

Oil Sands Projects – Process for Environmental Requirements

The figure below illustrates the process for preparing and submitting environmental information for oil sands projects under *Directive 023* and related applications. Environmental information for a new oil sands project is required in a *Directive 023* application and an [Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act \(EPEA\)](#) application, which must follow the [EPEA Guide to Content for Energy Project Applications](#).

In addition, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) report is mandatory for proposed oil sands activities set out in Schedule 1(j) of the [Environmental Assessment \(Mandatory and Exempted Activities\) Regulation](#) or when the AER has determined the project requires an EIA report following the [environmental assessment process](#). The AER has outlined the [environmental assessment process](#) on our website.

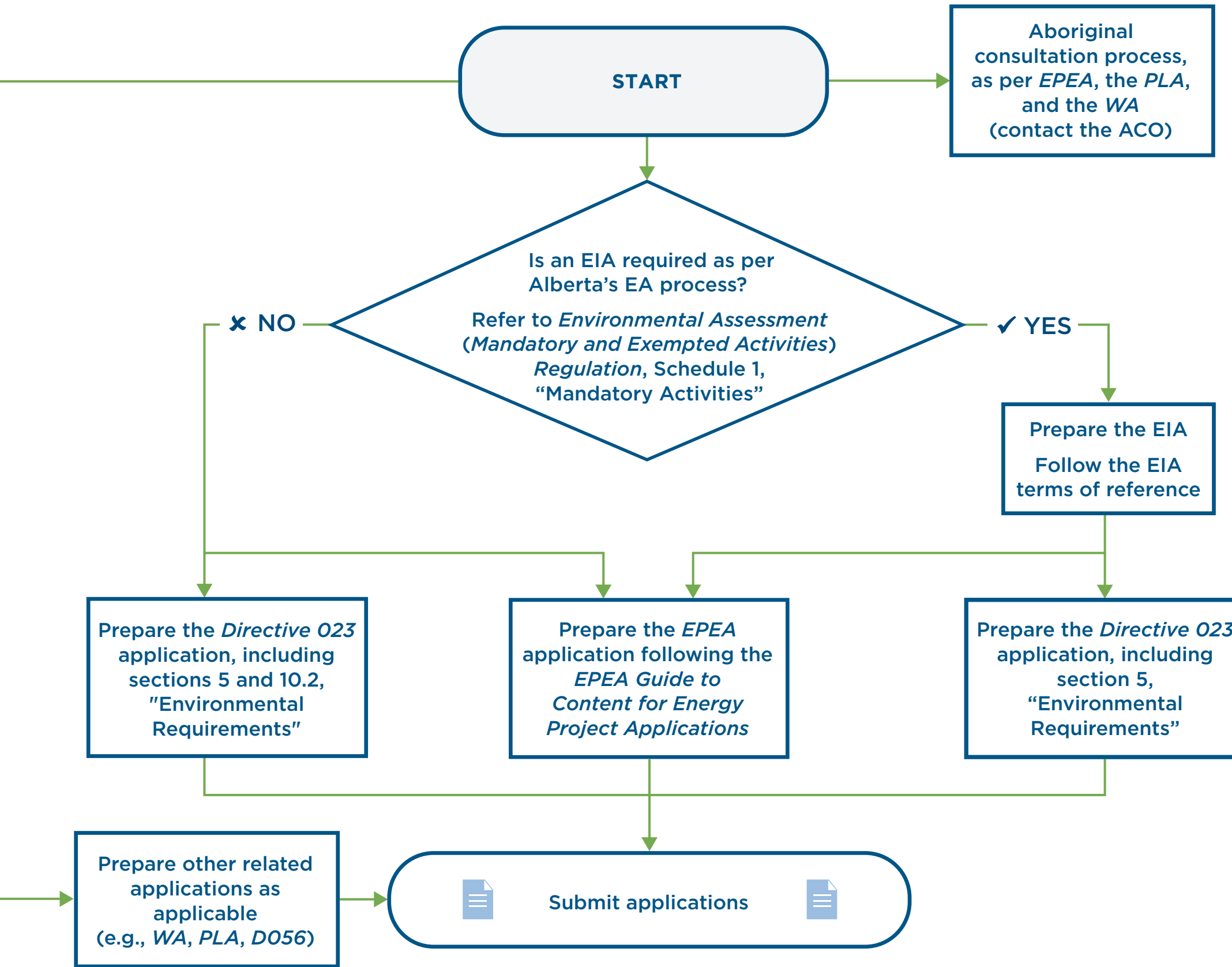
Depending on the scope and scale of the proposed oil sands project, applications under the [Water Act](#), [Public Lands Act](#), and [Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules](#) may also be required. For instance, where there is proposed water use or alteration of water bodies, the *Water Act* applies. Access to Crown land requires *Public Lands Act* dispositions. *Directive 056* applications are required for constructing wells, pipelines, and facilities in relation to in situ oil sands projects.

Although environmental information for a new oil sands project is typically provided to the AER under several application types, environmental information submitted in each application must be complete and consistent with the information submitted in the other applications (e.g. [Directive 056](#) and [EPEA](#), the [Water Act](#), and the [Public Lands Act](#)). Each application is considered a standalone submission and a comprehensive package must be supplied to the AER for review, in accordance with the requirements of *Directive 023*.

Environmental Requirements for *Directive 023* Amendment Applications

Directive 023 applications requiring an amendment application may also require amendment applications to any associated applications submitted under *EPEA*, the *Water Act*, the *Public Lands Act*, or *Directive 056*. Depending on the scope and scale of the proposed *Directive 023* amendment application, this may require the submission of new or updated environmental information under the applicable regulatory requirement.

Oil sands projects: Process for environmental requirements under *Directive 023* and associated applications



- Abbreviations**
- ACO: Aboriginal Consultation Office
 - D056: Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules
 - EA: Environmental assessment
 - EIA: Environmental impact assessment
 - EPEA: Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
 - PLA: Public Lands Act
 - WA: Water Act