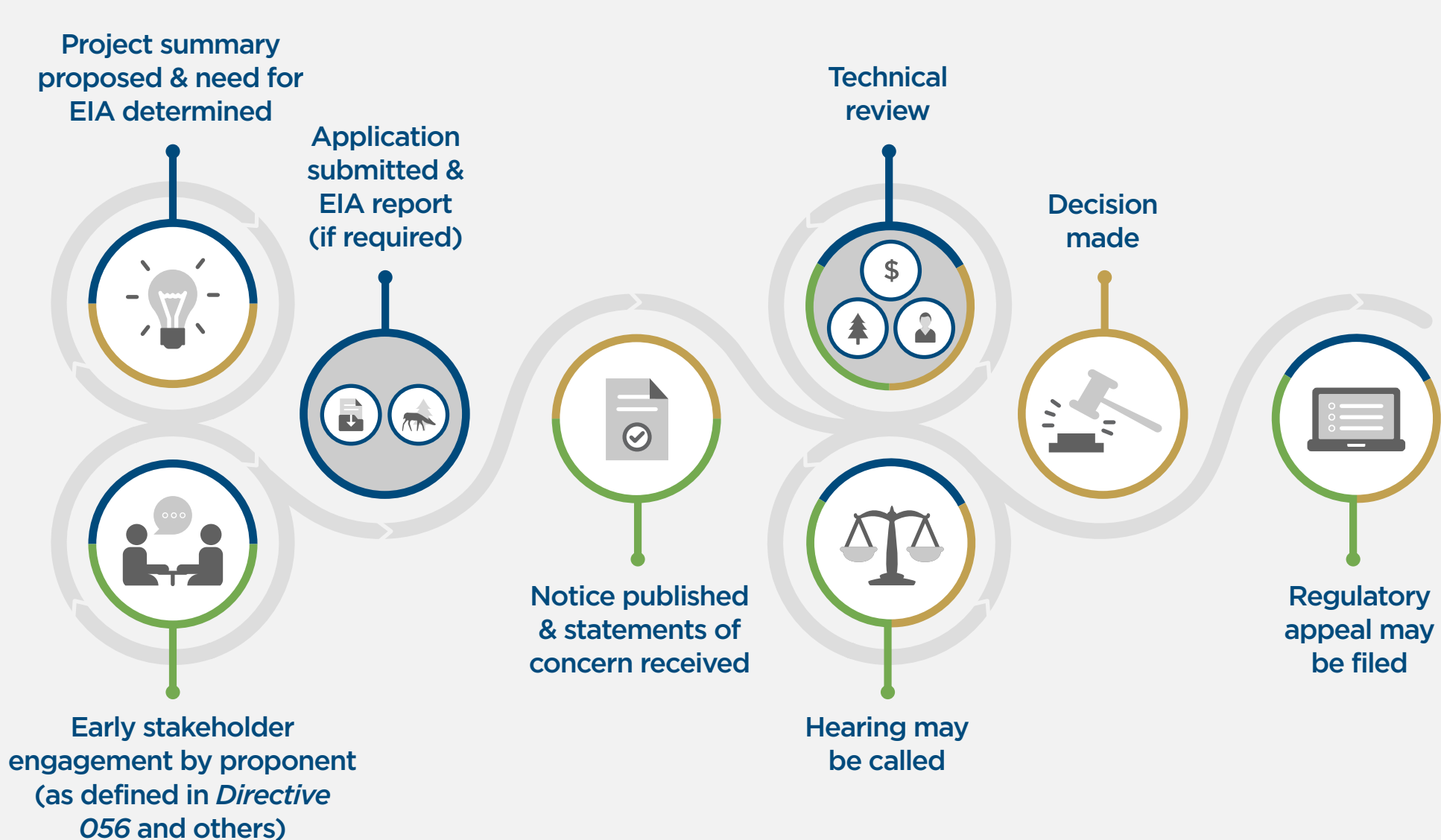




How Does the AER Make Decisions About Coal Mining Applications?

Before the AER reviews a coal application, the project's proponent needs to apply for a coal lease from Alberta Energy. If Alberta Energy grants the lease, the proponent can then apply to the AER for a coal exploration permit or a mine development approval. AER technical experts review the application to ensure the proponent meets the requirements outlined in the six pieces of provincial legislation that guide coal operations in Alberta.

Application Process: Overview



EIA = Environmental Impact Assessment ● Industry ● Stakeholders ● AER

What Types of Operations Are Associated With Coal Development Applications?



Who Makes Decisions on Applications?

Applications for coal activities are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team of technical experts:



What Is a Technical Review?

- A technical review is conducted by technical experts and includes a thorough examination of each part of the application.
- Applications are scrutinized against criteria that is established in applicable legislation, land use plans, and regulation that governs energy developments.
- A technical review is thorough and can take up to two years to complete.

How Are Impacts to the Environment Assessed?

- Part of the AER's mandate is to safeguard the environment during all stages of energy development.
- Applicants are encouraged to conduct a public involvement program that includes stakeholder engagement.
- Larger scale applications may require a detailed environmental impact assessment, which thoroughly examines potential environmental and social impacts.
- AER staff also conduct regular audits and inspections of coal developments throughout various phases of construction, operation, and closure.
- Impacts to aboriginal and treaty rights are assessed by the Crown.

How can the Public Participate in the Regulatory Process?

- Public notices of applications share information and encourage the public to participate in the application process.
- The AER may choose to hold a public hearing on an application.
- The Government of Alberta's Aboriginal Consultation Office determines when an applicant has sufficiently engaged with affected indigenous communities. The AER won't decide on an application until this office has signed off.
- Members of the public may decide to file a statement of concern (SOC).