

Considerations for the Timing of the Environmental Assessment process

**Presented to the Advisory Group June
11, 2003**

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Environmental Assessment Timing

Scenario 1

- Start Now
- Develop Alternative Solutions

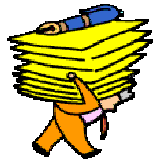
Scenario 2

- Start after Alternative Solution chosen
- Niagara

Scenario 3

- Start Following Alternative Methods

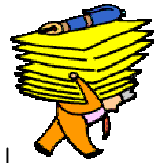
When to Start the Environmental Assessment Process?



Scenario 1

Considerations:

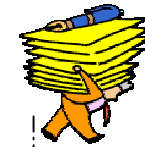
- Public Consultation in all three phases:
 - Terms of Reference (TOR)
 - Environmental Bill of Rights Registry (BOR)
 - EA Study
- EA process is followed with a range of alternative solutions
- Undertaking is not yet known
- Terms of reference tends to be very general because the undertaking is unknown



Scenario 2

Considerations:

- Focus debate on preferred alternative
- Develop a consensus at political level (political buy-in) on direction (preferred alternative)
- Engages public in consultation but not in formal EA context
- Opens criticism that EA process not followed – may void process
- Undertaking is known
- More criticism on preferred alternative (how did we get there?)



Scenario 3

Considerations:

- Siting options in place with short list of sites
- Public presented preferred alternative/solution
- Focussed consultation with project specifics in place
- EA provides cataloguing of planning/studies/outcome
- Consultation provided by local community
- Argument that EA planning process not followed
- EA (now engaged) may come up with different results, different sites, TOR
- TOR may not link with the preferred alternative based on minister's decision.