

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

September 12/13, 2023

In-person/hybrid Meeting

Meeting Objective

There were multiple objectives for this meeting:

- Provide subcommittee updates.
- Brief TAC members on the development of a guidance document on analyzing economic effects under the IAA and to seek feedback.
- Agency to gather information from TAC members to inform the Agency's review of the Physical Activities Regulations (the Project List).
- Provide an update on Agency actions related to regulatory efficiency and advancing clean growth projects.
- Seek TAC feedback on the proposed approach for updating the Agency's cumulative effects guidance.
- Agency to report to TAC members on its responses to the TAC's advice from 2022-23.
- Engage in a panel session on the Newfoundland & Labrador offshore oil industry and impact assessment considerations.

Agenda Item: Welcome and Overview of Agenda

- TAC member, Mark Shrimpton, provided a territorial acknowledgement.
- The Co-chairs provided a recap of the May TAC Meeting and materials circulated over the summer as well as an overview of the meeting agenda.

Agenda Item: Subcommittee Updates

- The TAC received updates on each of the three subcommittees including on work undertaken over the summer and planned next steps.
- The Alternatives subcommittee provided an update on the subcommittee's work over the summer and introduced a draft work plan and a draft advice table. TAC members endorsed both products as well as provided comments and feedback for the subcommittee's consideration. The subcommittee plans to meet throughout the fall and will have further updates at the TAC's November meeting.

- The Joint TAC/IAC Indigenous Knowledge and Science Subcommittee co-champion provided an update on the subcommittee's work over the summer and planned next steps. The subcommittee plans to meet through the fall and present a draft tool to both TAC and IAC in January 2024.
- The Biodiversity subcommittee co-champion provided the TAC with an update on the subcommittee's work. The subcommittee plans to meet at the end of September at which time it will discuss a preferred approach for developing advice on potential changes to the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG).

Agenda Item: Economics Effects Guidance Approach/Preliminary Discussion

- In response to presentation by Agency and Natural Resources Canada colleagues on the development of a guidance document to analyze economic effects under the Impact Assessment Act (IAA) and committed to reflecting TAC comments into the draft text.
- The Secretariat is following up with TAC members to request copies of the relevant reference materials that they identified during the meeting and will circulate them to members before the November meeting.

Agenda Item: Project List Review Initial Presentation/Discussion

- The Agency gave a presentation to the committee on its approach for reviewing *Physical Activities Regulations* (the Project List). The TAC provided feedback and the Agency committed to bringing the item back for further discussion at the November TAC meeting.
- The Agency will prepare a summary of the TAC's discussion in advance of the November meeting to inform the discussion.

Agenda Item: Regulatory Efficiency and Advancing Clean Growth Projects

- TAC members were supportive of efforts to reduce duplicative procedures and to increase Indigenous engagement in the process. TAC members discussed the importance of ensuring that efforts to improve regulatory efficiency do not undermine the protections included in the IAA. The Agency committed to keeping the TAC up to date on this work.
- TAC recommended further discussion with the other advisory committees (Indigenous Advisory Committee and Minister's Advisory Council), i.e., on respective areas of

focus, in order to refine the scope of a potential TAC role. TAC also discussed weaving this issue across themes and discussions, rather than treating it as a standalone topic.

Agenda Item: Cumulative Effects guidance – discussion to inform the approach to the guidance update

- The Agency gave a presentation on its proposed approach to updating the Agency’s cumulative effects guidance. The TAC had a substantive discussion on the meaning of taking an “integrated approach” for this guidance update.
- TAC members were asked by co-chairs to share suggestions for individuals/experts who may be well-placed to be engaged as part of the guidance development process.

Agenda Item: Agency Responses to 2022-23 TAC Advice

- The Agency gave a presentation on actions being taken in response to the committee’s advice from fiscal year 2022-23.

Agenda Item: Panel Session: Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Oil Industry

- Guest speakers joined TAC members for a panel session on impact assessment considerations for Newfoundland and Labrador’s offshore oil industry.

Take Aways

- The subcommittees will continue their work throughout the fall and winter and will provide the committee with updates as work progresses.
- On the economics guidance topic, the Secretariat is following up with TAC members to request copies of the relevant reference materials they identified. The Agency and Natural Resources Canada committed to reflecting TAC comments into a draft text.
- The Agency committed to bringing the item back for further discussion at the November TAC meeting.
- The Agency will prepare a summary of the TAC’s discussion on the Project List Review in advance of the November TAC meeting.
- The Agency will provide a document comparing Agency and Panel-reviews, including the role of experts in the two processes, as well as in development of policy and guidance documents.

- The Agency committed to keeping the TAC up to date on the government's work in the area of regulatory efficiency and clean growth projects. TAC also recommended further discussion with the other advisory committees (IAC and MINAC),
- TAC members were asked by co-chairs to share suggestions for individuals/experts who may be well-placed to be engaged as part of the Cumulative Effects Guidance development process.
- The November 2023 TAC meeting will be held virtually on the 15th and 16th.

Attendees

TAC Co-Chairs

Kevin Hanna
Patricia Fitzpatrick

TAC Committee Members

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

Regrets

Darcy Pickard
Gillian Donald
Helga Shield

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

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

Aidan Wakely-Mulroney

Sarah Jackson

Wesley Moore