



Environmental
Assessment Office



Understanding the BC Environmental Assessment Process

Presentation to the District of Squamish LNG Committee

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Presentation Outline

1. Environmental Assessment (EA) Process
2. Roles and Responsibilities of EA Participants, including local government

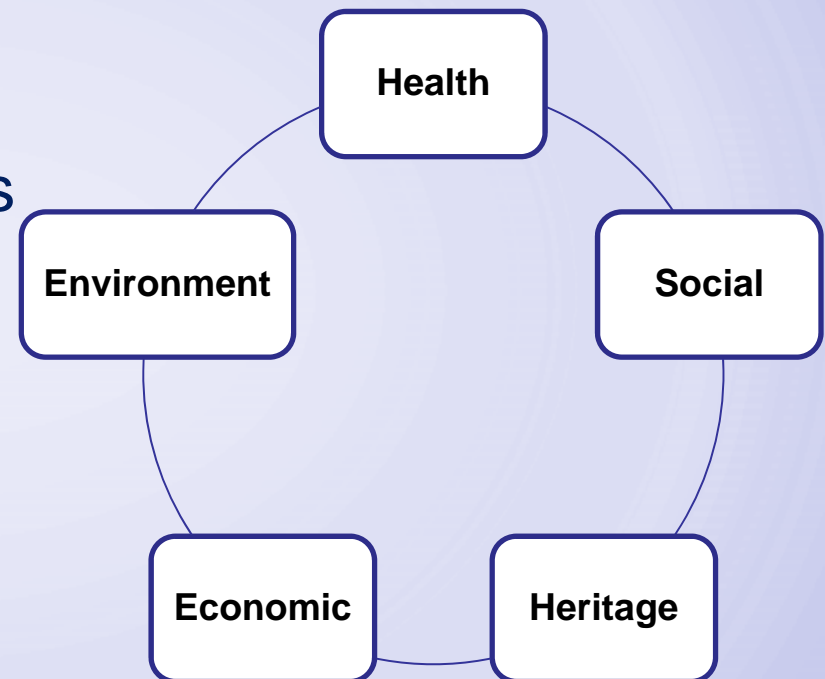
Presentation Objectives

1. Increased understanding of EA process
2. Increased understanding of the involvement of local governments
3. How to provide input into the EA of the proposed Woodfibre LNG Project



Purpose of Environmental Assessment

- Identify & evaluate potential effects of a proposed project, including cumulative effects
- Identify ways to avoid or mitigate adverse effects





Role of Environmental Assessment Office

- EAO is independent provincial agency responsible for administering the BC *Environmental Assessment Act*
- Leads the BC environmental assessment process
- Fulfills Crown's legal duty to First Nations
- Makes recommendations to ministers on Environmental Assessment Certificate applications



Major Projects are Subject to EA

- Projects that meet or exceed threshold triggers
- Projects identified by the Minister of Environment
- Projects accepted for review at a proponent's request

Project requires an Environmental Assessment Certificate to proceed with permitting and construction

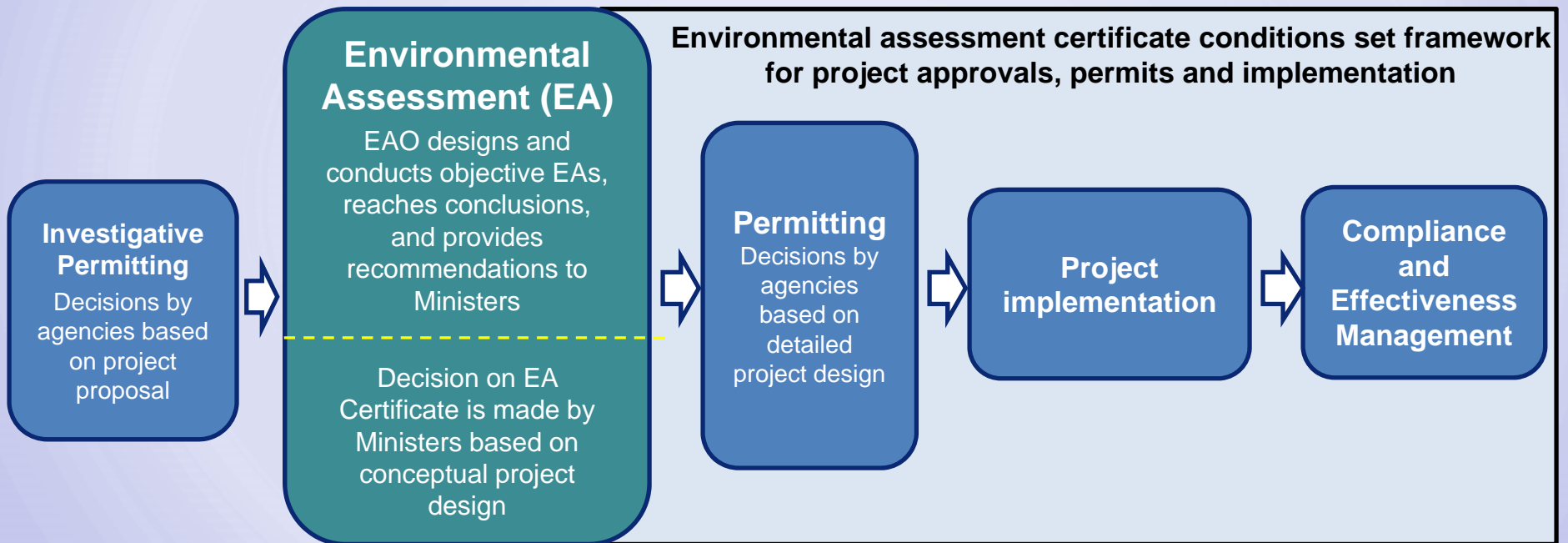


Federally Reviewable Projects

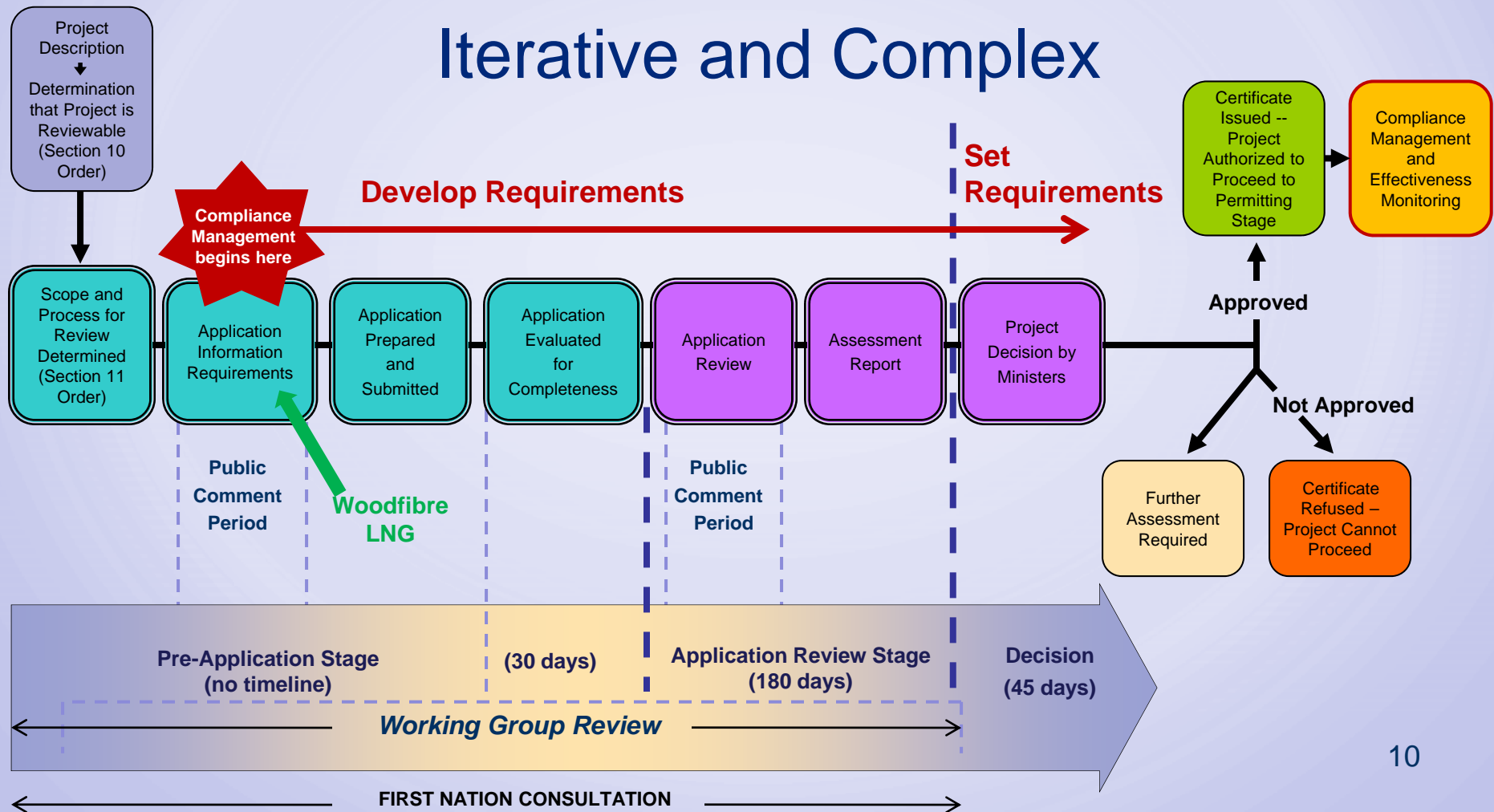
- ~2/3 of proposed projects trigger both federal and provincial environmental assessment
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) determines reviewability - [Regulations Designating Physical Activities](#)
- BC-Canada MOU for Substitution

Steps in the Environmental Assessment Process

Project Development Framework



Environmental Assessment Process Iterative and Complex





Pre-Application Stage *Understanding Project, Identifying & Collecting Information*

- Project description and scope of the EA
- Working Group initiated
- Valued components identified
- Application Information Requirements developed
- Public consultation and First Nations consultation initiated



Application Review Stage

Analyses, Conclusions & Recommendations

- Proponent submits Application, including:
 - Baseline information
 - Expected impacts of proposed project
 - Commitments to avoid or minimize impacts
- Public comment period
- Technical review by government agencies and First Nations
- Assessment Report prepared by EAO
- Recommendations to provincial and federal Ministers

Decision by Ministers

- Two Provincial Ministers make decisions:
 - Minister of Environment
 - Minister of Natural Gas Development
- Federal Minister of Environment makes decision
- Project requires approval from BOTH provincial and federal Ministers to proceed (substitution process)



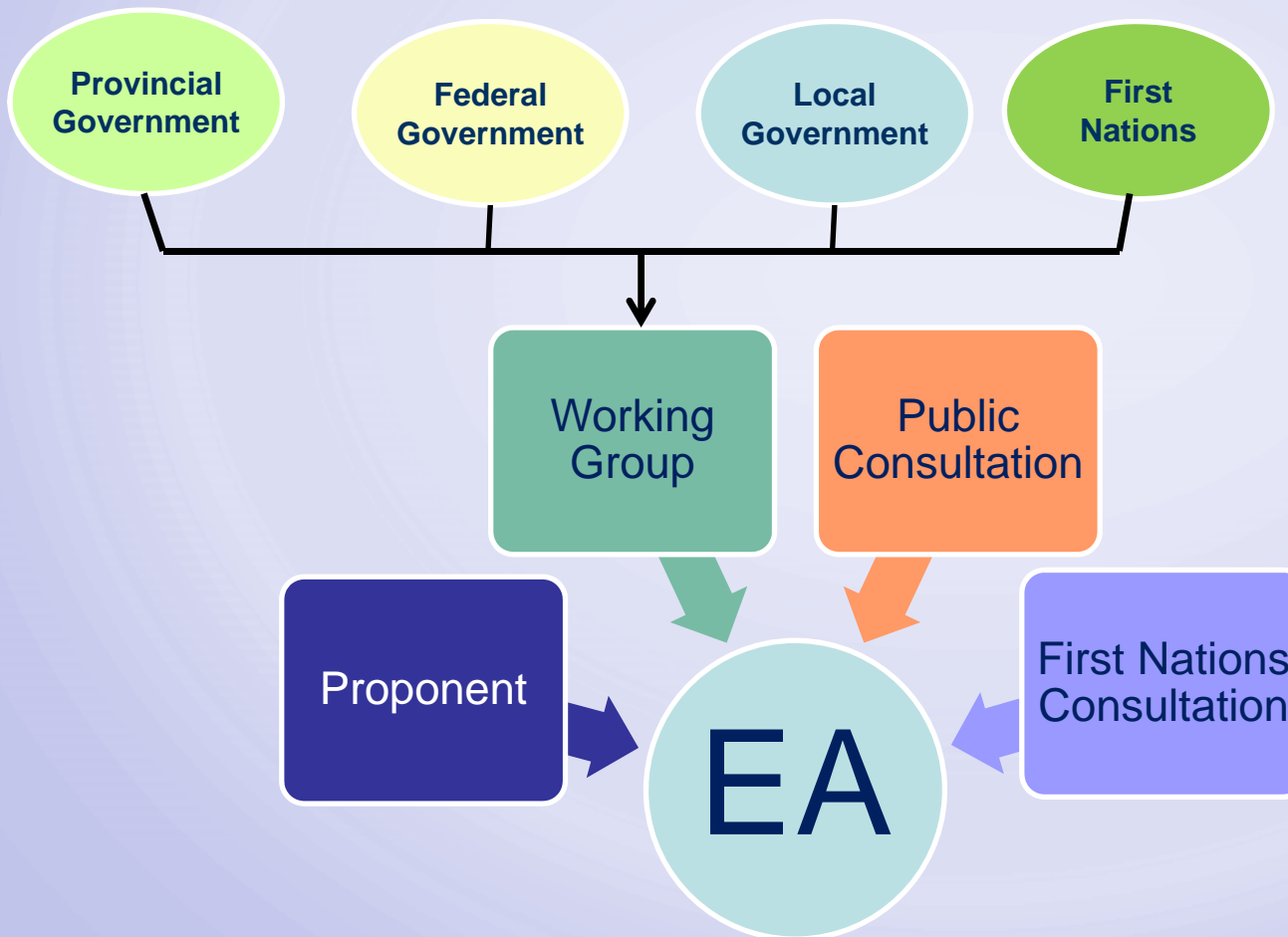
If Approved...

Permits Required and Monitoring Continues

- Permits and authorizations required
- Proponent can build project, as certified
- Conditions attached to EA Certificate
- Certified Project Description
- Project monitoring and compliance management

Roles & Responsibilities of Environmental Assessment Participants

EA is Comprehensive and Inclusive



Local Governments sit on the Working Group: Provides advice to EAO, including technical issues, information requirements related to the EA and potential mitigation measures



Public Consultation *providing local input*

- Local information, priorities and concerns
- Public Comment Periods at key stages in EA
- Public comments posted on EAO website
- Proponent provides responses to comments
- EAO reports to Ministers on the key issues raised by the public during the EA



First Nation Consultation

- Consultation occurs throughout the EA process
- EAO engages in direct government-to-government consultation with First Nations
- EAO requires proponents to conduct meaningful engagement with First Nations
- Participation on Working Groups



Thank you

Questions?