

Sydney Hogan

Assistant Policy Analyst, Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch

What is an Environmental Assessment?

Environmental assessment (EA) is a formal planning and assessment process used to identify and evaluate the potential environmental effects of a proposed project before any provincial approvals allowing the project to proceed are issued

About EA Mod Branch:

The EA Mod is a branch of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks that is working to modernize the 50 year old *EA Act*. It creates proposal on ways to modernize the act and consult stakeholders to gather input with different perspectives on the proposals. The insights obtained from these consultations are then used to offer recommendations to the cabinet or the Minister on how to approach the changes to EAs and the EA Act.



Major Projects

Sectoral Terms of Reference:



Analyzing different sectoral terms of reference (ToR) to contribute research for Ontario's future sectoral regulations. Sectoral ToRs outline what types of studies or method need to be conducted by proponents based on their sector/undertaking. I conducted jurisdictional scans to compare how ToR's are conducted across Canada to determine the best way for Ontario. Also, comparing four landfill ToRs in Ontario. I determined the strengths and weaknesses of each ToR then compared to determine the overall best way of constructing a landfill ToR.

Waste, Electricity, and Transit Project Guides:

I provided support in the update of guides to help proponents through the Environmental Screening Process based on the regulations under the *EA Act*. The guides assist by providing information and steps to follow to ensure that the environmental effects are reviewed in manner consistent with the significance of the project.



Other Responsibilities

- Jurisdictional scans for Indigenous Consultation Guidelines
- Examine concerns from comments on postings and summarize findings
- Help with structuring the Codes of Practice for EAs and ToRs
- Conduct statistical research on municipal infrastructure EAs

Key Takeaways and Skills Gained

Communication: Using plain language to effectively communicate complex ideas to a wide audience.

Consultation: Importance of engaging with stakeholders and understanding their perspectives.

Analytical: Conducting a comprehensive analysis of multiple policies to discern the most optimal approach for policy construction.

Key Highlights

Social Events: Lunch time soccer games, Intern Socials, Student Orientation, Networking Events, Fundraisers.

Learning Opportunities: Training in a variety of different areas such as risk management, Tours of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Presentations from different ministries, Monthly talks on different environmental subjects.

