

Lasting regional gains from non-renewable resource extraction: the role of sustainability-based cumulative effects assessment and regional planning for mining development in Canada

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Overview

- Project Level Limitations
- Cumulative Effects
- CEA Policy Characteristics
- Ring of Fire Considerations
- Overall Policy Recommendations

Cumulative Effects

- The diverse characteristics of cumulative effects can be re-categorized as four types of impacts particularly relevant to mining:
 1. coincident effects
 2. induced effects
 3. lifecycle effects
 4. legacy effects
- Most importantly, all these effects interact and need to be considered together.

Cumulative Effects

- uncertainty and imperfect predictability even with good information (which is not always available).
- In order to identify and evaluate cumulative effects, the assessment process must rely on expertise, including both specialized conventional scientific expertise and traditional knowledge based on local experience
- At the same time, however, assessment of cumulative effects necessarily involves choices for which expert understanding is helpful but insufficient and credible public process is crucial

Cumulative Effects Assessment- Characteristics

- A five factor package of key characteristics is developed. These factors are:
 1. Multi-dimensional
 2. Long term
 3. Credible in process and justification
 4. Authoritative
 5. Accountable

Ring of Fire

- Ecologically significant
- Area rich in ore
- Matawa tribal lands + multiple other downstream communities
- Eabametoong First Nation
- Still challenging for community to determine direction they want- large risks to way of life, combined with Provincial government focus on project by project assessment
- Sustainability based, strategic level assessment would have the capacity to effectively consider cumulative effects

Basic Foundations for New Canadian Legislation

- a basic objective to ensure that all undertakings make contributions to sustainability while avoiding adverse effects, supported by a broad definition of environmental effects, clear inclusion of positive as well as adverse effects and their interactions, and serious attention to long term effects; and
- an overall shift from mitigating significant adverse effects of proposed undertakings to comparative evaluation of best options for making positive contributions to lasting wellbeing while also avoiding negative effects.

Thank you

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