

## Four Stages of Citizen Input

As owners of our natural resources, the Yukon public is interested in getting best value for their resource as it is developed and is equally interested in seeing resource development projects be implemented in a way that includes other important values such as safety and the natural environment.

Therefore, there is tremendous benefit for regulators and reviewers in obtaining community input throughout the lifecycle of an oil and gas resource development project.

Citizen input offers regulators and reviewers an additional lens through which to view a project, and in fact, such input has become the norm. Many resource development projects are modified as a result of information obtained through input processes.

For example, when the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion project - the \$7 billion oil pipeline twinning from Edmonton to Vancouver – was approved by the National Energy Board on May 19, 2016, the project was assigned 157 conditions.

According to a National Energy Board official, 84 per cent of the 157 conditions resulted from concerns and solutions presented by the public during the project hearing process.

Of the 157 conditions:

- 93 conditions were direct responses to contributions from hearing participants;
- 39 other conditions were amended as a result of commenters, interveners, and other forms of feedback received during the process.

The public was heard.

The final design of a resource development project can be vastly different – and significantly improved - from the original project submission as a result of citizen input. Such input makes for better resource development projects.

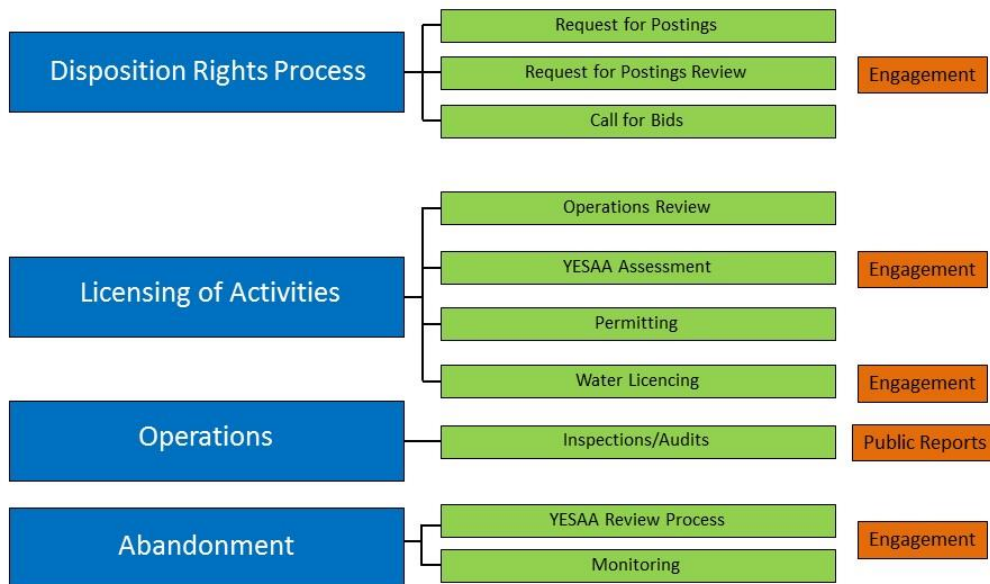
In Yukon, there are four broad stages to an oil and gas resource development project. The project’s lifecycle has public and First Nations engagement processes built in and Yukon First Nations have distinct rights and established processes for consultation on such project proposals.

The four stages are:

1. Disposition Process;
2. Licensing of Activities;
3. Operations; and
4. Abandonment

Each of these stages offers opportunities for involvement. There are formalized consultations with First Nations as well as specific public processes. These are in addition to what is expected of a company before a project development application is submitted.

### Opportunities for Engagement on Oil and Gas Resource Development Projects



Before any oil and gas rights are granted to a proponent, the public is engaged to provide input on potential environmental or socio-economic impacts of oil and gas development on area identified to be of interest (called a “posting”).

At the licensing stage, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's project assessment process is open to the public, and it occurs prior to any activities being undertaken. This includes exploration, drilling, production, transportation and processing activities.

While activities are occurring (the Operations stage), the public may contribute by reporting observations or anomalies to regulators for investigation. Abandonment and reclamation activities also require a YESAA assessment, which involves public input.

Taken together, First Nations and the public provide valuable input throughout the entire life cycle of an oil and gas project, starting before the issuance of any oil and gas rights, and following through to the final stages of reclamation.

Often, the input offers information that assists regulators in applying conditions, monitoring for compliance, and ultimately overseeing the closing out of a project. In this way citizens receive value for their resource while protecting people and the environment.

## **How to contact the Oil and Gas Resources branch**

**General inquiries:** 867.393.7042

**Toll free (inside Yukon):** 1.800.661.0408 ext. 7042

**Email:** [oilandgasconversation@gov.yk.ca](mailto:oilandgasconversation@gov.yk.ca)