

Regional Assessment of Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling in the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area

Regional Assessments - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a regional assessment?

A regional assessment is a study conducted under the *Impact Assessment Act* that examines the positive and adverse effects of past, existing, and future activities within a specific geographic area. Instead of focusing on one project, it looks at the bigger picture—including how multiple activities may interact and contribute to cumulative effects.

2. Who conducts a regional assessment?

A regional assessment may be conducted by:

- the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), or
- a committee established by the Minister

When appropriate, the federal government may work in partnership with provinces, territories, Indigenous governing bodies, or other jurisdictions.

3. What is the timeline of a regional assessment?

There is no legislated timeline, allowing flexibility based on regional needs.

4. How are Indigenous Peoples involved?

Indigenous Peoples can be involved in regional assessments in different ways including:

- collaboration in planning and conducting the regional assessment
- making recommendations on how to implement the regional assessment
- engagement throughout the regional assessment to provide information on valued components and sharing Indigenous knowledge
- Regional assessments can also support Indigenous-led planning initiatives.

5. What happens during a regional assessment?

While each regional assessment is tailored to the region, regional assessments include:

- A planning and a conduct phase
- engagement with Indigenous Peoples and other participants including, but not limited to, other government departments, industry, academia, NGOs, and the public.
- Analysis of current conditions and cumulative effects
- Identification of issues, mitigation, and knowledge gaps

A draft Regional Assessment report is posted to the Registry for review and comment and then a final Regional Assessment Report is submitted to the Minister and posted to the Registry.

6. Do regional assessments replace project impact assessments?

No. Regional assessments do not replace project impact assessments. Rather, they complement them by providing regional context, data, and analysis that can inform project-level assessments.

7. Where can I learn more?

Information on current and completed regional assessments—including opportunities to participate is available on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#).