Cumulative Effects Assessment for Small Projects

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Introduction

1. Why important
2. Challenges
3. Solutions

Applying common CEA methods to small projects is like delivering snowballs with cruise missiles.
Why Important – Literature says …

Tyranny of small decisions

Keystone Projects
Executive Committee screenings completed Nov. 2005 to Dec. 2020

7

Designated Office assessments completed

3060
Challenges – Methodology

- Temporal scope
- Spatial scope
- Baseline
- Management options
- Monitoring

Same as CEA for big projects but much worse
Challenges – “Fiscal”

- Data needs
- Specialized expertise
- Many VC
- Small budget
- No experts
- Tiny project = tiny impact

Nobody wants to pay for it
Grouping Projects
Scoping the whole project
Consider CE as context
Broaden reasonably foreseeable

Stop treating CEA as afterthought
Solutions coming soon?

Regional assessments
Land use planning
Better CEA for keystone projects
Scenario analysis
More monitoring

Political will and more work by government
Pie in the sky solutions

Artificial intelligence

Land use planning (in other areas)

Scrap project specific CEA

“It is pretty hard to engage with a Land Use Planning Commission that doesn’t exist”. YESAB Chair
Let’s continue the conversation!
Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA21 platform.