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Temporal scope of multiple authorizations assessed in one YESAA DD

The Yukon Water Board (“Board”) is issuing clarification regarding its processes related to the initiation and expiry of a temporal scope when multiple authorizations are assessed in one Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act (“YESAA”) Decision Document (“DD”).

When does a project timeline start?

The temporal scope, or approved timeline, in which a project may operate is determined in a DD. However, it is the authorization by the Yukon Water Board (“Board”) of a water licence or Class 4 Approved Operating Plan (“Approval”) that enables the project to be undertaken. A project’s timeline starts when the Board issues its authorization.

When does a timeline start when there are multiple authorizations in one project?

Where multiple projects are authorized to operate within the conditions set out in one DD, the timeline starts at the approval of the first authorized project. Any projects authorized after the first authorization will have a unique start date, but the expiry date will be the same as the expiry date specified in the first authorized project. This is because all projects assessed in the same DD must remain within the approved temporal scope of the DD.

Example

- YESAA DD accepts a temporal scope of 10 years.
- The Board authorizes two water licences with conditions set out in the YESAA DD - a municipal water licence and quartz water licence.
- The municipal water licence is authorized on May 1, 2025 and expires on April 30, 2035.
- The quartz water licence is authorized on January 10, 2026 and expires on April 30, 2035.