

# CEAA amends the regulations designating physical activities for environmental assessment

	Topic	Changes to thresholds in regulations	New	Old
CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY	Tidal power facility: Construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment	Previously captured all facilities 5 MW or more. Changed so that instream and non-instream facilities are treated differently.  Threshold is now at least 50MW for an instream facility and at least 5 MW for a non-instream facility.	2	4
	Tidal power facilities: Expansion	Threshold was 35% expansion of a facility of 5 MW or more. There is now a distinction between instream and non-instream facilities.  It now applies to increases of 50% or more in instream facilities with a resulting output of at least 50 MW and increases of 50% or more in non-instream facilities with a resulting output of at least 5 MW or more.	3	4
	Fossil fuel-fired electric generation facilities: Expansion	Clarifies that it applies where there is a 50% expansion and a resulting total facility production of at least 200 MW .	3	3
	Hydroelectric facilities: Expansion	Clarifies that it applies where there is a 50% expansion and a resulting total facility production of at least 200 MW .	3	3
	Electrical transmission lines not regulated by the NEB: Construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment	Deleted: removed requirement for construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an electrical transmission line with a voltage of 345 kV or more that is 75 km or more in length on a new right of way that are not regulated by the NEB.  Still required for any transmission lines in a wildlife area or migratory bird sanctuary.		5
	Dam and dykes: Expansion	Changed from 35% to 50% and a resulting increase of at least 1500 ha in annual mean surface area.  Threshold is now an increase of 50% or more that results in an increase of 1500 ha or more in annual mean surface area.	5	6
Water diversion: Expansion	Changed from 35% to 50%.  Threshold is now the expansion of capacity by 50% or more with total resulting total diversion capacity of at least 10,000,000 m3/y.	7	7	

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CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY	Ground water removal facilities: Construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment	Deleted: removed requirement for the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of a facility for the extraction of 200 000 m3/y or more of ground water or an expansion of such a facility that would result in an increase in production capacity of more than 35%.  Still required for any facility in a wildlife area or migratory bird sanctuary.		8
	Heavy oil or oil sands processing facility: Construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment	Deleted: removed requirement for the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of a heavy oil or oil sands processing facility with an oil production capacity of more than 10 000 m3/d.  Still required for any facility in a wildlife area or migratory bird sanctuary.		9(a)
	Heavy oil or oil sands processing facility: Expansion	Deleted: removed requirement for the expansion of a heavy oil or oil sands processing facility that would result in an increase in oil production capacity of at least 5,000 m3/d that would raise the total oil production capacity to more than 10,000 m3/d.  Still required for any facility in a wildlife area or migratory bird sanctuary.		12
	Oil sands mine: Expansion	New provision: Expansion of an oil sands mine that would result in an increase in the area of mine operations of 50% with a resulting total production capacity of at least 10,000 m3/d.	9	
	Offshore facilities	Test wells - New provision: Drilling, testing and abandonment of exploratory wells for the first drilling program that falls in an area that has not had an assessment, where the licences are issued in accordance with the Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act or the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act.	10	new
		Facilities: Changed from an offshore facility that was not within an assessed area or a facility that is not connected to one that was part of a previous assessment to any facility used for production.  Threshold is now any construction, installation or operation of a new offshore floating, or fixed, platform, vessel or artificial island used for production of oil and gas.	11	10
		Pipelines: Changed from only being required when the pipeline was in an area not already assessed to any pipeline other than a flowline.  Threshold is now the construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment of any new offshore oil and gas pipelines, other than a flowline.	13	14(b)

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CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY	Pipelines not regulated by the NEB: Construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment	Deleted: removed requirement for an oil and gas pipeline more than 75 km in length on a new right of way.  Still required for any oil and gas pipeline in a wildlife area or migratory bird sanctuary.		14(a)
	Liquefaction, storage or regasification of LNG: Construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment	Change from storage of 50,000 t to 55,000 t.  Threshold is now a LNG processing or storage facility with a total LNG processing capacity of 3,000 t/d or more or a total LNG storage capacity of 5,000 t or more.	14(d)	13(d)
	Liquefaction, storage or regasification of LNG: Expansion	Change from storage of 50,000 t to 55,000 t and an increase from 35% to 50%.  Threshold is now an increase in the LNG processing or storage capacity of 50% or more and a total LNG processing capacity of 3,000 t/d or more or a total LNG storage capacity of 5,000 t or more.	15(d)	13(d)
	Oil refineries and upgraders: Expansion	Threshold changed from 35% to 50%.  Threshold is now an increase in input capacity of 50% or more and a total input capacity of 10,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d or more.	15(a)	13(a)
	Production of liquid petroleum products from coal: Expansion	Threshold changed from 35% to 50%.  Threshold is now an increase in production capacity of 50% or more and a total production capacity of 2,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d or more.	15(b)	13(b)
	Sour gas processing: Expansion	Threshold changed from 35% to 50%.  Threshold is now an increase in production capacity of 50% or more and a total production capacity of 2,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d or more.	15(c)	15(c)
	Petroleum storage facility: Expansion	Threshold changed from 35% to 50%.  Threshold is now an increase in storage capacity of 50% or more and a total storage capacity of 500,000 m <sup>3</sup> or more.	15(e)	13(e)
	Liquefied petroleum storage facility: Expansion	Threshold changed from 35% to 50%.  Threshold is now increase in storage capacity of 50% or more and a total storage capacity of 100 000 m <sup>3</sup> or more.	15(f)	13(f)

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CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY	Mines: Construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment	Rare element mine - New provision: Rare earth element mines are now treated the same as gold mines. Threshold is an ore production greater than 600 t/d.	16(c)	15
		Diamond mine - New provision: Threshold for diamond mines is an ore production of 3,000 t/d.	16(e)	new
		Potash/Apatite: Change of potash mine of 1,000,000 t/y of product to apatite mine of 3,000 t/d of ore. Threshold is an apatite mine with an ore production of 3,000 t/d.	16(f)	new
		Stone quarry or sand or gravel: Change of 1,000,000 t/y to 3,500,000 t/y. Threshold for stone quarry or sand or gravel pit is production of 3,500,000 t/y.	16(g)	17
		Metal mine: Changes measurement from ore production to mine area and removes the threshold of an increase of 1,500 t/d if expansion is less than 50%. Threshold is now a 50% increase in the area of the mine operations with a resulting total production of at least 3,000 t/d.	17	16
	Mines: Expansion	Metal mill: Changes measurement from ore production to mine area and removes the threshold of an increase of 1,500 t/d, if expansion is less than 50%. Threshold is now a 50% increase in the area of the mine operations with a resulting total production of at least 4,000 t/d.	17	16
		Rare earth element or gold mine: Changes measurement from ore production to mine area and removes the threshold of an increase of 300 t/d, if expansion is less than 50%. Threshold is now a 50% increase in the area of the mine operations with a resulting total production of at least 600 t/d.	17	16
		Coal mine: Changes measurement from ore production to mine area and removes the threshold of an increase of 1,500 t/d, if expansion is less than 50%. Threshold is now a 50% increase in the area of mine operations with a resulting total production of at least 3,000 t/d.	17	16
		Diamond mine - New provision: Threshold is an increase of 50% in the area of the mine operations and a resulting total ore capacity of 3,000 t/d.	17	new

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CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY	Mines: Expansion (cont'd)	Apatite/potash: Changes measurement from potassium chloride to ore production and removes the threshold of an increase of 500,000 t/y if expansion is less than 50%.  Threshold is now a 50% increase in the area of mine operations with a resulting total production of at least 3,000 t/d.	17	new
		Stone quarry or sand or gravel pit: Changed from 35% of production to 50% of mine area.  Threshold is now a 50% increase in the area of the mine operation and a resulting total production of 3,500,000 t/year or more.	17	new
	Mineral and offshore mines	Removed: deleted requirements for asbestos, salt, graphite, gypsum, magnesite, limestone, clay and metal mines offshore.  Still required for any mine in a wildlife area or migratory bird sanctuary.		17
	Pulp mills and pulp and paper mills: Construction, operation, abandonment and expansion	Removed: deleted requirements for construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of a pulp mill or pulp and paper mill and increase of production capacity of a pulp mill or pulp and paper mill of more than 35% and more than 100 t/d.  Still required for any facility in a wildlife area or migratory bird sanctuary.		18/19
	Industrial facilities: Construction, operation, abandonment and expansion	Removed: deleted requirements for facilities for the production of primary metal steel, chemical products, wood products, plywood and particle board, primary textiles, chemical explosives and lead batteries, industrial facilities for the commercial production of non-ferrous metals or light metals by pyrometallurgy or high temperature electrometallurgy, non-ferrous smelters in the Yukon and NWT, and leather tanneries.  Still required for any facility in a wildlife area or migratory bird sanctuary.		20
	Military bases: Construction and operation	Changed so that it must be established for at least 12 months.  Threshold is intent to establish facility for at least 12 months.	18	21
	Military training/testing facilities: Construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment	Changed so that it must be established for at least 12 months.  Threshold is intent to establish facility for at least 12 months.	19	22

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CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY	Military bases: Expansion	<p>Changed from 25% increase in area or 25% increase in cumulative floor area of buildings to a 50% increase in area only.</p> <p>Threshold is a 50% increase area of a military base or station.</p>	20	23
	Highways and railways	<p>Removes the requirement for highways leading to communities that lack all season public highway access.</p> <p>Threshold is now an all-season public highway with 50 km of new right of way.</p>	25	28
		Railway yard - New provision: Threshold of 7 or more yard tracks or a total length of 20 km or more.	25	new
	Bridges and tunnels: Construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment	Interprovincial bridges and tunnels - New provision: Any international or interprovincial bridges and tunnels.	28	new
		St. Lawrence Seaway bridge - New provision: Any bridge over the St. Lawrence Seaway.	28	new
	Hazardous waste facilities: Expansion	<p>Changed from 35% to 50%.</p> <p>Threshold is any increase of a facility's input capacity by at least 50%.</p>	30	31

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CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION	Nuclear facilities: Construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment	<p>New provision: Thorium and plutonium are now treated the same as uranium. The new thresholds are as follows:</p> <p>The construction, operation and decommissioning of a new</p> <p>(a) facility for the processing, reprocessing or separation of an isotope of uranium, thorium, or plutonium, with a production capacity of 100 t/year or more;</p> <p>(b) facility for the manufacture of a product derived from, uranium, thorium or plutonium, with a production capacity of 100 t/year or more; or</p> <p>(c) facility for the processing or use, in a quantity greater than 1015 Bq per calendar year, of nuclear substances with a half-life greater than one year, other than uranium, thorium or plutonium.</p> <p>The expansion of an existing</p> <p>(a) facility for the processing, reprocessing or separation of an isotope of uranium, thorium or plutonium that would result in an increase in production capacity of 50% or more and a total production capacity of 100 t/year or more;</p> <p>(b) facility for the manufacture of a product derived from uranium, thorium or plutonium that would result in an increase in production capacity of 50% or more and a total production capacity of 100 t/year or more; or</p> <p>(c) facility for the processing or use, in a quantity greater than 1015 Bq per calendar year, of nuclear substances with a half-life greater than one year, other than uranium, thorium or plutonium, that would result in an increase in processing capacity of 50% or more.</p>	33	32
	Uranium mining: Expansion	<p>Changed from 30% increase in production capacity to 50% increase in mine area and removed the waste management system requirement.</p> <p>Threshold is now a 50% increase in the mine area.</p>	32	32
	Nuclear facilities: Expansion	<p>Changed from 35% to 50%.</p> <p>Threshold is now a 50% in production or processing capacity.</p>	34	32
	Nuclear fusion reactor: Construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment	<p>Changed from a facility with capacity of at least 25 MW to any facility.</p>	35	32
	Fusion reactor: Expansion	<p>Removed the threshold of only applying to facilities with a capacity of at least 25MW. Threshold is a 50% increase in power output for a facility of any capacity.</p>	36	32
	Storage of irradiated fuel or waste	<p>Changed from storage of 500 t to any storage of any amount.</p> <p>Threshold is any new facility not within an existing licensed perimeter or any new facility for the long-term management or disposal of waste.</p>	37	32
	Storage of irradiated fuel or waste: Expansion	<p>Changed from a 35% increase in production capacity to a 50% increase in ground level area.</p> <p>Threshold is now an increase of 50% in area at ground level.</p>	38	32

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NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD	Offshore facilities	Test wells - New provision: Drilling, testing and abandonment of exploratory wells for the first drilling program that falls in an area that has not had an assessment, where the licences are issued in accordance with the Canada Petroleum Resources Act.	40	new
		Facilities: Changed from an offshore facility that was not within an assessed area or a facility that is not connected to one that was part of a previous assessment to any facility used for production.  Threshold is now any construction, installation or operation of a new offshore floating, or fixed, platform, vessel or artificial island used for production of oil and gas.	41	35
		Pipelines: Changed from only being required when the pipeline was in an area not already assessed to any pipeline other than a flowline.  Threshold is now the construction, operation, decommissioning or abandonment of any new offshore oil and gas pipelines, other than a flowline.	43	38(b)
	Sour gas processing facility: Expansion	Changed from 35% increase to 50% increase.  Threshold is 50% increase in sulphur inlet capacity resulting in a total capacity of at least 2,000 t/d.	45	37
	Petroleum storage facility: Expansion	Changed from 35% to 50%.  Threshold is 50% increase in storage capacity resulting in a total storage capacity of at least 500,000 m3.	45	37
	Pipeline (not offshore): Construction and operation	Changed from 75 km of pipeline with new right of way to any new pipeline 40 km long.	46	38
	Pipeline (not offshore): Decommission or abandonment	New provision: 40 km or more of pipe removed from ground.	47	new