

The Clean Environment Commission

Public Participation in the Environmental Review
Process



Manitoba Clean Environment Commission

Who are we?

The Manitoba Clean Environment Commission is an arms-length agency of the government of Manitoba. The Commission's principal purpose is to encourage and facilitate public involvement in the province's environmental management process. Through this process, the CEC contributes to the provincial government's stated objective of striking a balance between environmental stewardship and economic development.

By necessity, bodies such as the Clean Environment Commission must be granted a considerable degree of independence. While the Commission operates as a governmental institution, it must also be seen to be an independent forum for environmental matters – open to full public scrutiny and debate.

What do we do?

The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) may initiate formal proceedings only at the request of the Minister of Conservation. The Minister may ask the Commission:

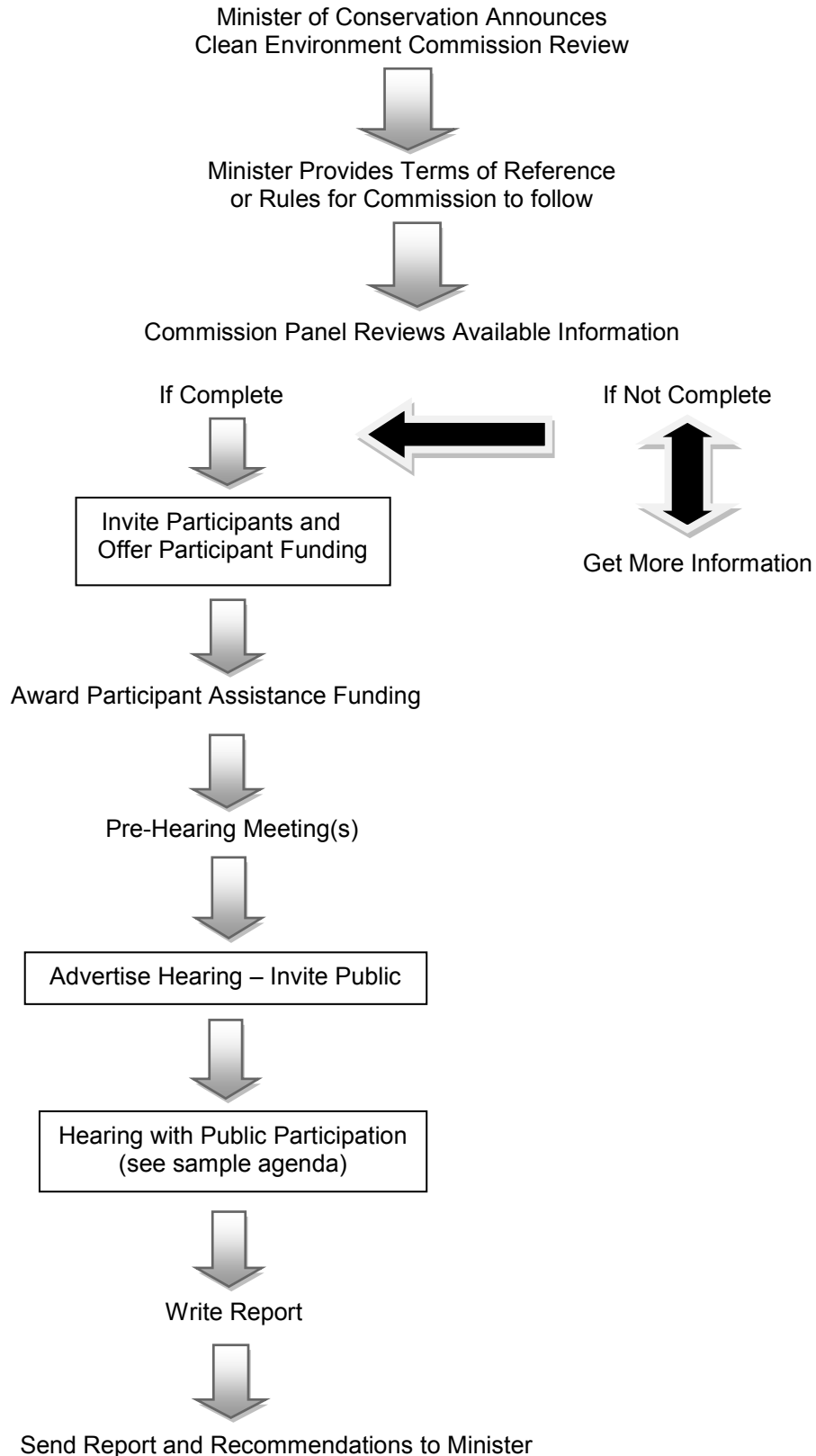
- To review potential environmental impacts of proposed projects and/or developments and to provide advice to the minister on whether an environmental licence should be issued and/or what are some of the specific topics or issues that should be addressed by the licence.
- To conduct an investigation or an in-depth study of a specific environmental matter and to provide him/her with advice. The Commission may or may not use public input as part of their information gathering.

What we don't do!

The Clean Environment Commission:

- Does not make any laws or regulations.
- Does not enforce or make anyone obey the laws.
- Does not take complaints about anyone breaking the law.
- Does not issue any licences or permits.
- Does not answer any questions about government policies or laws.

Clean Environment Commission Hearing Process Activity Flow Chart



What happens at a Hearing?

At the Hearing, the order of business will, typically, be as follows:

1. Opening Remarks Panel Chair (1 Person)

- Welcome and Statement of the purpose of the hearing
- Introduction of panel **(at least 2 People)**
- Discussion of procedural matters and agenda

2. Project Overview - Proponent - Manitoba Hydro (At least 3 people)

- Comprehensive presentation describing the project.
- Panel members question Proponent
- Intervenors question Proponent
- Members of Public question Proponent.

3. Intervener Submissions (Any number of Intervenors)

- Intervenors present their concerns (5 minutes)
- Panel members question Intervenors
- Proponent questions Intervenors
- Members of Public question Intervenors

5. Public Submissions Presenters (Any number of Public Presenters)

- Those who have registered as Presenters and members of the Public will be given an opportunity to make a brief submission. These submissions are limited to 5 minutes in length.
- Only the Panel may ask questions of the Presenters and the Public.

6. Rebuttal Proponent only

- Proponent may submit rebuttal evidence to address points raised during the submissions of Participants (Intervenors or Public).
- Examination by Intervenors or Public is permitted, but only on the additional evidence presented.

7. Final Argument Proponent

- State what they believe are the most important aspects of the matters to be considered and the reasons for the conclusions they believe the Commission should come to.

8. Closing

At the conclusion of the Hearings, the Panel Chair will announce its closure.

9. Report

Once the record is closed, the Panel has 90 days to reach its decisions and prepare a report to the Minister.

ROLES and Responsibilities

Panel Chair

- opening remarks - welcome and statement of the purpose of the hearings
- Introduction of the Panel Members
- Discussion of the Procedures and Agenda
- Ask Questions of the Proponent, Intervenors and Public Presenters
- Take notes of the good points that Presenters make to quote or reference in their Final Report and Recommendation
- Along with other Panel Members, write a 1 page Final Report and Recommendation
- Closing Statements

Panel Members

- One panel member will officiate the Swearing or Affirmation
“Do you swear or affirm that what you will present is the truth?”
- Along with other Panel Members, will write out a 1-page final Report and Recommendation
- Guest Panel members could be other interested parties (teachers or administrators) who can ask questions, but will not take part in the Final Report and Recommendation.

Proponents - Manitoba Hydro

- up to three members can make 5 minute presentations regarding the proposed new dam project.
- One should present on the proposed project and its details. A second could present about the environmental benefits of the project. A third could present about the social benefits of the project.

Intervenors

- will make a 5 minute presentation to the Panel
- will be able to ask questions of the Proponents
- Here are a few examples of Intervenor roles that could be played:
 - Director of an Environmental Organization
 - Chief of an affected First Nation
 - Director of a Taxpayers Group
 - etc.

Public Presenters

- will make a 5 minute presentation to the Panel
- will be able to ask questions of the Proponents
- Here are a few examples of Public Presenter roles that could be played:
 - Fisher person from an affected waterway
 - Trapper from affected land
 - Concerned citizen electricity consumer
 - etc.

Media

If somebody's been absent for the preparation of the presentation, they could write a news report/article on the proceedings. This could include highlights of the presentations, as well as interviews with a few of the presenters.