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Environmental Impact Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is developed as part of the project permitting process, to predict potential effects of a project (both negative and positive) on the environment. Regulators review the predicted effects, and then recommend that a project be approved to proceed, rejected, or modified before proceeding, so that the positive effects of a project may be enhanced and negative effects may be mitigated and minimized. An EIA typically considers effects of a project both on the natural environment and on social conditions, and usually includes detailed technical studies as well as public involvement.. [Residual effects](#) and the cumulative impact of future projects (within 6 months of the EIA report submission) are also included in the EIA report.

In the oil sands region, an EIA may be administered through the [Canadian Environmental Assessment Act](#) or as part of the provincial [Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act](#) depending on whether the project is regulated by federal or provincial law. In some cases the project may fall under by both acts, in which case it comes under [The Canada-Alberta Agreement for Environmental Assessment Cooperation](#) .

To learn more about the various acts and the steps of an EIA see:

[The Federal Act](#)

[The Provincial Process](#)

[Policies and Initiatives](#)



The Suncor Millenium Mine on the banks of the Athabasca River

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Shell Scotford Upgrader

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