



CEAA Registry Internet Site:



*Providing for more
meaningful public
participation*

IAIA April 2004



Introduction

- October 30, 2003, amendments establish new Registry Internet Site
- Presentation to addresses:
 - Context and background
 - Challenges for development
 - Key results
 - Future opportunities

Importance of public participation

- Value of public participation key message from legislative review
- Minister of the Environment sets goal to provide more meaningful public participation in assessment process
 - Registry Internet Site main deliverable
- Registry provisions key area of interest for Parliament

Government-on-Line

- Government of Canada policy to provide service on-line
 - Two-thirds of Canadians have Internet access
 - 77% of Canadians think Internet will improve services from Government of Canada
 - 73% believe putting services and information on-line is a good use of tax dollars
 - 78% believe Government-on-Line makes government more innovative
 - 77% believe Government-on-Line will improve how Canadians interact with Government

Registry Internet Site: Legal Framework

- Requirement to post basic information for every assessment conducted under Act, e.g.:
 - Notice of Commencement
 - EA Report or how to obtain a copy
 - Any notices requesting public comments
 - EA decision
 - Information on follow-up programs
- Flexibility to post additional information as appropriate

Development Challenges

- Variety of assessments conducted under Act
 - 6700 assessments per year conducted under Act
 - Wide range of assessments from screenings to panels
 - Over 30 different organizations inputting across Canada
- *Official Languages Act* requires government internet sites to provide information in both official languages
- Relationship of new Registry Internet Site to existing departmental databases



Design Approach: Input

- Use of forms and standardized templates for routine documents
 - Reduces workload and translation costs
 - Allows capture of standardized data
- Ability to save entire documents as appropriate
 - Allows public to access documents directly
- Business-to-Business solutions
 - Allow users to use own database systems to update Registry Internet Site
 - e.g. Habitat Referral Tracking System used by Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Design Approach: Public Searches

- Advanced users looking for specific projects or searching by themes
- Focused searches on what is out for public comment
- New users looking for what is happening in their community

Demonstration

- [Screens for presentation.doc](#)

Results since October 30, 2003:

- 1500 assessments entered by 34 different organizations
- On-line public consultations for project in Banff National Park
- Consultations on development of two class screenings
 - Reports and related documents available on-line
- Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board promoting Site to stakeholders to help monitor Board's activities

Additional Benefits: Information Tracking and Quality Assurance

- Standardized information allows tracking of data
- Reports assist in identifying implementation issues
 - Federal coordination
 - Timing of notices
 - Public consultations
 - Follow-up programs
- Reports will be key input into new Quality Assurance Program

Future Challenges

- Use Internet Site to facilitate public in providing input
 - e.g. posting comments on-line
- Allow searching for EA information across jurisdictions
- Provide more sophisticated mapping abilities
 - Adding topographical details
 - Over-laying other geographical data

Accessing the Registry Internet Site

- View at the Agency's web-site: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca
- Or see the Registry Internet Site at the Agency's booth