

# Statement of Opportunity – Electricity Generation CAMS Process – Screen & Scope



9940 106 ST NW FLR 9  
EDMONTON AB T5K 2N2  
CANADA

Ph (780) 427-9793  
Fax (780) 422-3127  
Email [casa@casahome.org](mailto:casa@casahome.org)  
Web [www.casahome.org](http://www.casahome.org)

## **BACKGROUND TO CAMS PROCESS**

The Comprehensive Air Quality Management System (CAMS) is CASA's basic decision-making tool. It was developed in 1994 to provide an objective and defensible decision-making process that was agreed to by all members. The CAMS process includes the steps to be followed and the criteria to be used in making decisions at each step; it is described in detail in the *CASA Comprehensive Air Quality Management System* booklet. The process is intended to ensure that finite natural, human, financial and technical resources are optimally applied. It includes the following stages:

1. Screen and scope
2. Prioritize and task
3. Design, review and approve plan
4. Implement, evaluate and review process

The first stage of the CAMS process, screen and scope, is divided into three steps:

1. Receive statement of concern/opportunity
2. Conduct initial screening
3. Clarify issues

Following the receipt of a statement of opportunity, the CASA secretariat is mandated to conduct an initial screening to determine the appropriate management response. On completion of the initial screening, CASA must determine whether the issue falls within its purview, using the following criteria:

- There is a potential risk to human health
- There is a potential risk to ecological integrity
- There is potential for economic damage or damage to the resource base
- There are multiple occurrences over extended time and area
- There is a degree of public concern
- Personal and professional judgment suggest it is a significant issue
- It can be addressed within the resources of CASA

The result is a problem definition statement; in practice, this stage has been completed by a CASA working group established by the board.

## **STEP 1 – RECEIVE STATEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY**

Attached is a statement of opportunity submitted to CASA by Alberta Environment concerning the development of an approach to setting new standards and performance expectations for Alberta's electricity generation sector.

## **STEP 2 – CONDUCT INITIAL SCREENING**

The issue raised by the attached statement of opportunity, an approach to setting new standards and performance expectations for Alberta's electricity generation sector, could be addressed by one of at least three alternative management approaches: one, the CASA multi-stakeholder, consensus based process; two, a zonal approach; or three, through a strategy developed by one stakeholder, possibly the regulator, Alberta Environment.

A number of factors support the referral of this issue to CASA to be addressed through the CAMS process using a multi-stakeholder, consensus-based approach:

- The statement of opportunity calls for a strategic approach to the issue
- The issue raised is province wide
- There are multiple sources of emissions under consideration
- There are environmental, social and economic questions associated with this issue
- There are many stakeholders with an interest in resolving this issue

Further, CASA's past experience in addressing air quality issues combined with the work of its current project teams can maximize opportunities for stakeholders to make links between related issues.

## **STEP 3 – CLARIFY ISSUES**

In determining whether and how to proceed with this statement of opportunity, the CASA board and any working group formed by agreement of the board, will need to consider the following issues, amongst others:

1. Coordination and linkages between existing CASA project teams and other processes and a new "electricity project team" – particular attention should be given to the ongoing work of the Particulate Matter and Ozone Project Team, the Acidifying Emissions Management Implementation Team and the Pollution Prevention/Continuous Improvement Project Team.
2. Capacity of CASA stakeholders to provide sufficient human and other resources to participate in this project team
3. Adequacy of resources currently available to the CASA Secretariat to support a new project team
4. Identification of stakeholders with an interest in the outcome of this issue to participate in the process

*CASA Secretariat  
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