



# Environmental Protection Reviews under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* Reports

## Pilot Periodic Reports

CMD 21-M18



CNSC Staff Presentation to the Commission

April 27, 2021



# Purpose of the Presentation

To inform the Commission of CNSC staff's proposed improvements to Environmental Protection Reviews (EPR) under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*.





# Presentation Outline

## **Outline of the proposed approach**

- Environmental Reviews
- EPR Reports
- Rationale and implications of the new approach

## **Implementation of the pilot project**

- Development of the report
- Outreach and consultation
- Future reports



# Environmental Reviews

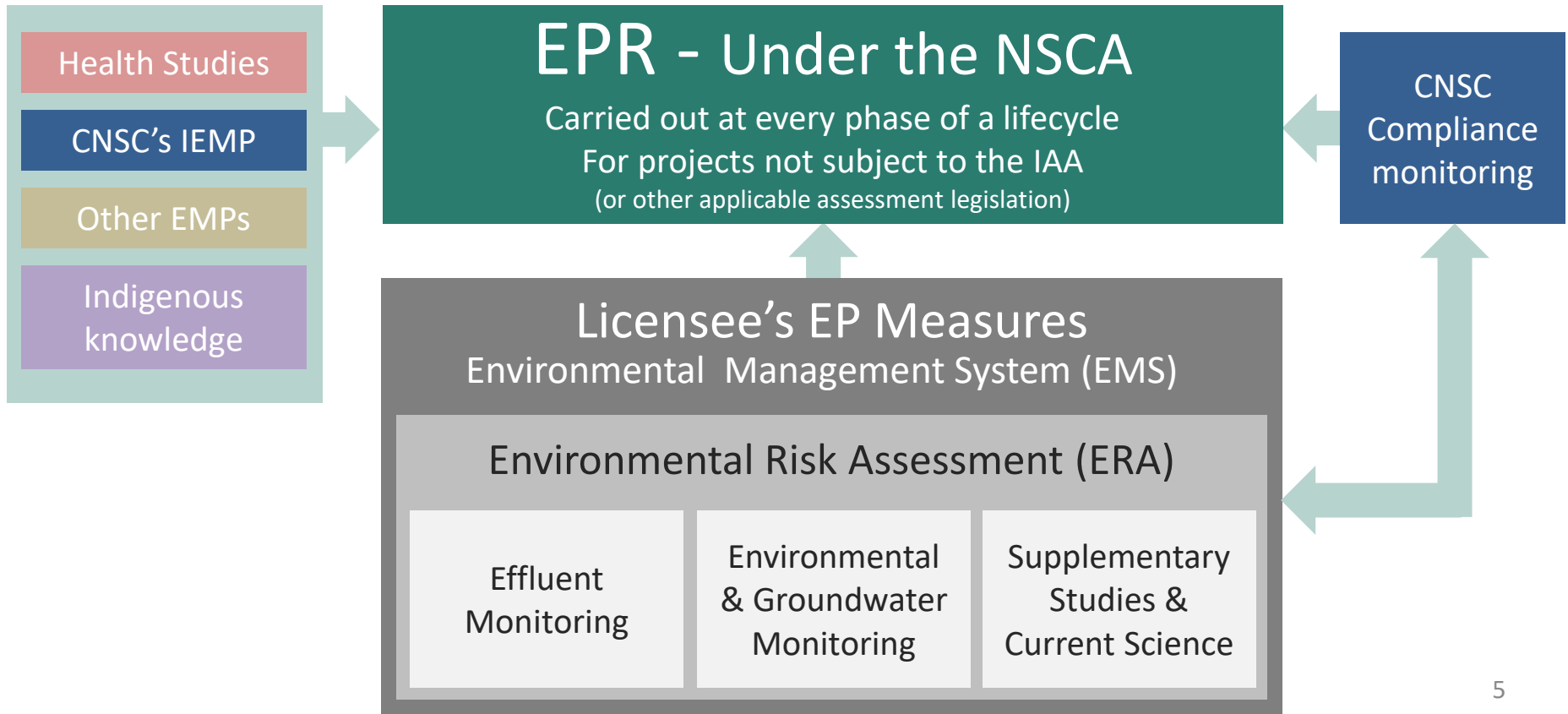
## Encompass the following types:

- Ongoing Environmental Assessment (EA) under *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*
- Impact assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act (IAA)*
- Federal Lands Review under the IAA
- Provincial, Territorial, Land Claim agreements
- **Environmental Protection Review under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act***

**Many legislative processes in place to protect the environment**



# Environmental Protection Framework





# Environmental Protection Reviews

- CNSC conducts EPRs for all licenced facilities with potential environmental interactions, in accordance with its mandate under the NSCA
- **EPR reports document CNSC staff's technical assessment of a licensee's environmental protection measures and performance**
- The report is a 70-page document written by CNSC staff focusing on topics of interest to Indigenous groups, members of the public and the Commission

**EPR reports provide staff's science, evidence-based findings**



# EPR Report Table of Contents

## Typical Table of Contents

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**2.0 REGULATORY OVERSIGHT**

**3.0 STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**3.1 Releases to the Environment**

**3.2 Environmental Effects Assessment**

**4.0 CNSC INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM**

**5.0 HEALTH STUDIES**

**6.0 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMS**

**7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

**ACRONYMS**

**REFERENCES**



# New Approach

## New Approach For Environmental Protection Review Reports:

EPR reports are appended to  
Commission Member Documents.

**CURRENT  
PROCESS**

**NEW  
APPROACH**



CNSC will post EPR reports for existing facilities separately and in advance of Commission Member Documents for licensing proceedings.





# Purpose of New Approach

## For Environmental Protection Review Reports:

**Aligns with CNSC's mandate to disseminate objective, scientific, technical and regulatory information**

### **CNSC staff are implementing this new approach to:**

- Increase transparency and build trust with the public and Indigenous groups
- Provide more time to interested parties with the environmental and health information found in these reports
- Highlight CNSC staff's assessment of a licensee's environmental protection measures and human health studies

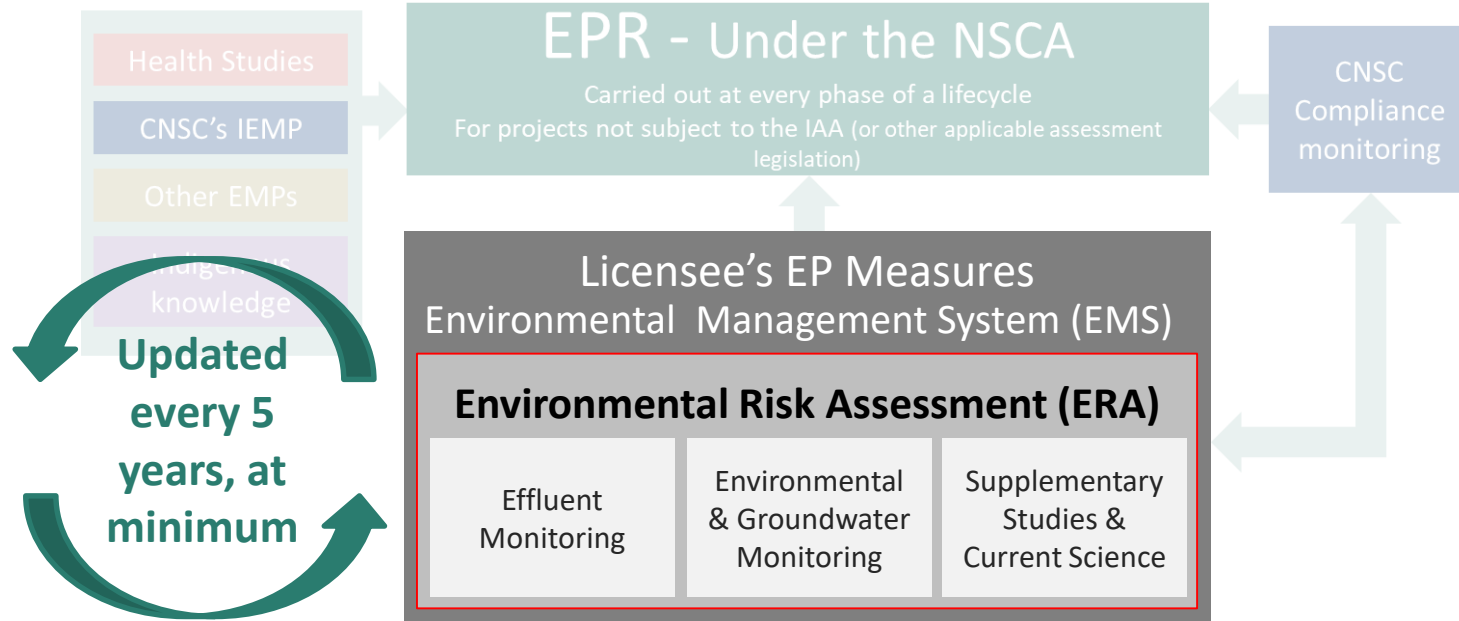


# Comparing Current Process to New Approach

Category	Current process	New approach
Trigger	Licensing decision	Updated ERA
Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licence application</li><li>• Licensee's environmental protection measures</li><li>• Other relevant environmental and health information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licensee's environmental protection measures</li><li>• Other relevant environmental and health information</li></ul>
Publication Method	Appended to Commission Member Documents	Published online to the Open Government Portal
Release Timing	Licensing decision dependent	Approximately every 5 years based on ERA updates, or earlier if there is an operational change



# Environmental Protection Framework



EPR reports will be periodically updated based on CNSC staff's review of a facility's ERA



# Implications for the Commission

- The content of the report remains largely the same
- The facility specific EPR report will be referenced in the Environmental Protection (EP) Safety and Control Area (SCA) section of CNSC staff's CMDs
- Any additional updated information will be included in the EP SCA section of staff's CMD
- EPR reports for new facilities will continue to be appended to licensing CMDs

Most up to date Environmental Protection information  
will be part of staff's CMD

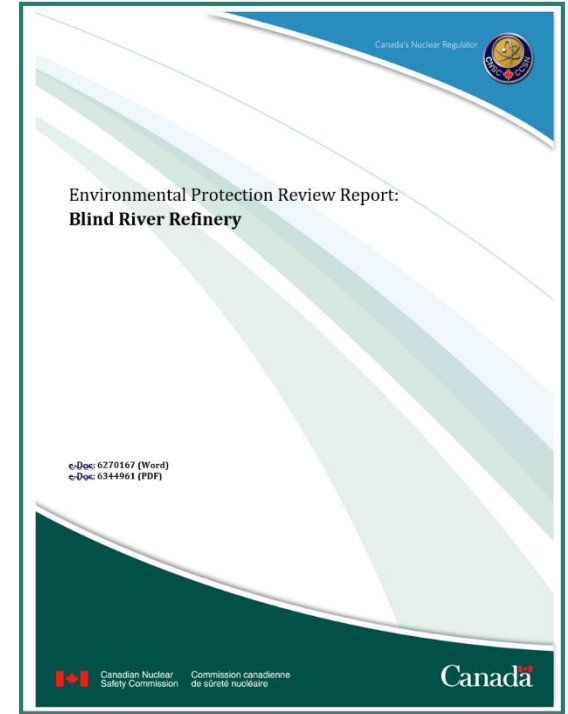


# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROJECT



# Pilot Project

- Cameco's Blind River Refinery facility was selected for the pilot periodic EPR report
- Rationale:
  - existing and CNSC-staff accepted Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA)
  - timing of the licence renewal hearing allowed staff to draft the report and publish it online





# Blind River EPR Report - Pilot

- Pilot EPR report posted to the CNSC website and the Open Government portal
- Let's Talk Nuclear Safety used for consultation platform
- Consultation period will close on July 16, 2021





# Timeline for Blind River Pilot EPR Report

2020							2021											
JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Oct	Nov	
EPR report drafted and approved					Revised and updated EPR report based on ERA update						Post Blind River EPR report				Post CMD			Blind River Refinery Hearing

Approximately 4 months





# Outreach on New Approach

- CNSC website update:
  - homepage banner
  - facility webpage
  - EPR report webpage
- Letters of notification to Indigenous communities in the vicinity of the facility
- Staff will point to and use report content when conducting various facility-specific outreach/engagement activities



# Feedback on New Approach

- Comments received on the pilot project will be considered for future revisions of the EPR report
- Regulatory Oversight Reports and Commission Proceedings will provide opportunities to address comments received on the report's content



# Comments on Pilot Project

Type of comment	How comments will be addressed	Example of comment
IT or process-related questions	Directly by staff with technical support as necessary	"I am having trouble downloading the report; can you please send me a copy of the report?"  "When will this EPR report be updated?"
Errata or corrections	Noted for future updates or corrected through an upcoming CMD	"Table 3.3 lists a different concentration of uranium in soil for 2019 than what is listed in the text."
Technical or of safety significance	Will work with appropriate SMEs to address comment directly and include in future CMDs, if needed	"Based on the findings of the IEMP, there seems to be an increasing trend, can CNSC staff please look into this?"



# Future EPR reports

**Feedback received will be tracked and incorporated into future EPR reports.**

- CNSC will assess the effectiveness of this approach
  - analysis of the number and type of comments received
  - feedback from the Commission following the Commission proceedings



# Summary

- CNSC is implementing a new approach for EPR reports to build trust and add transparency to CNSC staff's assessments
- EPRs will be referenced in staff's licensing CMDs and will continue to remain part of the Commission's licensing decision making basis
- Feedback from the pilot project will be implemented for future EPR reports

Building trust through increased access



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

# Questions?

## Thank You!

Canada 

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