

Environmental Assessment

Including climate change considerations in assessments under YESAA (Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act)

CONTEXT

The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) is an independent assessment organization that works closely with Yukoners, governments and stakeholders. YESAB provides recommendations to decision bodies about Yukon projects and whether they should go ahead or not and under which conditions. The Northern Climate ExChange (NCE) of Yukon Research Centre and YESAB recognized that climate change considerations should be included in Yukon project assessments. Funded by YESAB, the two partners began working together in 2011

Photo Credit: YESAB



to continue bringing climate change into the assessment process.

OBJECTIVE

To provide YESAB with the tools to incorporate climate change expertise into its environmental assessments.

APPROACH

NCE and YESAB worked together to:

- Assemble historical climate information and future climate projections for Dawson City, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin, Watson Lake and Whitehorse (YESAB's six districts), as well as Beaver Creek, Carcross, Faro, Pelly Crossing and Old Crow;
- Add climate information to YESAB's Geolocator, (a web based GIS tool);
- Deliver a presentation to YESAB assessors on the effects of climate change on projects in Yukon, the importance of including climate change considerations in environmental assessment and how to use the climate predictions in an assessment context.

EXPECTED RESULTS

NCE and YESAB have advanced the continuing integration of climate change considerations into assessments. As a result, potential project assessments will be more reflective of the changing realities of northern communities.

YESAB will publish a discussion paper later in 2013 to highlight strengths and uncertainties associated with these data and their applicability to environmental assessments.

Significance

Including climate change considerations will help YESAB protect the environmental and social integrity of the Yukon, while fostering responsible development in the territory.

Partners

- Northern Climate ExChange, Yukon Research Centre, Yukon College
- Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board

FOR MORE INFO

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