

Considering Cumulative Effects in YESAB Assessments: Proposed Criteria for Determining Activities Likely to be Carried Out

Cumulative effects are the combined or overlapping effects of an activity being assessed and other past, present or likely future activities. Section 42 (1)(d) of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) requires the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) to consider:

the significance of any adverse cumulative environmental or socio-economic effects that have occurred or might occur in connection with the project or existing project in combination with the effects of other projects for which proposals have been submitted under subsection 50(1) or any activities that have been carried out, are being carried out or are likely to be carried out in or outside Yukon;

YESAA does not define what constitutes an activity “likely to be carried out”. Consequently, the following criteria are being proposed to guide YESAB assessors in determining if an activity is likely to be carried out:

- The intent to carry out the activity in question is officially announced by the proponent (e.g. on websites, in the media, or to YESAB).
- Notice of a submission for an environmental assessment or regulatory review of an activity has been provided or the environmental assessment or regulatory review has commenced.
- The completion of the project could facilitate or enable future development.

Other criteria may also be used. When considering cumulative effects, an assessor will explain in the assessment report how activities “likely to be carried out” were determined.