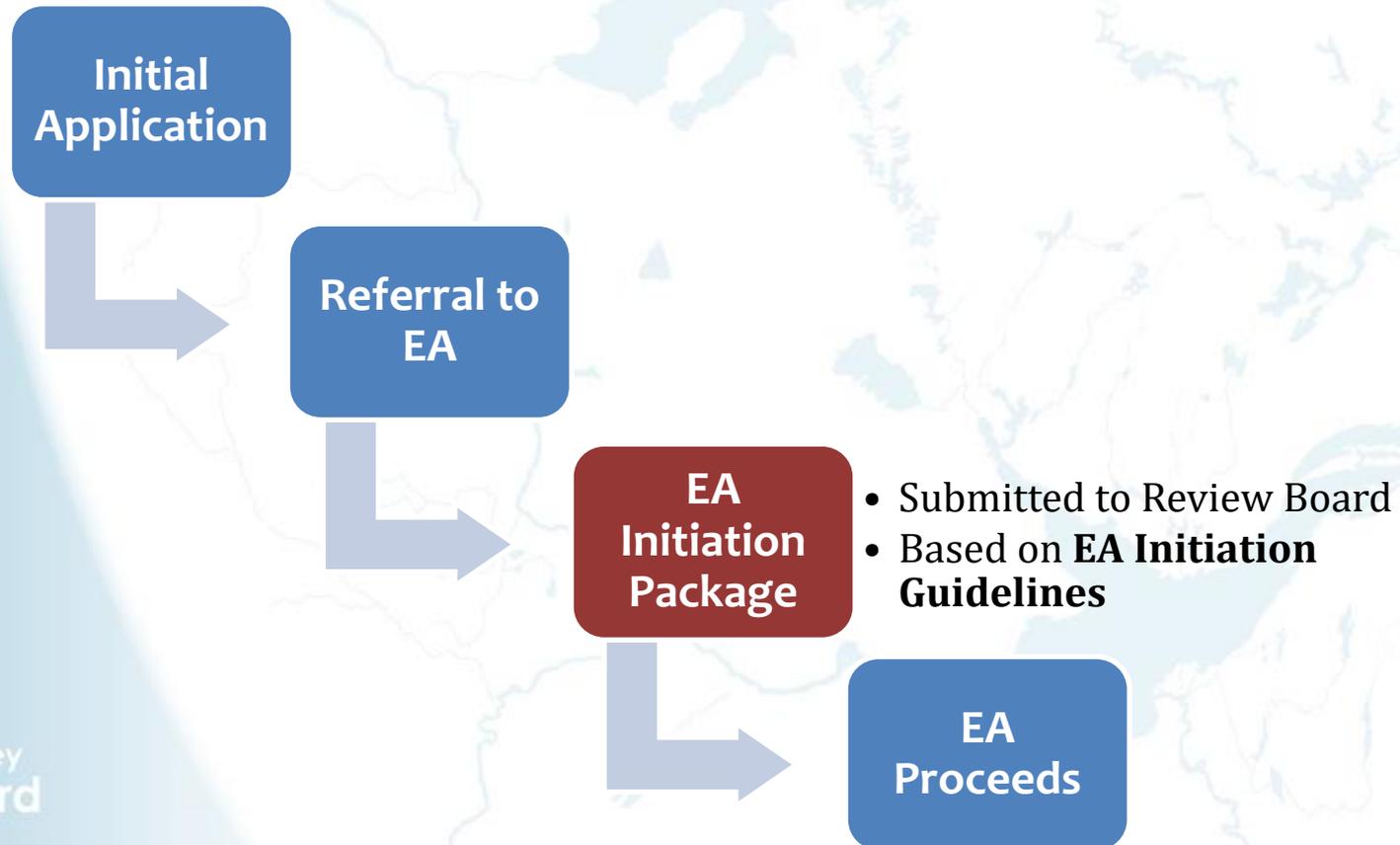


EA Initiation Guidelines

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

EA Initiation Guidelines

- Type, scale, format, and depth of info required to initiate an EA



EA Initiation Package

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

EA Initiation Package

- 1. A comprehensive project description;**
 - Project and developer overview
 - Project components, alternatives, and plans
 - Plain language summary
- 2. A description of the biophysical and human environments**
 - e.g., land, water, wildlife
 - e.g., socio-economic, cultural



EA Initiation Package

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

EA Initiation Package

- 3. Identification of potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures**
 - Conceptual models and diagrams of how the project will interact with the environment
 - Initial descriptions of potential impacts
 - Identification of relevant mitigation measures and management strategies
- 4. An engagement record and engagement plan**

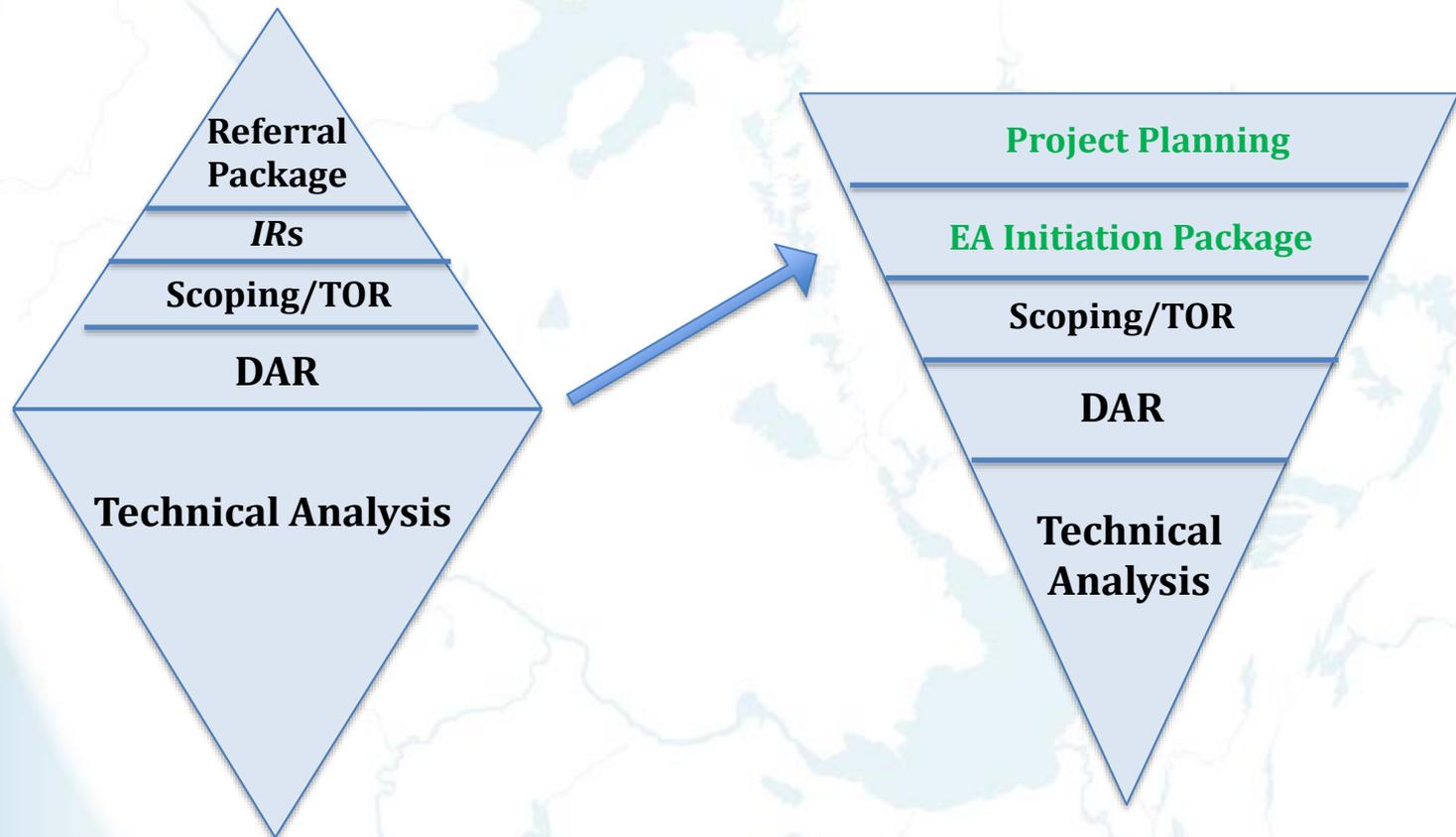


EA Initiation Guidelines

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

Information required for EA

- Not a new concept



EA Initiation Guidelines - Outcomes

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

- Parties will be better able to make informed and timely decisions about their desired level of participation in the EA process, and plan accordingly
- The status of conformity with other processes, such as land use plans, will be clearer during early stages of assessment
- The EA scoping phase, which results in a terms of reference that prioritizes issues to investigate and sets out instructions for the DAR, will be more effective



EA Initiation Guidelines - Outcomes

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

- The DAR and subsequent information requests can focus on the assessment of impacts and mitigations and, where applicable, the investigation of alternatives specified in a terms of reference
- The Review Board and parties in the EA process can focus their efforts on issues related to significant adverse impacts, and mitigation measures that may be needed to avoid such impacts
- Potential delays resulting from information requests related to a lack of understanding of the project itself can be minimized



EA Initiation Guidelines - Outcomes

EIA in the Mackenzie Valley

- Provide a guidance resource for developers



Allow developers of major projects (that typically go to EA) the opportunity to prepare the necessary information in advance, to facilitate a smooth start to the EA process.



A word cloud featuring the following terms: Feedback, Questions, Ideas, Think, Discussion, Input, Thoughts, and Discussion. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern, with 'Thoughts' and 'Questions' being the most prominent.



Part 2: Content

Environmental Assessment Initiation Guidelines

Information required to begin an
environmental assessment



Part II Presentation Outline

- Things to Keep in Mind
- EA Initiation Package – Draft Information Requirements
 - Project Description
 - Description of Existing Environments
 - Identification of Impacts and Mitigations Measures
 - Engagement Record and Plan and Traditional Knowledge
 - Concordance Table



EA Initiation Package

Draft content development

- *Draft* content themes based:
 - Board's experience in past EAs
 - Existing guidance (Board and parties)
 - Co-management workshops
 - Best practices in other jurisdictions



Now we want to hear from you!



Things to keep in mind



What has your experience been like in EA?

- Timelines and availability of information
- Participation in IRs
- Communication
- Consistent level of information in EA processes

What information helps you understand a project and how is that information generated?

- Type of information and level of detail
- Legislated mandate, organizational focus, public concern
- Community consultation, studies, research, etc.
- Format of information

How could we address issues you've encountered in EIA within the draft Guidelines?



EA Initiation Package

- **Project description**
 - Including management plans
- **Description of the existing environments**
 - Biophysical and human environments
- **Identification of potential impacts and associated mitigation measures**
- **Engagement record and engagement plan**

Four
sections



1. Project Description

Purpose

- Thorough project description would provide substantive information to clearly understand the development proposal
 - Information on components, timeline, developer, alternatives, and management strategies
- Guide developers towards the type of information required for scoping, and how to provide the information
- Guideline would not limit the Board's ability to request additional information

1. Project Description

Layout

- Three main parts
 - Project Overview
 - Project Components, Alternatives, and Plans
 - Plain Language Project Summary and Map
- Standalone document
 - Overview and description of components contain more detailed information
 - Appended resources (e.g., plans) summarized and referenced throughout main body
 - Plain language summary would function as a resource for scoping sessions



1. Project Description

Project Overview

- Overview information to capture high-level project information and project-related details
 - General Information
 - Project Purpose, History, and Authorizations
 - Information on the Developer

Project Components, Alternatives, and Plans

- Description of all works, activities, and components of the project
 - Description of each component (activities and physical characteristics)
 - Methods to undertake the component and manage the component
 - Contingencies
 - Summaries of management plans with appended copies of the management plans (including conceptual plans)



1. Project Description

- Discussion and consideration of alternatives
- Monitoring and Management Programs and Plans
 - List of all management plans (including drafts and conceptual plans)
 - Summaries for all plans

Plain Language Summary and Map

- Snapshot description of the proposed development in plain language



1. Project Description

- Reference to current guidelines for management plans
 - MVLWB's *Guidelines for Developing a Waste Management Plan (2011)*
 - INAC's *Guidelines for Spill Contingency Planning (2007)*
 - GNWT's *Draft Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan and Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program Guidelines (2014*)*
 - INAC's *Guidelines for Designing and Implementing Aquatic Effects Monitoring Programs (2009)*
 - MVLWB/INAC *Guidelines for the Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mine Sites in the Northwest Territories (2013)*
 - MVLWB *Water and Effluent Quality Management Policy (2011)*
 - MVLWB *Draft AEMP Guidelines (2010)*



2. Description of Existing Environments

Purpose

- To obtain information on environmental conditions in the project area and set context for consideration of potential impacts
 - Biophysical Environment
 - Human Environment
- Where relevant, developer should differentiate between *current* environmental conditions and *natural* background conditions



2. Description of Existing Environments

Approach

- Responsibility of the developer to describe components of the environment relevant to the project type
- Components of importance to Aboriginal peoples and public should be identified through early engagement
- Description of the project area and areas where project-related effects could occur (local and regional environmental conditions)



2. Description of Existing Environments

Approach continued...

- Multiple sources should be accessed to identify and describe relevant components of the environment
 - Collection and use of baseline
 - Site-specific information from project planning resources (e.g., public data, community engagement)
 - Professional experience
- Identification of current and historical environmental trends



3. Identification of Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Purpose

- Would provide a preliminary description of project interactions with the environment
- Present a cursory evaluation of potential impacts to the environment
- Provide a description of proposed mitigation measures

Informs subsequent stages of the EA process (scoping, TOR, DAR)



3. Identification of Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- Should also include a discussion on the effects of the environment on the project
- Descriptions of impacts and mitigation measures supported by:
 - Impact models or diagrams to support descriptions and identify interactions between the project and the environment, and potential impacts
 - Tables to summarize and describe potential impacts



4. Aboriginal & Public engagement and Traditional Knowledge

Purpose

- Would clearly identify engagement undertaken during project planning, and what would continue throughout the EA and the project
- Builds on MVRMA subsection 114(c)
 - Part of the purpose of the EIA process is to ensure that the concerns of Aboriginal peoples and the general public are taken into account
- MVEIRB's *Guidelines for Incorporating Traditional Knowledge in Environmental Impact Assessment*



Concordance Table

EA Initiation Package Information Requirements			
1.0 Project Description			
Section	Description	Applicable Section in EA Initiation Package	Applicable Sub-Section in EA Initiation Package
Part I Plain Language Summary	Developers are required to provide a plain language summary (the summary) of the project description. The summary should provide an effective snapshot of the proposed development and introduce details on the proposed project and the developer that will be further expanded in more detailed sections of the project description.	Section 1	1.1
Part II Project Overview	1. General project information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Project Title</i> b) <i>Name and address of the developer</i> c) <i>Project Type</i> d) <i>Project Location</i> e) <i>Project Timeline</i> f) <i>Equipment</i> g) <i>Labour Force and Human Resources</i> 	Section 2	2.1
Part II Project Overview	2. Purpose of the Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Project objectives, goals, use of end-products</i> b) <i>Need for project and benefits</i> 	Section 2	2.2
Part II Project Overview	3. Project History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Regulatory History</i> b) <i>Site History</i> 	Section 2	2.3
Part II Project Overview	4. Project Authorizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Required permits, licenses, and authorizations</i> b) <i>Conformity with habitat management plans</i> 	Section 2	2.4

Environmental Assessment Initiation Guidelines

**Information Required to Initiation an
Environmental Assessment**



Things to keep in mind



What has your experience been like in EA?

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- Communication
- Consistent level of info EA in processes

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