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# Changes to Federal Legislation and Government Programs

## Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

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# Overview

- The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012)
- Main Changes to CEAA
- Implications for PWGSC
- Action Plan



# CEAA 2012

- CEAA 2012 came into force on July 6, 2012.
- Section 67 sets out responsibilities for the assessment of environmental impacts on federal lands.
- Annual report to Parliament is required.



# Main Changes to CEAA

<b>OLD CEAA</b>	<b>CEAA 2012</b>
Departments and agencies were responsible for conducting Environmental Assessments.	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the National Energy Board are responsible for conducting Environmental Assessments.
Various regulations determined if an Environmental Assessment was required. Related to small, medium and larger projects.	One regulation determines if an Environmental Assessments is required: "Regulations Designating Physical Activities". Relates to major projects such as construction of pipelines and mines.
Approximately 6,000 Environmental Assessments completed annually.	Estimated 100-200 Environmental Assessments annually.



# Implications for PWGSC

OLD CEAA	CEAA 2012
PWGSC completed ~ 15 to 40 Environmental Assessment annually for PWGSC projects.	It is unlikely that PWGSC projects will require an Environmental Assessment.
Projects taking place on federal properties were captured through the various regulations.	Section 67 requires federal departments to ensure that projects on federal lands are not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.
PWGSC provided EA services for OGDs and PWGSC.	PWGSC will no longer be a service provider of Environmental Assessments under CEAA.



# Implications for PWGSC

## Due Diligence

- Ensure that projects on PWGSC lands do not cause significant adverse environmental effects or that other environmental regulations are overlooked.



# Implications for PWGSC

## Termination of environmental assessments

- Environmental assessments are required for projects that are listed in the Regulations Designating Physical Activities.
- Environmental assessments that were in progress when CEAA 2012 came into force were terminated by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.
- Approximately 40 PWGSC environmental assessments were terminated under CEAA 2012.
- PWGSC is completing an evaluation of potential adverse environmental effects for all the affected projects.



# Action Plan

- RPB is developing a framework which details the mechanisms that will be used to ensure that PWGSC is in compliance with CEAA 2012.
- The CEAA 2012 program will be integrated into the department's Environmental Compliance Management Program.
- The framework will be operational by March 31, 2013.





# Action Plan

There are five components of the CEAA 2012 Framework:

1. Process Definition
2. Project Assessments
3. Reports
4. Communication
5. Reviews

