

What is an Environmental Assessment? *Near Surface Disposal Facility*

The environmental assessment for the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) began in late 2015. As a part of the environmental assessment process for the NSDF Project, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) undertook numerous scientific studies, including geological and hydrogeological studies, archaeological work, environmental protection mitigation initiatives and extensive engagement with the public and Indigenous communities.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) 2012 has been replaced by the new Impact Assessment Act, however the NSDF Project will continue to follow the CEAA 2012 process. Check out the NSDF's environmental assessment page: CEAA #80122

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is federal nuclear regulator and the responsible authority for designated nuclear projects undergoing environmental assessments. Learn more about the CNSC and environmental assessment here.

Environmental assessment is a forward-looking planning process that:

- Must reflect input from Indigenous communities and the public.
- Must consider the environment as a whole.
- Considers the potential for cumulative effects.
- Assesses the significance of residual adverse effects.
- Determine mitigation measures to minimize negative environmental effects.
- Must consider alternatives.

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Environmental Impact Statement

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) details how CNL is fulfilling the requirements of the environmental assessment process. CNL submitted a draft EIS in 2017, a revised draft EIS in 2019 and a final EIS document in 2020 to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), which is the federal authority responsible for making the environmental assessment decision. CNL plans to resubmit the final EIS to the CNSC at the end of May 2021.

Indigenous communities, members of the public, interested organizations, federal bodies (including Environment and Climate Change Canada, the CNSC and the Province of Quebec) have all submitted comments on the NSDF Project's EIS. CNL undertook further studies and has incorporated public and Indigenous feedback into the final EIS.



FYI: what is the difference between a residual effect and a cumulative effect?

Residual effects are changes to the environment after the implementation of mitigation measures. Cumulative effects are changes to the environment that are caused by an action in combination with other past, present and future human actions.