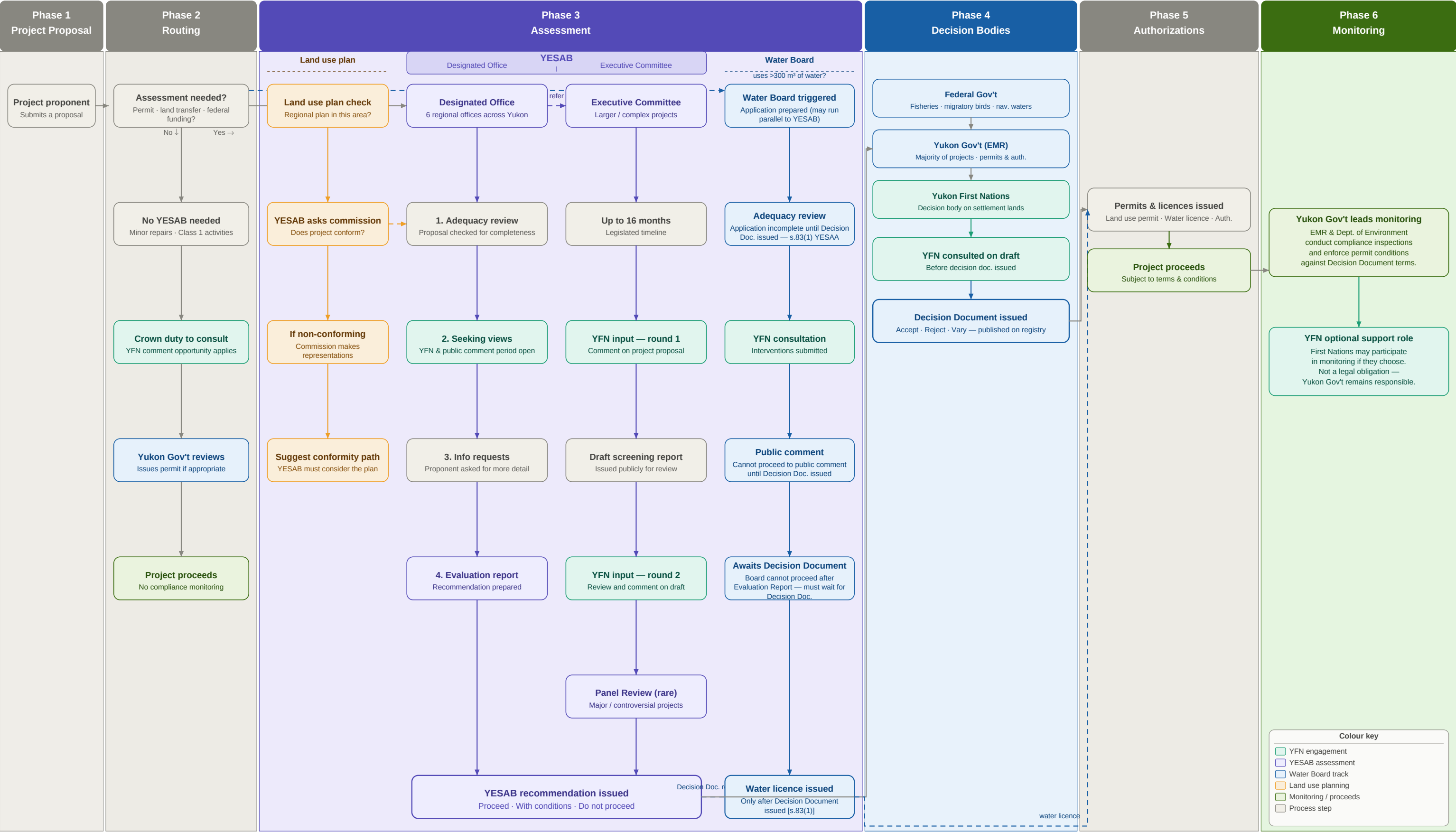


Yukon Development Assessment Process

This diagram shows how projects in the Yukon are routed through the development assessment process — from initial proposal through YESAB review, decision bodies, authorizations, and ongoing monitoring. Yukon First Nations engagement points are highlighted throughout.

Created by Lauren Baranik, FNNND Impact Assessment, 2026



Decision Document requirement before Water Board regulatory phase — s. 83(1) Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA)

Decision Document is mandatory (s.83(1) YESAA)

A Decision Document that allows the project to proceed must be issued before the Board can advance to the regulatory phase. The Board cannot proceed once the Evaluation Report has been issued by YESAB — it must wait.

Parallel applications — incomplete until Decision Doc. issued

Applicants often submit to YESAB and the Water Board simultaneously. When this occurs the Secretariat may begin an adequacy review of the application documents, but the application is not considered complete and cannot proceed to public comment until a Decision Document has been issued.

Effect on Water Board process

Public hearings, consideration of interventions, and licence issuance are all gated behind the Decision Document. The Water Board has no authority to issue a water licence prior to a Decision Document that allows the project to proceed.

How land use planning is supposed to inform the assessment process — Chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreement

Before assessment

Regional plans are developed by Planning Commissions jointly appointed by Yukon Gov't and affected First Nations. Plans set land use goals for the region before projects are proposed. e.g. Peel Watershed Regional Plan.

During assessment (s. 44 YESAA)

YESAA requires YESAB to ask the active Planning Commission whether the project conforms with the plan. If not, the Commission may make representations and suggest how the project could be brought into conformity.

At the decision stage

Non-conformity does not automatically stop a project but Decision Bodies must consider it. Plans carry significant weight as they reflect First Nations treaty rights — affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada (Peel, 2017).

Coverage gap

Not all regions of Yukon have an approved land use plan. Where none exists the planning conformity check is absent — leaving assessment without the regional context it was designed to have. Without a land use plan in place or a conformity check, cumulative effects of development across a region are not considered.