

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

March 22/23, 2023

Virtual Meeting

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## Meeting Objective

There were a number of objectives for this meeting, including to introduce the Agency's new Indigenous Relations Sector Vice-President to the committee members. Other objectives were to update TAC members on the work of the Biodiversity Subcommittee and the Joint TAC/IAC Indigenous Knowledge and Science subcommittee. Another objective was to finalize the TAC's comments on Health Canada's draft Health IA guidance and Agency Health, Social, and Economic Effects guidance and determine next steps. The Committee was also to have a follow-up discussion on potential priority topics for the committee's 2023-24 work plan.

## Agenda Item: Opening Remarks

- The Agency provided a territorial acknowledgement for the land on which the Agency representatives were located.
- The Agency's Vice-President of Indigenous Relations provided the committee with information about the sector and responded to questions from members.
- The Agency concluded the membership renewal process for TAC members, which began in August 2022. Fifteen members were selected to be members of the committee for the next five years. Two new committee co-chairs were also selected to begin the co-chair role upon the conclusion of the current co-chairs' terms.
- The Agency provided the TAC with an update on the status of the first decision statement published under the *Impact Assessment Act*. On March 15, 2023, the Minister provided a concurring decision to British Columbia's decision to approve the Cedar LNG Project Decision. The assessment for this project was substituted, and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office was responsible for the assessment and preparing the assessment report, with the federal Minister retaining decision-making.
- The Agency provided an update to the committee on the Agency's planned activities/work related to cumulative effects in the new fiscal year.
- The Agency provided the TAC with information about the launch of a study on the potential effects of development projects adjacent to the Rouge National Urban Park, to

be undertaken in collaboration with Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

#### **Agenda Item: Biodiversity Subcommittee Update**

- The Biodiversity Subcommittee provided an update on its work related to the treatment of biodiversity under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).
- In mid-March, the subcommittee received a draft research report from the researchers commissioned by the Agency to support the subcommittee. The subcommittee expects to receive a final research report from the researchers at the end of March. Subcommittee members discussed their draft advice to the Agency with the other TAC members as well as next steps for completing and submitting their advice to the Agency.

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

- The subcommittee's TAC co-champion provided the TAC with an update on the subcommittee's work to date.
- The subcommittee intends to deliver a tool to provide practical recommendations to Agency staff about what they should be communicating to decision-makers for the consideration of Indigenous knowledge and science in the IA decision-making process. Subcommittee members shared a draft of the tool with the TAC and committed to bringing the committee's feedback back to the subcommittee at their next meeting. An updated version of the draft tool is expected to be shared with IAC and TAC for feedback in advance of their next meetings.

#### **Agenda Item: Finalizing TAC Advice on Health Impact Assessment and HSE Guidance**

- The Agency provided the TAC with an updated advice document that reflected the TAC's verbal feedback during the January meeting and written comments received in advance of the March meeting. Co-chairs facilitated a discussion about the document and next steps.

#### **Agenda Item: Follow-up discussion on TAC priorities for 2023-24**

- The Agency provided an updated document on potential priorities for the TAC for the next fiscal year that reflected the TAC's feedback during the January meeting and internal Agency consultations. Co-chairs facilitated a discussion about the updated

document and members provided additional feedback. The Agency will consider the TAC's feedback as the priority setting process moves forward.

**Agenda Item: Emerging Issues, Ad Hoc Advice, Forward Agenda**

- Co-chairs facilitated a discussion and requested that the Agency work on a draft forward agenda for the 2023-24 fiscal year in advance of the May meeting.

**Agenda Item: Acknowledgement of contributions made by outgoing members**

- Agency staff, co-chairs and TAC members acknowledged and thanked the two outgoing TAC members for their contributions to the committee over the last five years.

**Take Aways**

- The Agency recognized the importance of effectively onboarding new members to the committee. It will provide new members with an orientation binder and other resources.
- The Agency committed to discussing the Cedar LNG project decision with the TAC in more detail during the next meeting in May.
- TAC members requested that the Agency provide the TAC with more information about the Rouge National Urban Park study.
- TAC members provided input on the Joint TAC/IAC Indigenous Knowledge and Science subcommittee's draft tool and the subcommittee members committed to providing the TAC's feedback to the full Joint TAC/IAC Indigenous Knowledge and Science subcommittee during its next meeting in April.

**Attendees**

***TAC Co-Chairs***

Kevin Hanna  
Darcy Pickard

***TAC Committee Members***

Alistair MacDonald  
Colin Webster  
Gillian Donald  
Glennis Lewis  
Marie Lagimodiere  
Mark Shrimpton

Marie-Hélène Gauthier  
Bill Ross  
Helga Shield

*Impact Assessment Agency of Canada*

Steve Chapman  
Robyn Whittaker  
Anne Spear  
Lauren Omson  
Michael Grassie  
Sydney Allen