

The Weak Link in EIA Effectiveness: Challenges in Process Administration

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Agenda

- 1** Introduction and Methods
- 2** EIA Process Definition and Timelines
- 3** EIS Guidelines, Preparation and Review
- 4** Administrator Capacity
- 5** Conclusions and Recommendations
- 6** Questions

1 Introduction and Methods

Observations of the administration of EIA processes in Canada are contributing to a decrease in EIA effectiveness

- *The “weak link” is the general capacity of government officials managing EIA processes and the evolving bureaucratic systems they work within*

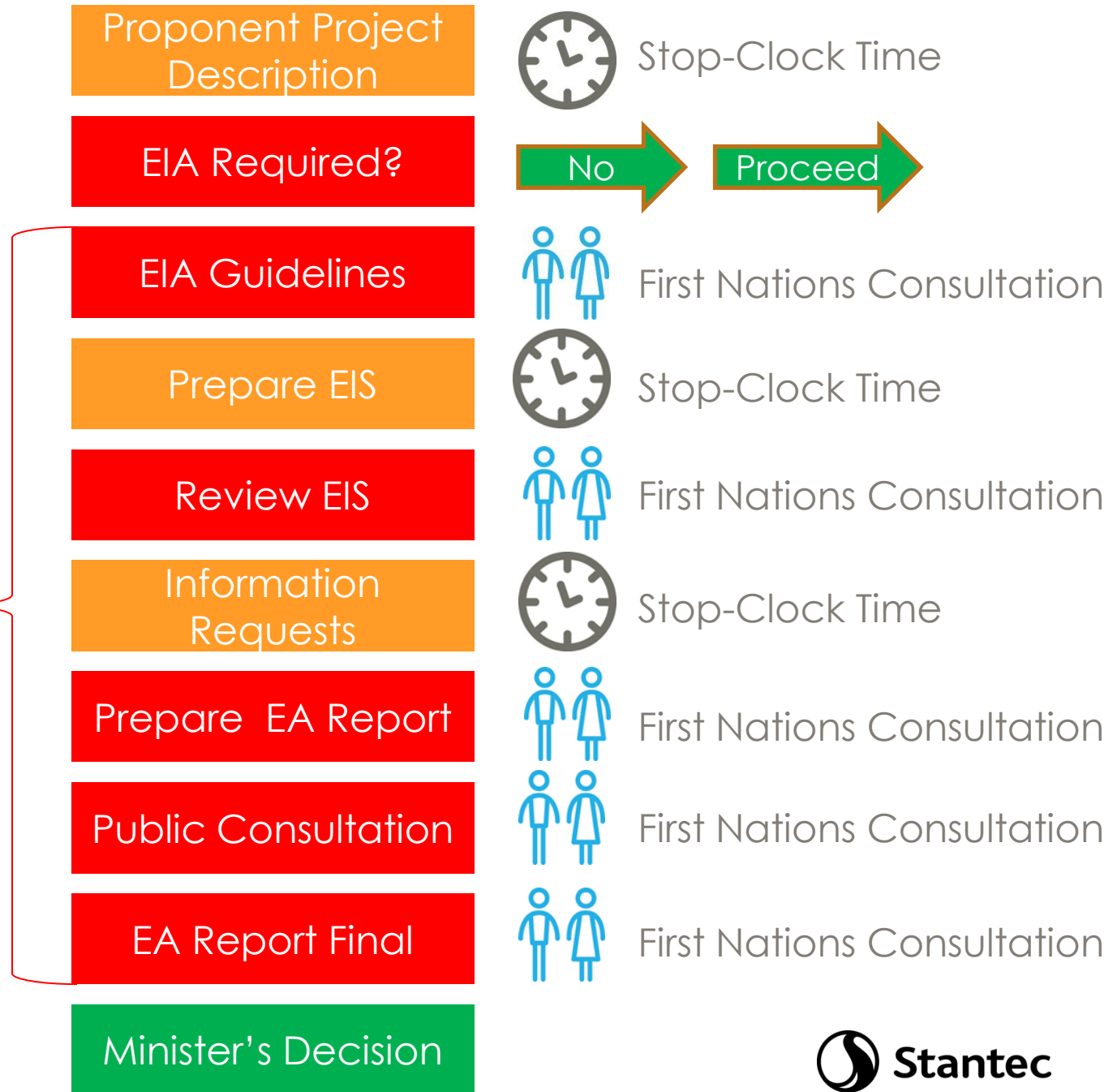
2 EIA Process Definition and Timelines

EIA process defined in law regulation and filled in by guidance and administrative practice

- *CEAA 2012 requires timely process management – standard EIA requires decision in 365 days*
- *Excludes “stop-clock time”*



365 Days



3 EIS Guidelines, Preparation and Review

- *Preparation of responses to Information Requests is on stop-clock time*
- *Pervasive is the tendency of administrators to manage risk by seeking resolution to all Information Requests*



4 Administrator Capacity

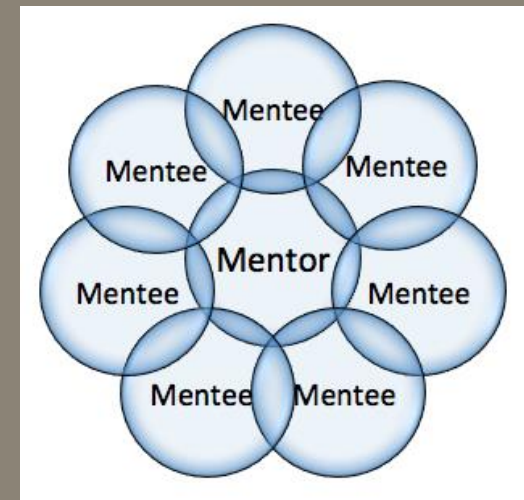
There is no doubt that competent management of a fair and responsible EIA process is a “very tall order”

- *EIA administrators at times appear to use stop-clock time, and detailed, even trivial IRs, to make their work easier and less risky for themselves*



5 Conclusions and Recommendations

- *Migration towards the management of detailed process, and away from making informed judgment necessary for effective EIA*
- *Improved training and mentoring of EIA administrators and their technical advisors is a high priority*
- *Limit or regulate the information request process?*



6 Questions?

Thank you for attending

- Jeff Barnes, John Boyle

