
Section 23 Schedule 3

Contents of an Environmental and Social Impact Statement

1. Introduction

This Schedule describes the objectives, preparation and contents of an environmental and social impact statement prepared pursuant to this Section of the Agreement. In the exercise of his functions, and duties pursuant to this Section of the Agreement, the Administrator shall give due consideration to the provisions of this Schedule.

The environmental and social impact assessment procedure provides for the Administrator pursuant to paragraph 23.3.17 to instruct the proponent respecting the preparation of a preliminary or a final impact statement.

The preliminary environmental and social impact statement will evaluate site alternatives for the development and provide information for the determination of the need for a final statement of the retained alternative. The preliminary statement should be based on existing information and on information from reconnaissance or survey studies.

The final or detailed environmental and social impact statement of the retained alternative would be based on a much deeper knowledge of the environmental and social implications of the development.

The inclusion of specific items in the preparation of an impact statement will depend upon the nature and extent of the proposed development. Items potentially affected should be included in the report. Pursuant to paragraph 23.3.17, the Administrator shall decide to what extent these guidelines for contents are appropriate in specific cases, and should be incorporated into a given impact statement.

II - Objectives

An impact statement should identify and assess clearly and in as factual a manner as possible, the environmental and social impacts induced by the project, especially those on the Native populations potentially affected.

The main objectives of an environmental and social impact statement are to ensure that:

- Environmental and social considerations form an integral part of the proponent's planning and decision-making process.
- Potential environmental and social impacts resulting from development are identified as systematically as possible.

- Alternatives to the proposed action, including alternatives to individual elements of large scale projects, will be evaluated with a view to minimizing within reason impacts on Native people and wildlife resources and maintaining the quality of the environment.
- Remedial or preventive measures will be incorporated into proposed development so as to minimize within reason expected negative impacts.
- The EQC, the Review Panel and the Administrator are adequately informed to be able to take the decisions for which they are responsible under this Section.

In general, the impact assessment procedure should contribute to a further understanding of the interactions between Native people, the harvesting of wildlife resources and the economic development of the Region, and also to promote understanding of ecological processes. The impact statement is expected to be short and concise and contain an adequate guide to the contents and to the conclusions of the study, and it should also contain a clear summary containing the essential arguments and findings of the proponent. The statement may be in French or in English at the option of the proponent.

III - Contents

The following outline gives the major headings that should be included in any impact statement.

1. Description of the Project

The following should be included in the project description:

- a) Purpose and objectives.
- b) Location or alternative locations being considered.
- c) Identification of area and human populations potentially affected by each project location being considered.
- d) Physical plant, activities involved in construction phase of development, including an estimate of size and composition of work force.
- e) Material/energy balance for the plant (Input / Output).
- f) Physical and human requirements for operation phase of the project.
- g) Possible future phases of the development.

2. Environmental and Social Setting

The state of the environmental and social setting should be described before the proposed development begins, in order to have a reference point for the evaluation of the impacts of the development.

The description should not only include the identification and description of the components identified below, but should equally consider their ecological relationships, their interaction, and when appropriate, their scarcity, sensitivity, productivity, variety, evolution, location, etc. The level of details provided in the description should be based upon the importance, and the implications of the specific impacts involved.

The following is a representative list of the items that could be considered in the environmental and social setting. Any item potentially affected should be included.

Environmental Conditions

Lands

Physical:
- topography
- geology
- soil and drainage
Vegetation
Fauna

water

Physical:
- hydrology
- quality

Vegetation
Fauna

Air

Climate

Micro-climate
Quality

Social Conditions

Populations:
- demography
- residence
- ethnic composition

Institutions:
- education
- utilities
- transportation
- other service institutions

Land Use:
- settlements and habitations
- basic utilities
- roads
- harvesting patterns
- known archaeological sites
- cemetery and burial sites

Health and Safety

Social organization:
- Family
- community
- ethnic relations

Harvesting:
- Use of various species
- importance

Culture:
- values
- goals and aspirations

Income and Employment:

- standard of living
- employment
- enterprises

3. Predicting and Evaluating Probable Impacts

This part of the Schedule involves the identification, evaluation and synthesis of impacts associated with the headings referred to in the part o; this Schedule entitled "Environmental and Social Setting".

The proponent may, at his discretion, include in his statement a section on information and questions submitted by the community potentially affected. Where he considers it appropriate the proponent may discuss and comment upon such information or questions.

This section of the statement should consider, whenever appropriate, direct, indirect and cumulative impacts; short term and long term impacts; reversible or irreversible impacts.

Attention should also be given to impacts occurring at different phases of the development, and on different scales, i.e. local, regional or national scale. The proponent should in his prediction and evaluation of impacts discuss the reliability and adequacy of the information used, limitations imposed upon his study by the unavailability of information, and areas of significant uncertainty and risk.

4. Alternatives to the Proposed Project

When justified by the nature of the project, there should be a section which explores and objectively assesses the impact on the Native people and on the environment of reasonable site alternatives of the project in the Region and/or of reasonable alternatives to certain elements of the proposed project. These alternatives should be considered with a view to optimize as much as reasonably possible the positive effect of the development of the environment, taking into account environmental, socio-economic and technical considerations and to minimize negative impacts including impacts on the affected population, as reasonably as possible. Where the gross impact of alternative actions differs significantly, the analysis should be sufficiently detailed to permit the comparative assessment of the costs, benefits, and the environmental risk to the different interested populations between the proposed project and the available options.

5. Corrective and Remedial Measures

The proponent should include in the statement a section identifying and evaluating reasonable remedial or corrective measures which should reduce or alleviate the negative impact of the proposed development on Native people, wildlife resources of the Region and: the quality of the environment in general. Measures aimed at enhancing positive impacts induced by the project should also be included in this Section.