

STREAMLING IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Focusing on Project-specific Issues and “IA-derived” Outcomes

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Steve Bonnell, PhD

Director, Impact Assessment (Principal)

Worley Canada Services Ltd.

Adjunct Professor

Department of Geography, Memorial University



Introduction and Contents

Streamlining Impact Assessment (IA)

- **IA Efficiency: Issues and Observations, Potential Approaches**
- ***Case Study*: Energy Development in Newfoundland & Labrador**
- **Attitudes, Impediments, Enablers, Opportunities**

+ Some Conclusions and Suggestions

These reflect my own views and experiences, and not necessarily those of any other person or organization

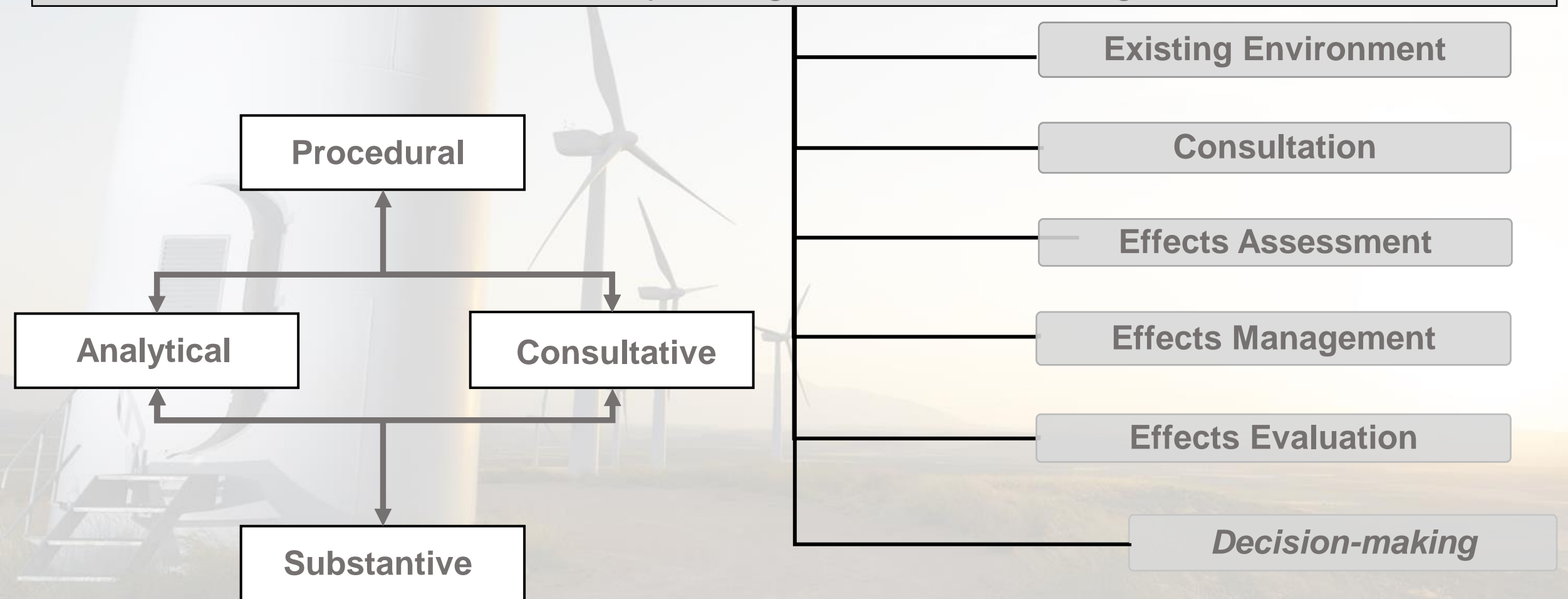


Observations on IA Efficiency

Impact Assessment

| im-pac-t • a-sess-ment | [noun]

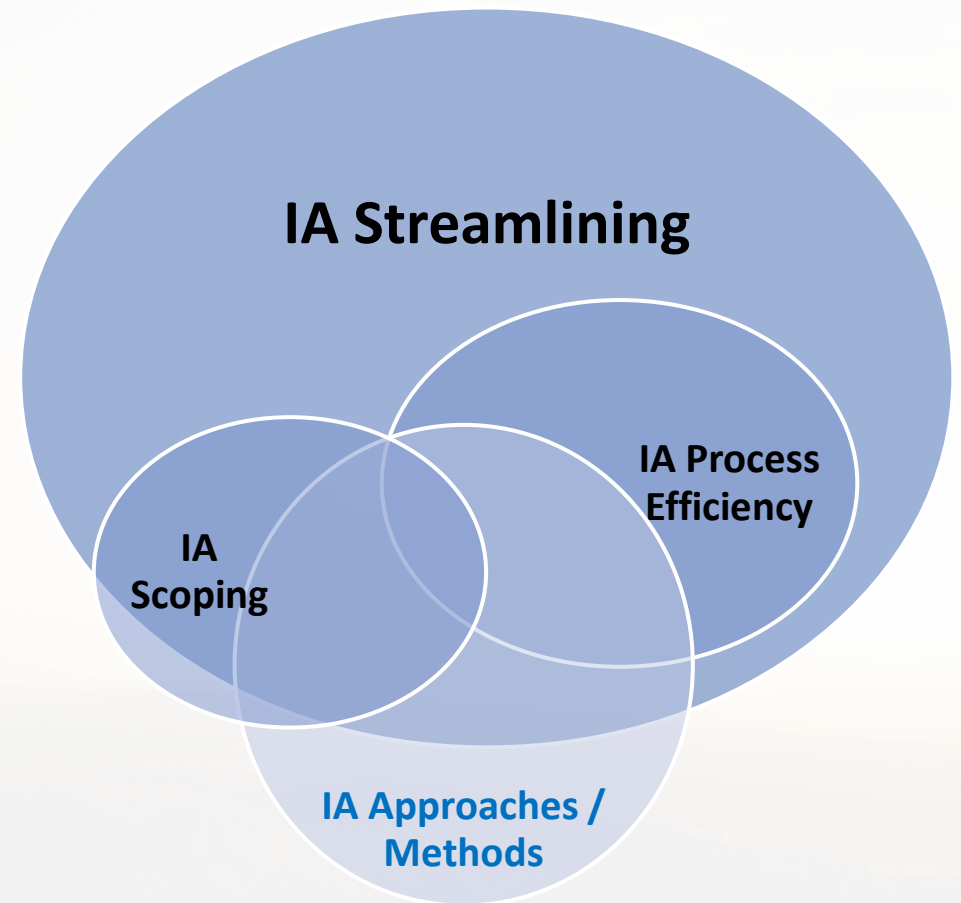
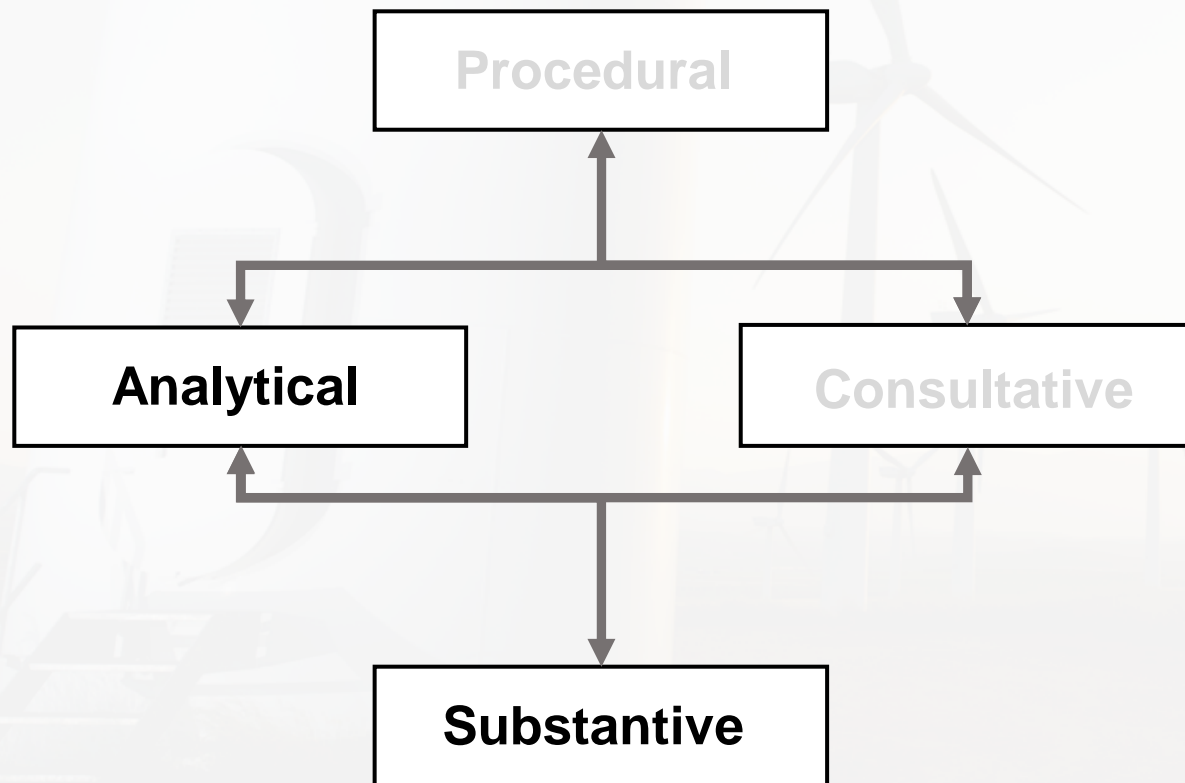
A regulatory review process applied to proposed development activities in order to predict and evaluate their potential environmental effects, so that these can be considered and addressed in planning and decision-making.



Impact Assessment

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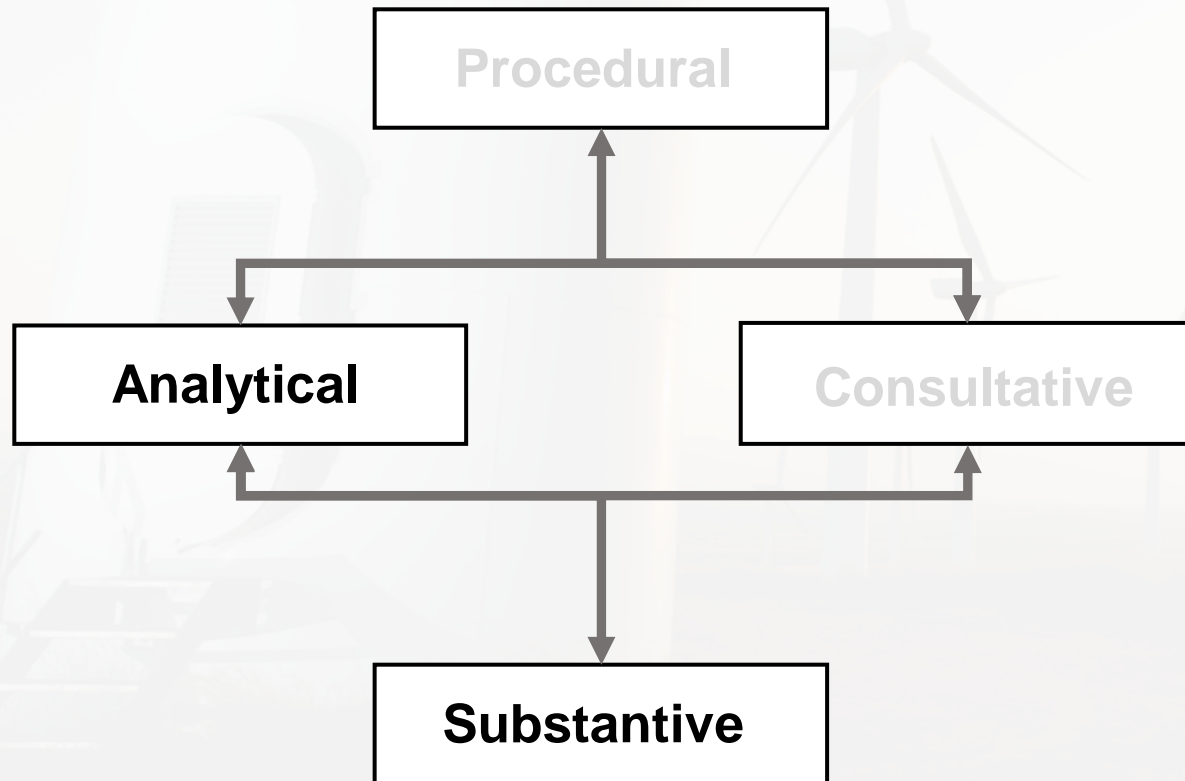
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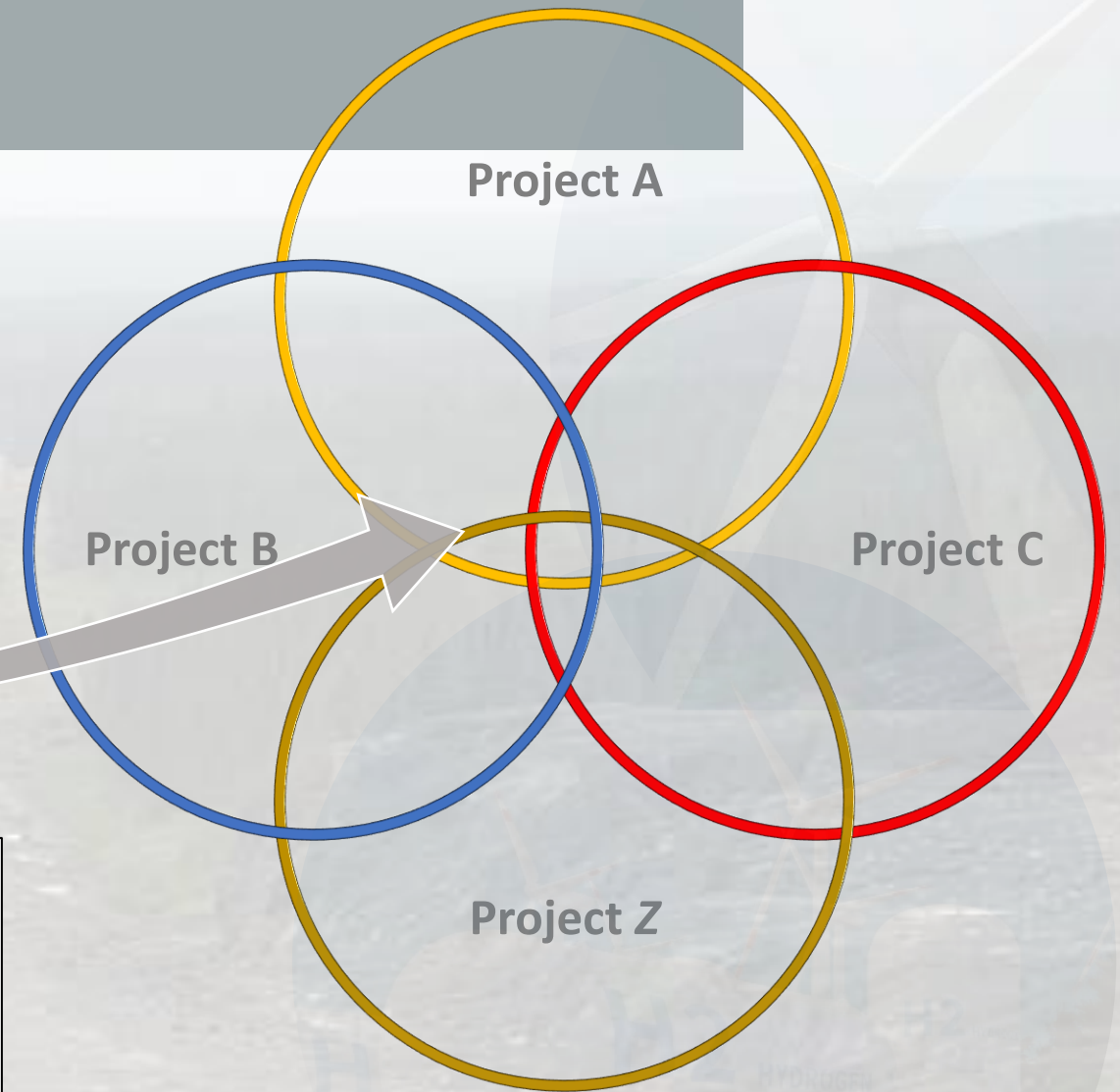
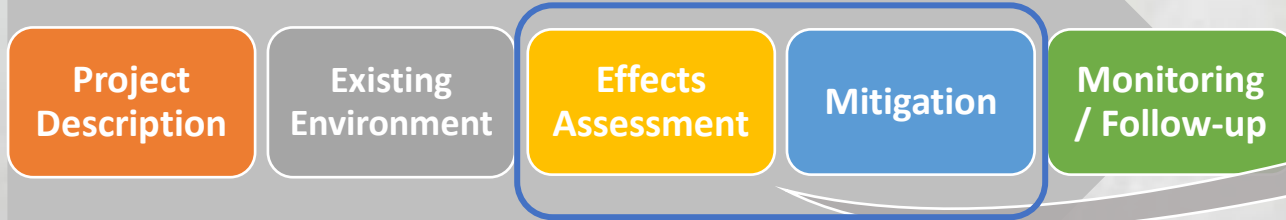
- **Significant amount of IA information, analysis and resulting mitigation is often generic and duplicative**
- **Can we identify and separate out those aspects that are truly “project- and site- specific” vs those that can be dealt with in a more generic manner through other approaches?**



Possible Approaches for Improved IA Efficiency

Improving IA Efficiency

Early, Generic IA Work

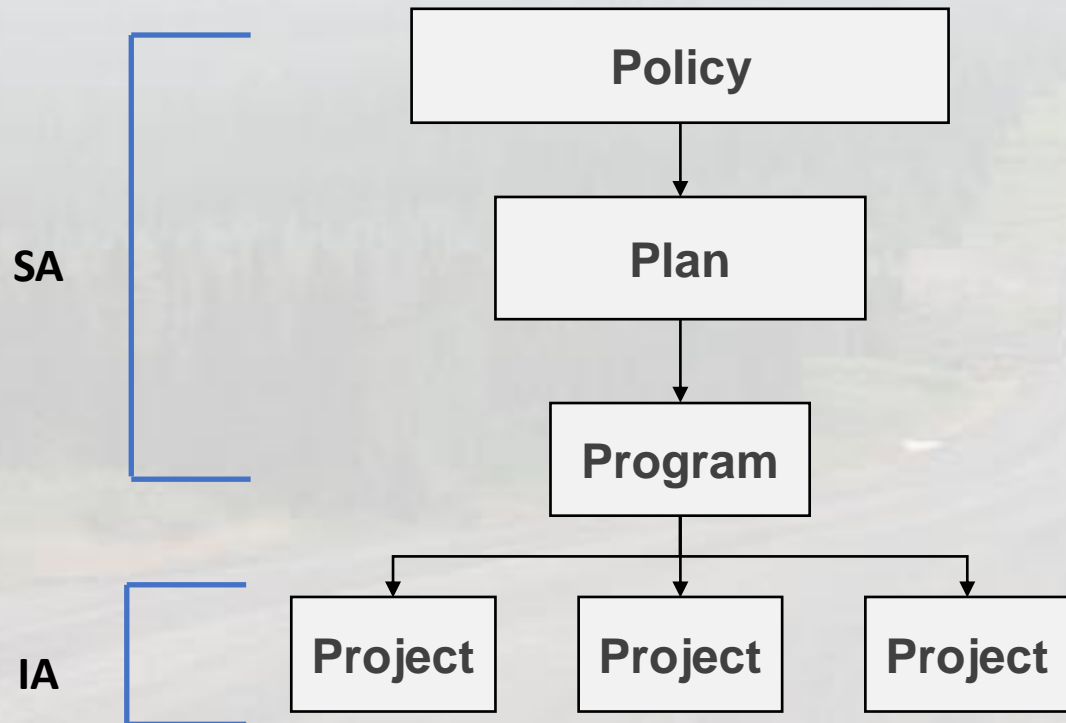


Potential to streamline project IAs by:

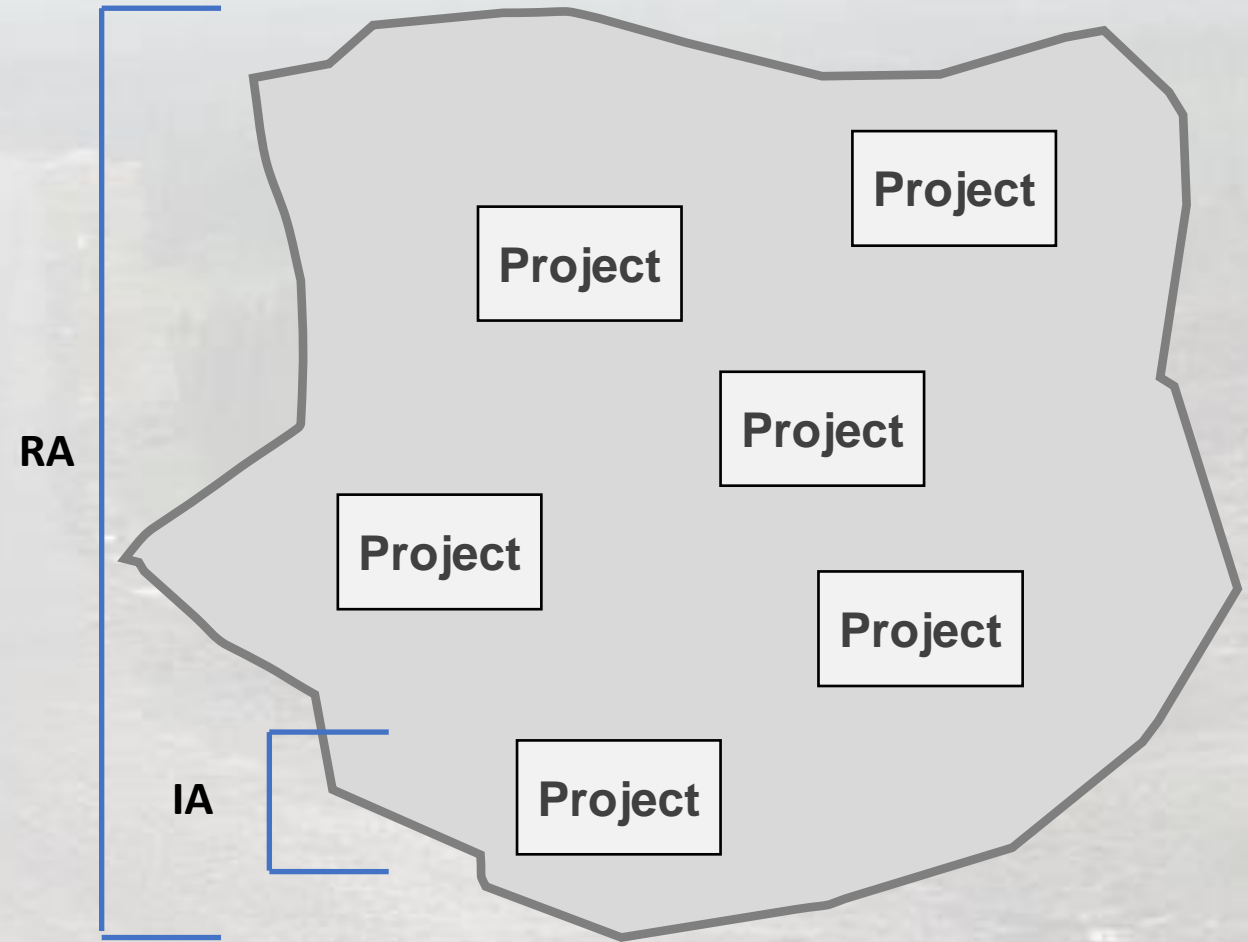
- 1) “Front-end loading” initial and generic IA work across regions and/or sectors, thereby creating a base of information and analysis for project IAs to utilize and “jump off from”, rather than repeat
- 2) Identifying and codifying standard mitigation and monitoring requirements, thereby allowing project IAs to focus on environmental issues that are project-specific, and outcomes that are truly “IA-derived”.

Strategic and Regional Assessments

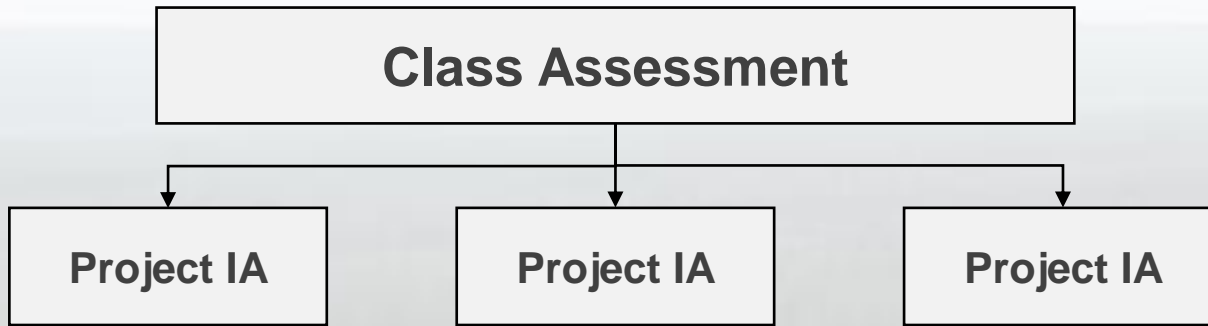
Strategic Assessment



Regional Assessment



Class Assessments



- A generic and comprehensive assessment of a “class” of projects in a defined area.
 - Description of typical components and activities
 - Definition of geographic and temporal boundaries
 - Identification of key, common env issues
 - Detailed but generic effects assessment
 - Identification of standard mitigation and monitoring

- Typically applied to types of projects that utilize standard and relatively routine equipment and methods, and which result in consistent and predictable effects that can be mitigated through established measures.

- Improves IA efficiency – “*Exemption*” or possible “*Bump up*” to focussed project IA, if required
- Helps focus and streamline future assessments
- Individual project IAs can focus on any new / different / project- or site-specific issues

Case Study:

Energy Development in Newfoundland & Labrador



IA Streamlining

Government's Perspective:

- *Cannot reduce type or level of public participation for individual projects.*
- *Do agree there is room for improved efficiency, and especially, less repetition*
- *BUT, be great if that could be achieved through industry efforts – and if we don't have to do or change anything on our side ...*

IA Streamlining

Stakeholders' Perspective:

- *We won't ever give up the ability to provide our views on individual projects.*
- *But, totally fed up with reading 1000s of pages over and over, all saying the same thing.*
- *Be great if we could cut through all that and get straight to project-specific concerns and mitigations.*

Industry's Perspective:

- *Our project and its effects are so unique, surely these can't be addressed generically.*
- *The status quo takes too long and costs too much - but it's safe, familiar and comfortable.*

IA Streamlining

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Industry's Perspective:

- *Would like to see more efficient IA processes*
- *But, our project and its effects are so unique, surely these can't be addressed generically.*
- *The status quo takes too long and costs too much - but it's safe, familiar and comfortable.*



Some Conclusions and Suggestions

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Discussion...

Steve Bonnell, PhD

Worley Canada Services Ltd.

Tel 709 680 4192

Email steve.bonnell@worley.com