

Summary of the Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Science and Knowledge

May 24/25, 2023

In-person/hybrid Meeting

Meeting Objective

There were six objectives for this meeting. The first objective was to welcome new and returning members to the committee, provide Agency updates and an overview of the TAC's work to-date, as well as discuss how the committee will work together moving forward. The second objective was to receive updates from the Biodiversity Subcommittee and Joint TAC/IAC Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science Subcommittee and discuss next steps for FY 2023-24. The third objective was to for the Agency to provide the TAC with information on the Cedar LNG Project. The fourth objective was to discuss the TAC's priority topics and forward agenda/work plan for 2023-24. The fifth objective was to for the TAC to have an initial scoping discussion about Alternatives to/Alternative means as a potential priority topic for next fiscal year. The sixth objective was for the Agency to provide the TAC with information about planned improvements to the Agency Registry and solicit TAC feedback.

Agenda Item: Opening Remarks and Welcome from Agency President

- The Agency provided a territorial acknowledgement for the land on which the Agency representatives were located.
- The Agency's President welcomed new and returning members, provided an overview of Agency priorities and discussed the importance of the TAC at this stage of IAA implementation.

Agenda Item: Overview of TAC Work to-date

- Co-Chairs provided the TAC with an overview of previous topics/work undertaken by the TAC since the committee's establishment and facilitated a discussion about how the committee will work together and collaborate.

Agenda Item: Update from Joint TAC/IAC Indigenous Knowledge and Science Subcommittee

- The subcommittee co-champion provided the TAC with an update on the subcommittee's work to date.
- The subcommittee intends to deliver a simple tool to provide practical recommendations to staff about what they should be communicating to decision-makers for the consideration of Indigenous knowledge and science in the IA decision-making process.

Agenda Item: Biodiversity Subcommittee – Updated Draft Advice & Next Steps

- The subcommittee co-champion welcomed new TAC members and provided the TAC with an update on the subcommittee's work to date. The subcommittee presented its proposed final advice to the Agency and described changes made to the advice based on previous TAC member feedback. The subcommittee co-champion also presented a proposed work plan for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The advice and work plan were endorsed by the committee.

Agenda Item: Observations and Lessons Learned from the First IA Project: Cedar LNG

- The Agency provided the TAC with a presentation on the Agency's experience with the Cedar LNG project as the first assessment to be completed under the IAA, including the reasons for decision. Co-Chairs facilitated a discussion between Agency staff and TAC members.

Agenda Item: Agency Updates

- The Agency provided the TAC with brief updates, including on the Rouge National Urban Park Study.

Agenda Item: Discussion on Draft TAC Forward Agenda for 2023-24

- The TAC discussed the initial draft work plan/forward agenda for the 2023-24 fiscal year, as well as the timing of planned meetings, and how the committee would like to approach the priority topics identified in the work plan. Potential subcommittees were identified and members indicated their interest accordingly. The TAC indicated that they would like to include sustainability as an important consideration in the review of relevant draft guidance documents.
- The Agency will report back to the TAC on the path forward for the Project List priority item as more information becomes available.

Agenda Item: Initial Discussion about Alternatives to/Alternative means Topic: Scoping

- The TAC participated in an initial discussion and agreed to establish a subcommittee for this topic. The Secretariat will work with members to set up a preliminary meeting the summer to further scope out the work, including any work that should proceed before the next TAC meeting.

Agenda Item: Transparency: Plans and Priorities for Registry Improvements

- The Agency's Registry team gave a presentation to the TAC on improvements made to the Agency Registry since coming into force of the IAA and future plans for improvements. The TAC provided verbal feedback to the Agency.

Take Aways

- The Joint TAC/IAC Indigenous Knowledge and Science and Biodiversity Subcommittees' respective work will continue this fiscal year, alongside work on new priorities.
- The TAC Secretariat will work with Co-chairs to formally submit all TAC advice from fiscal year 2022-23 to the Agency President for consideration. The Agency will report back to the TAC on actions being taken in response to the advice in the fall.
- The Secretariat is working with the Co-chairs to establish a TAC document sharing/collaboration space over the summer.
- The TAC discussed the initial draft work plan/forward agenda for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Potential subcommittees were identified and members indicated their interest accordingly.
- The TAC agreed to establish a subcommittee for the topic of Alternatives to/Alternative means and a preliminary meeting will be scheduled during the summer.
- Members again raised their interest in having operational guidance related to project designation made public and the Secretariat will continue to discuss this topic within the Agency.

Attendees

TAC Co-Chairs

Kevin Hanna
Darcy Pickard
Patricia Fitzpatrick

TAC Committee Members

Alistair MacDonald
Ryan Barry
Faiza Waheed
Gillian Donald
Marie Lagimodiere
Janice Linehan
Steve Morck
Mark Shrimpton
Marie-Hélène Gauthier
Bill Ross
Robert Gibson
Helga Shield

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Steve Chapman
Robyn Whittaker
Anne Spear
Lauren Omson
Michael Grassie
Findlay Yates-Lavery