

AQLPA Report on the SEA Working Plan

AQLPA Report on the SEA Draft Plan

Methodology

February 2012

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The essence of the SEA report

- What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)-
OECD definition?
- What is an Environmental Impact assessment (EIA)-
OECD definition?
- Is the SEA plan draft on shale gas a SEA?

EIA	SEA	SEA on shale gas
Applied to specific and relatively short-term (life-cycle) projects and their specifications.	Applied to policies, plans and programs with a broad and long-term strategic perspective.	The type of policies, plans and programs that could be affected by the SEA are not defined in terms of implementation; also the life cycle of the project and cumulative effects does not seem to be studied. not SEA nor EIA.
Takes place at early stage of project planning once parameters are set.	Ideally, takes place at an early stage in strategic planning.	The permeations for exploration is already been given, not SEA nor EIA
Considers limited range of project alternatives.	Considers a broad range of alternative scenarios.	Alternative projects presented in the report only with electric (No emphasis) ..EIA
Usually prepared and/or funded by the project proponents.	Conducted independently of any specific project proponent.	Prepared in collaboration with industry and funded by the government. .more EIA that EES
Focus on obtaining project permission, and rarely with feedback to policy, plan or program consideration.	Focus on decision on policy, plan and program implications for future lower-level decisions.	Impossible to know Currently the impact of the SEA the decision on policy implications, plans and programs. Focused currently on leave of projects.

EIA	SEA	SEA on shale gas
Well-defined, linear process with clear beginning and end (e.g. from feasibility to project approval)	Multi-stage, iterative process with feedback loops.	Linear process with public consultation without need to consult with industry since it contributes directly to the committee.
Preparation of an EIA document with prescribed format and contents is usually mandatory. This document provides a baseline reference for monitoring.	May not be formally documented.	Does not seem to apply
Emphasis on mitigating environmental and social impacts of a specific project, but with identification of some project opportunities, off-sets, etc.	Emphasis on meeting balanced environmental, social and economic objectives in policies, plans and programs. Includes identifying macro-level development outcomes.	EIA
Limited review of cumulative impacts, often limited to phases of a specific project. Does not cover regional-scale developments or multiple projects.	Inherently incorporates consideration of cumulative impacts.	EIA

Analysis of comparison table

The SEA on shale gas is
a combination of SEA and EIA-
however it is closer to and EIA

Question: asked by AQLPA to the committee of SEA on shale gas

1. Why is the SEA different from the OECD model?
2. If the SEA is not similar to the OECD model, is it possible to know the evidence of changes, including with regard to the issues raised by the above analysis?

Next few slides show some important elements which are missing in SEA report on shale gas:

- What is missing in the current SEA?
- What is recommended by AQLPA?

Alternative Scenarios

Current SEA:

There is not enough emphasis on the alternative scenarios. “Non-development” and “alternative energy scenario” are two of the many options rather than being based within other rather than being central to the SEA.

AQLPA's Recommendation:

Alternative energy options and the non-development should be considered as important as the development scenario by the SEA Committee.

Timeline of study

Current SEA:

25 years which is middle-term impact for an industry such as shale gas.

AQLPA's Recommendation:

100 years. The long-term environmental, social and economic affects of the shale gas industry must be taken into consideration with the SEA.

Details and references

Current SEA:

Details and references are missing in many places in the report.

AQLPA's Recommendation:

Details in all sections of the report plus references are required in order to add credibility and clarity to the report.

Public engagement

Current SEA:

- In the public consultation, people feel excluded and neglected.
- There is no precise information on how the SEA wants to increase the social engagement.
- Verbatims are not available as is the case with BAPE studies.
- Documents from participants won't be published on the website.

AQLPA's Recommendations:

- Give precisions on how the EES committee will increase public engagement.
- Publish the verbatims of the public consultations and the documents from the population and the groups who have sent their recommendations.

Economic assessment

Current SEA:

Economic assessment of the shale gas industry is going to be conducted based on the Quebec's energy needs and natural gas consumption for the period of 25 years in a socio-economic relevant manner (page 73- EES report).

As SEA report mentions a cost-benefit analysis is going to be conducted. However, no precise explanation on consideration of externalities in the economic plan is provided.

Economic assessment (Cont'd)

- *“Economic Efficiency” principal of the sustainable development adopted by Quebec government: Economic efficiency must be in accordance with social progress and respect for the environment (MDDEP, 2012).*
 - *WHO: “An integrated economic analysis of environmental and health impacts can capture the hidden costs and benefits of policy options, as well as the synergies and institutional economies of scale that may be achieved through complementary policies that support sustainable development. (WHO, 2012)*
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AQLPA's recommendations:

The SEA committee must analyze a long-term assessment that includes the environmental, social and health impacts related to the shale gas industry.

The SEA committee must publish a precise plan of study and the indicators (including externalities) as well as timescale in the new SEA report.

Follow-up

Current SEA:

There is no information regarding the follow-up of the SEA committee for implementation of their results.

AQLPA's Recommendation:

According to the OECD, the follow-up is one of the essential parts of an SEA (OECD,2006). A follow-up section must be added to the shale gas SEA report.

References

- Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP), 2012, The Principles of Sustainable development, available at http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/developpement/principes_en.htm. [Accessed Jan 2012]
- OECD, 2006, Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment: GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION. 164 pp.
- WHO, 2012, Economic Assessment. Available at <http://www.who.int/heli/economics/en/> [Accessed Jan 2012]