

Appendix D: Environmental Review Requirements

Environmental review requirements for Networks receiving NCE funds:

- An environmental review shall be carried out on all projects selected for funding by the Network, and on funded projects when methodology changes significantly during the course of the funding period.
- Boards may choose to carry out the environmental review themselves or to delegate this task, for example, by appointing a sub-committee or hiring consultants.
- Network funds shall only be released to Network Investigators after their projects have undergone an environmental review and the Network has determined that no significant adverse effects on the environment are expected. The Network should make awards conditional on a favourable environmental review.
- If the Board or its delegate determines that the environmental effects of a project are significant, the project will not be funded by the Network and will not be part of the Network's research program. In such cases, the result of the environmental review and the Board's decision shall be communicated to the researcher(s) involved, to the NCE Secretariat, and to the relevant participating institution(s).

Networks must report annually to the NCE Secretariat to summarize their environmental review process and the results of the reviews done.

Important note: What follows is an example of an environmental review process. While the steps may be adapted or modified according to its own situation, each Network must set up its own process.

In most cases, the review will be straightforward and should be based on applicants carrying out a self-assessment of the project, comparable to NSERC's Form 101 Appendices A and B. The level of review will depend on the applicant's response and the complexity of the project. In principle, most laboratory

projects conducted indoors may be excluded from such assessment, provided that appropriate environmental protection procedures are in place, e.g. provisions for the treatment of effluent or disposal of hazardous waste.

- a. For projects conducted exclusively indoors, researchers must attest to that fact in their proposal. (For example, see page 1 of NSERC's Form 101 at [PDF Forms and Instructions](#).)
- b. For projects in which at least one activity takes place outdoors, Network Investigators must complete the equivalent of NSERC's Environmental Impact Statement and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* Pre-screening Checklist (Form 101, Appendices A and B, which can be found at [PDF Forms and Instructions](#).)
- c. Environmental Impact Statements should be sent to and reviewed by the Network Governing Board (or its delegate) for an assessment of potential environmental effects. If there are no significant environmental concerns, the proposal can be approved and funded by the Network.
- d. If there are significant environmental concerns, a more thorough examination

should be carried out by the researcher, preferably equivalent to a screening under Section 16(1)(a) to (d) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. This more detailed report is submitted to the Network's Board. The Board, or its delegate, must review the detailed report and conclude whether or not the environmental effects are significant, even after proposed mitigation measures are put in place