

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

APRIL 21, 2026



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada

Presentation Overview

1. Regional Assessments under the *Impact Assessment Act*

- Phases
- Types of Regional Assessments
- Goals and Objectives

2. Regional Assessment of Exploratory Oil and Gas Drilling in the Offshore Area of Nova Scotia

- Proposed Approach
- Proposed Timeline
- Next Steps

Regional Assessment Phases

1. Planning Phase

- Administrative planning
- Draft Terms of Reference developed and posted for public comment
- Minister establishes final Terms of Reference

2. Conduct Phase

- Engagement/Consultation
- Analyses
- Draft RA Report posted for public comment
- Final RA Report submitted to the Minister

There is no set timeline for RAs - timeline is noted in the Terms of Reference

Types of Regional Assessments

The Minister decides whether a RA is to be conducted and if it will be conducted by a Committee or by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)

I. Committee-led regional assessment:

- comprised of one or more experts
- appointed by the Minister

II. IAAC-led regional assessment:

- IAAC conducts a regional assessment
- may establish partnerships

Goals and Objective of Regional Assessments

- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of future federal impact assessment processes and decisions
 - Analyze positive and adverse effects of multiple existing and future physical activities in a specific region
 - Activities are considered at a *regional scale*
 - Key considerations:
 - Cumulative effects
 - Environment
 - Health
 - Socio-economic contexts
 - Knowledge gathering
 - Identify gaps and ways to address them
 - Recommendations

Results or findings from regional assessments do not apply retroactively to alter decisions of completed project impact assessments

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PROPOSED APPROACH

IAAC led regional assessment, working in collaboration with:

- Nova Scotia Department of Energy
- Natural Resources Canada
- Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator

Study Area:

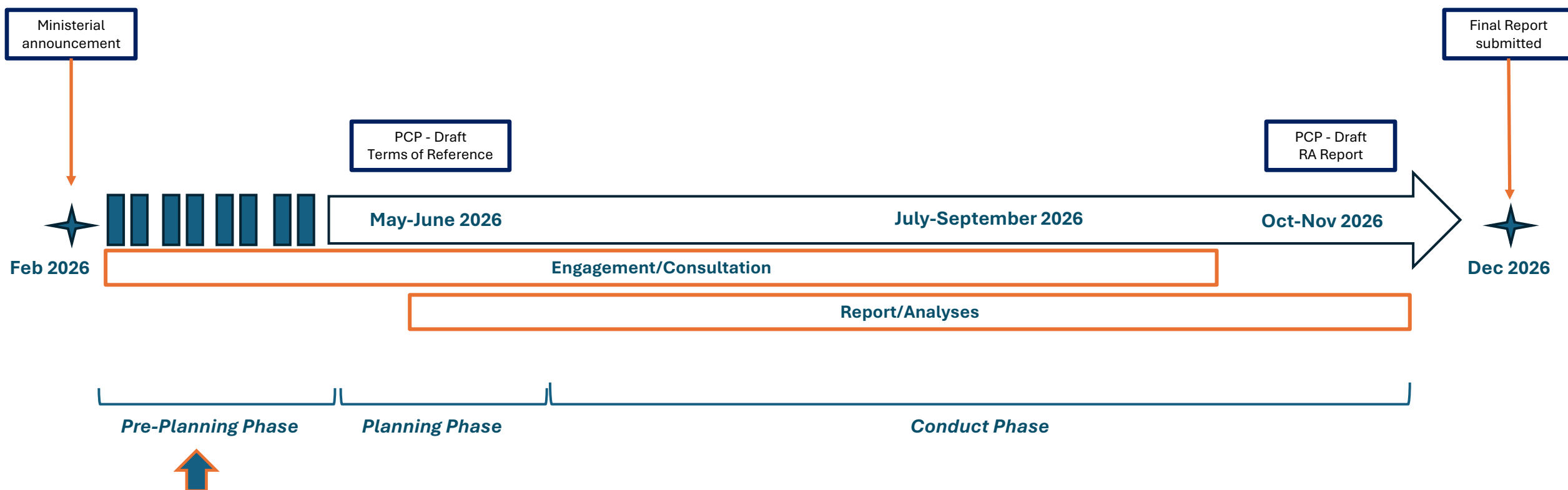
- encompasses an offshore area relevant to oil and gas exploration drilling

Process:

- Where relevant utilizing baseline information from Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia (2025)
- Where relevant incorporate learnings from the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador (2020)
- Focus on the Nova Scotia context

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PROPOSED TIMELINE



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NEXT STEPS

Pre-Planning Phase



- Continue pre-planning engagement meetings
- Complete the draft Terms of Reference
- Kick-off Planning Phase funding

Planning Phase

- Draft Terms of Reference out for Public Comment (20 days)
- Review of input on Draft Terms of Reference
- Final Terms of Reference posted

Conduct Phase

- Kick-off Conduct Phase funding
- Expand engagement