

# June 2021

## JWG Monthly Update

*In June, the following topics were discussed:*

- Environmental Assessment (EA) methods: significance
- EA prediction confidence
- Monitoring types
- How to present EA results

*Rook I Project Site Exploration Camp*

***NexGen Energy is pleased to present this update to communities on the discussions that took place as part of the June 2021 Joint Working Groups.***

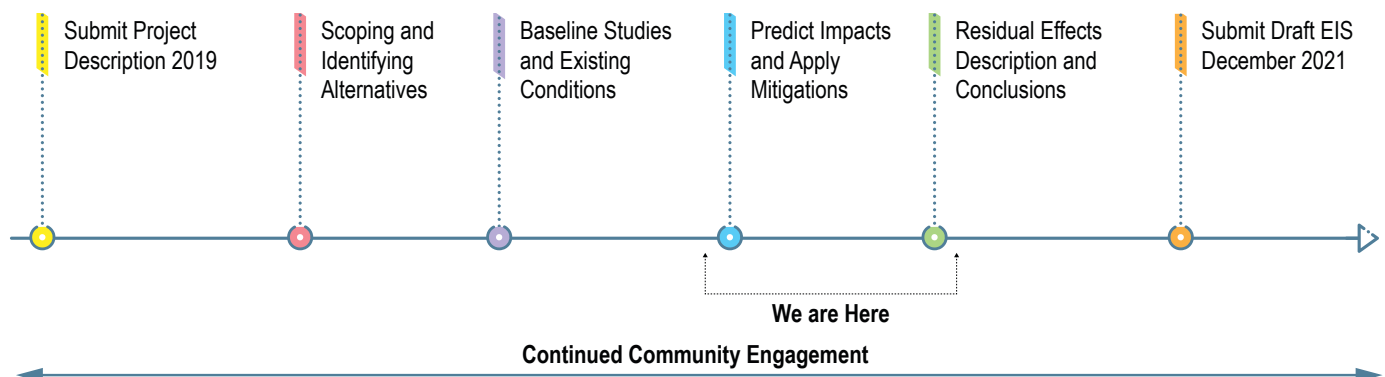
## WHAT WE DISCUSSED

In the June 2021 Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings, we discussed four key topics:

- Environmental Assessment (EA) methods, focusing on how the significance of adverse residual effects is determined for valued components (VCs).
- How confidence in EA predictions is increased through each step of the process and how potential uncertainty is being addressed.

- How the NexGen Rook I Project (Project) could affect Community Well-being and Indigenous Land and Resource Use VCs.
- The types of monitoring and follow-up programs that will be implemented for the Project, including how community members would like to be involved and how Indigenous Knowledge should be included.
- How we can best present the EA results to the wider community.

### ***Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process***



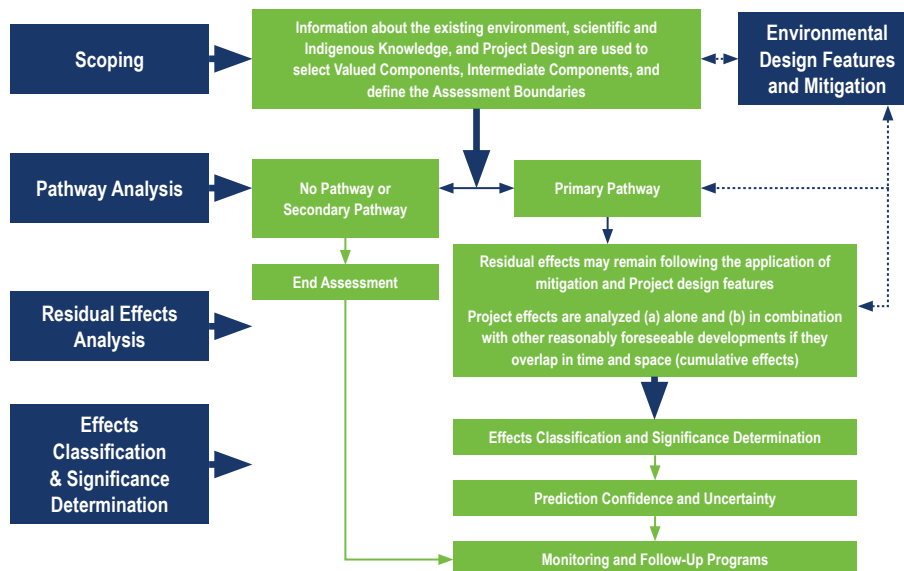
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# Meeting Summary

## Environmental Assessment Process

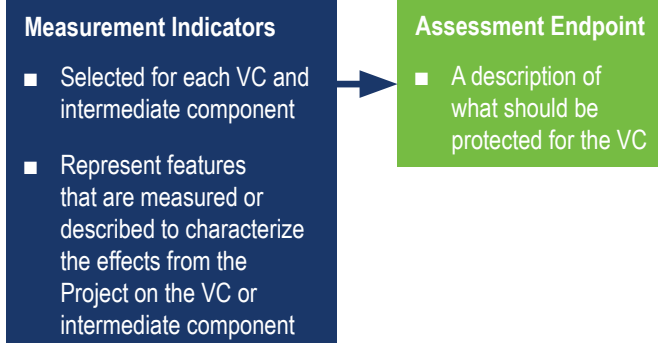
- The steps of an EA include scoping, pathways analysis, the classification of residual effects, and the determination of significance.
- The significance of Project effects on VCs will be determined and the degree of confidence and uncertainty in predictions will be discussed. Where required, monitoring and follow-up programs will be proposed and implemented.
- Both Project effects and cumulative effects will be assessed.

## Environmental Assessment Process Flowchart



## Environmental Assessment Methods - Determining Significance

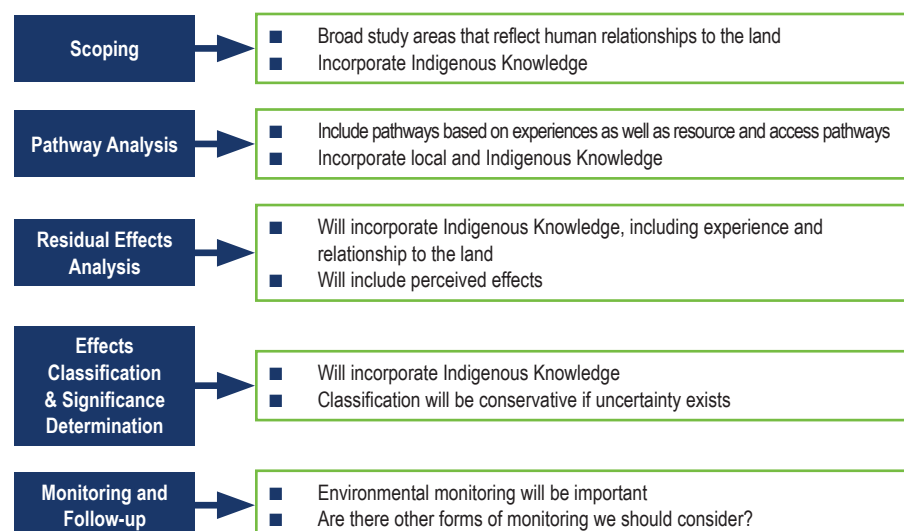
- Significance is determined for VCs where residual adverse effects are predicted after mitigations are applied.
- The significance of residual effects on VCs is determined using measurement indicators and assessment endpoints.
- The overall effect on a VC is deemed 'significant' or 'not significant' based on the weight of evidence. The precautionary approach is used in cases with high uncertainty.
- Significance will be determined for the Project alone and for cumulative effects (e.g., the combined effects of multiple projects).



## Prediction Confidence and Uncertainty

- A major element of an EA is predicting future conditions of the environment as a result of the Project.
- Predictions often have some uncertainty due to variabilities in the socioeconomic and biophysical environments.
- Each step of the EA process is designed to increase prediction confidence and decrease uncertainty.
- The EA will describe the level of confidence in the predictions and where uncertainties remain.

## Increasing Prediction Confidence - Indigenous Land and Resource Use Example



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## Monitoring and Follow-up Programs

- Monitoring is used to verify the predicted effects from the EA, measure compliance with permit conditions, identify unanticipated effects, and provide information for adaptive management plans.
- Monitoring will focus on specific aspects of the environment and generally include the following main categories:
  - Environmental Protection Plan monitoring.
  - Regional monitoring.
  - EA follow-up monitoring.
  - Regulatory compliance monitoring.



*Aquatic Monitoring near Rook I Project Site*

## Questions on Community Involvement in Monitoring

- How would your community like to be involved in the monitoring?
- Do you see a role for Indigenous Knowledge within the monitoring programs? If so, how?
- What concerns do you have regarding monitoring programs?
- How can we help community members feel confident in the monitoring programs?



*Plant Surveys at Rook I Project Site*

## Plain Language Summary

- The plain language summary is intended to present the key findings from the EA in a clear and easily understood manner.
- We would like to hear from communities on your preferences for this document. It is important to ensure that the Plain Language Summary meets your needs.



- What format makes sense for your community?
- How do you think people will use these documents?
- What topics are people interested in?
- What language(s) would you like the Plain Language Summary to be in?
- What other considerations would be useful?

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*Field Surveys at Rook I Project Site*



*Fish Surveys near Rook I Project Site*

## WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE JOINT WORKING GROUPS

- Images, video, and translation of text into Dene are important to help explain the results of the EA.
- The communities are interested in understanding the direction of water flow once it leaves Patterson Lake.
- Trained community members would help communities better understand mining projects like Rook I.
- Engagement with communities, in addition to JWG meetings, is important to help people understand the Project and provide feedback.
- There is concern that some wildlife species like wolves and bears have increased in number, possibly due to a poor market for furs and reduced hunting during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Local contractors may need assistance with understanding bidding processes, insurance, and other criteria necessary to be competitive. A database for employment and training services would be beneficial.
- JWG members need support to address tasks and actions stemming from JWG meetings.

## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

- How would you best like to be kept up to date on the Project?
- What are the most important things you would like us to know about your community and how the Project may create change (both positive and negative)?
- When we describe the effects of the Project, what type of information would be most useful to help you understand the effects?
- What specific topics are important to you?

*Please contact us by any of the means below if you wish to ask questions or discuss anything – we look forward to hearing from you!*