

Proposed Changes

Technical Bulletins:

- **NEW** Operating Plans for Dams Technical Bulletin
 - Operating plans guide the management of water levels and flows, at new and existing dams, while providing for the purposes of the LRIA.
 - The Operating Plan for Dams Technical Bulletin provides new guidance for the preparation of operating plans ordered under the authority of Section 23.1 for new waterpower dams and other complex dams.
 - The contents of the Operating Plan for Dams Technical Bulletin include:
 - clarification on when an operating plan would be ordered for new and existing dams;
 - contents of an operating plan, including the operating regime, compliance monitoring requirements, and post-construction monitoring programs; clarification to industry on Ministry expectations for minimum instream flow requirements;
 - consultation requirements;
 - operating plan review and approval process.
- **NEW** Plans and Specifications Technical Bulletin
 - Plans and specifications approval is the final approval required under section 14 of the LRIA before construction of a new dam may commence.
 - The Plans and Specifications Technical Bulletin provides detailed guidance and procedures for the preparation, submission, and review of applications for new dams under the LRIA. Contents of the Plans and Specifications Technical Bulletin include:
 - A definition of what a complete submission should include and how the Ministry will review it with clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the proponent, the proponents' design engineer, and the Ministry including our engineering review.
 - Explaining the nature of the Ministry's role in the review process, which includes a completeness review and regulatory review of the submission to support a decision under the LRIA. It further clarifies

that a more detailed engineering technical review can be undertaken where warranted by identified concerns, inconsistencies, or departures from applicable standards or criteria have been used or by site or project-specific risks.

- Clarifying how the final design is expected to align with location approval, including approved flooding limits, operating assumptions, and applicable technical bulletins.
- Providing greater transparency on process steps, review timelines, and approval outcomes including a reduced service standard for a ministry determination about the completeness of an application from 30-60 days to 30 days.

- **UPDATED** Maintaining Section 23.1 Plans Technical Bulletin

- Proposed changes include increased clarity on the amendment process, updated guidance for Implementation Reports (“IRs”) with streamlining of requirements, and clarity edits to include guidance specific to operating plans. Most notably:
 - Planning for new waterpower projects;
 - Considerations for new dams, within and outside, the geographic boundaries of a Water Management Plan (“WMP”);
 - Increased clarity for when an amendment is required, who can request an amendment, details for amendment request preparation, screening, Ministry review and decision;
 - Guidance for establishing an optional Advisory Committee for dams with operating plans;
 - For Operating Plans: setting requirements for self-monitoring, data collection, incident notification and reporting, and post-construction monitoring and reporting.
 - Changes to IRs for WMPs, including removal of the Ministry’s check for completeness of the IRs and streamlining of requirements including:

- updated objectives and submission requirements, providing clarity on the level of detail required in submissions, and new requirements for proponents to post the IRs directly for public transparency when due.
- Proposed changes to Implementation Report requirements would come into effect upon approval of the updated Maintaining Section 23.1 Plans Technical Bulletin.
- If this occurs, the Ministry will implement these changes through an amendment to all WMPs within 12 months of the policy being approved. The Ministry will contact WMP proponents and work with them to transition to the new Implementation Report framework.

In addition, the Ministry is incorporating administrative updates to existing LRIA policy documents including clarifications to the Location Approval Technical Bulletin (2015), the Alterations, Improvements and Repairs to existing dams Technical Bulletin (2016), and the LRIA Administrative Guide (2017). The nature of the administrative changes include;

- Updates to Ministry and legislative name changes.
- Alignment with the new and updated policy direction across the technical bulletins including the new proposed bulletins for plans and specifications and operating plans.
- Updates needed for consistency with current LRIA regulatory provisions, the renewable energy on public land policy, and approval processes including direction for proponents on how to better leverage and address LRIA submission requirements as part of their Class Environmental Assessment for Waterpower Projects.
- Introduction and alignment of clear service standard timelines for Ministry decisions to enhance business certainty and support timely project development.

The decision notice will include all technical bulletins including any that have been administratively updated.