

Environmental Approvals Framework

Alberta Transportation

Introduction

Background:

Environmental considerations are becoming an increasingly important factor in Alberta Transportation (TRANS) projects, as non-compliance could result in environmental damage and enforcement action from regulators. However, the environmental approvals (generally including Approvals, Authorizations, Licences, Permits, Clearance, etc.) processes are often complex and confusing. Also, projects can experience scheduling delays if the necessary approvals have not been obtained from the regulatory agencies.

Framework Purpose:

The purpose of the Environmental Approvals Framework is to:

- ensure that environmental legislation is considered where an approval may be necessary;
- record the considerations and decisions related to environmental approvals; and
- ensure the necessary approvals are in place before work is commenced.

Framework Process:

At the beginning of each project, this framework should be reviewed by the Project Administrator and the Consultant to determine which approvals may be necessary and ensure appropriate time constraints are included in the project schedule. Various tables, diagrams and forms are attached (Appendices 2 -11), which form the basis of the framework.

The Consultant is responsible for verifying that:

- all required environmental approvals have been obtained prior to starting work;
- all necessary consultation with regulatory agencies has taken place; and
- the various forms/checklists have been completed throughout each project phase.

Once the project is completed, the original signed project forms/checklists are to be sent to the project file as a record of TRANS's actions.

Electronic copies of this framework are available on the TRANS web-site.

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