



INFORMATION SHEET

Summary of modifications to the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Suncor Base Mine Extension Project.

On May 31, 2021, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) [commenced](#) an impact assessment for the Suncor Base Mine Extension Project (the Project), and issued [Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines](#) to Suncor Energy Inc. (the proponent).

On June 20, 2024, the [Budget Implementation Act](#) received Royal Assent and brought into force amendments to the [Impact Assessment Act](#) (IAA). The amendments were proposed in response to the October 2023 Supreme Court of Canada's (SCC) decision on the constitutionality of the IAA. For a summary of the key changes to the IAA please refer to the Amendments to the Impact Assessment [Fact Sheet](#).

Section 305 of the [Budget Implementation Act](#) states that in order to bring a designated project under the IAA, a step must be taken with regard to the project. To reflect the amendments to the IAA, on December 18, 2024, IAAC posted the [Notice of Commencement of an Impact Assessment](#), and issued [updated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines](#) (the Guidelines), in accordance with subsection 305(2). In posting these documents on the Registry, everything done before the amended IAA came into force regarding the Project is deemed to have been done under the amended IAA as of the date of the posting of the documents.

The Project remains subject to an impact assessment under the IAA. However, in response to the amendments to the IAA, IAAC has updated the Guidelines throughout to focus them on areas of federal jurisdiction, and the updated definition of "adverse effects within federal jurisdiction" and "direct or incidental adverse effects" in section 2 of the IAA.

The purpose of this information sheet is to describe the key modifications made to the Guidelines for the Project. Table 1 provides an overview of the changes by section of the [Guidelines](#). If a section is not listed, no key modifications were made.

The proponent and other parties are encouraged to reach out to IAAC if they have any questions regarding the Guidelines, or the application of the IAA following the amendments.

**Table 1: Summary of updates to the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Suncor Base Mine Extension Project**

Section	Modifications
Glossary	<p>Updated definitions to match language in amended IAA.</p> <p>Added two new terms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Adverse federal effects</u>: Refers to both (as applicable), “adverse effects within federal jurisdiction” and “direct or incidental adverse effects”, as defined in section 2 of the IAA. 2. <u>Effect pathway</u>: The cause–effect linkage between a project and components of the human or natural environment that could cause an adverse federal effect.
1. Introduction	<p>Editorial language updates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus on adverse federal effects; • define “adverse federal effects” to meet requirements of “adverse effects within federal jurisdiction” and “direct or incidental adverse effects” as defined in section 2 of the amended IAA; and, • include current procedural updates.
3. Project Description	<p>Text in section 3.5 (workforce requirements) was amended to be discretionary (i.e., where the statements began with “must” have been replaced with “should”).</p>
7. Assessment methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language updates to focus the selection of valued components and identification of mitigation measures on the prevention of adverse federal effects.
8. Biophysical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added general preamble • The requirements of the following sections were removed, and the proponent has been referred to the requirements in the provincial Terms of Reference for these topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8.1 – Meteorological environment ○ 8.2 – Geology and Geological hazards ○ 8.3 – Topography, soil and sediment ○ 8.4 – Atmospheric, acoustic, and visual environment ○ 8.6 – Vegetation and riparian, wetland, and terrestrial environments



Section	Modifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 8.9 – Wildlife and wildlife habitat (except requirements for federally listed Species at Risk which remain in Guidelines)• Section 8.5 Groundwater and Surface Water was updated to focus requirements on potential effects on interprovincial waters.• No changes were made to section 8.7 (Fish and Fish Habitat) or section 8.8 (Birds and Bird Habitat).• Text in section 8.10 (Climate Change) was amended to be discretionary (i.e., where the statements began with “must” have been replaced with “should”) and moved to section 17.
9. Human health conditions 10. Social conditions 11. Economic conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proponent directed to meet provincial requirements for the assessment of human health, social, and economic conditions for the general populations.• Necessary or relevant requirements related to Indigenous health, social, and economic conditions were moved to Section 12: Indigenous Peoples.
12. Indigenous peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes except for necessary or relevant requirements from sections 9 -11 that were moved to this section.
17. Canada’s ability to meet its environmental obligations and climate change commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated preamble to current IAAC language.• Moved language related to Strategic Assessment of Climate Change here (previously in section 8.10).