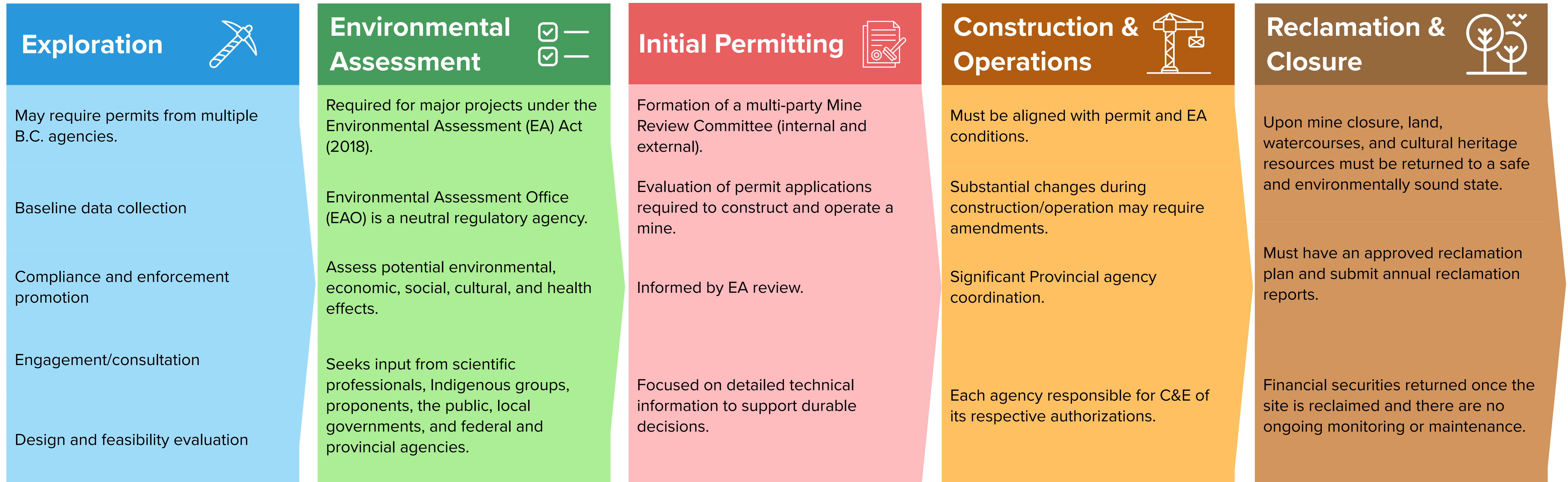


Regulatory Framework for Mining

B.C. mines require multiple approvals by numerous ministries, moving through a comprehensive regulatory continuum process

Indigenous engagement



Authorizations as needed

Progressive reclamation

Compliance and enforcement

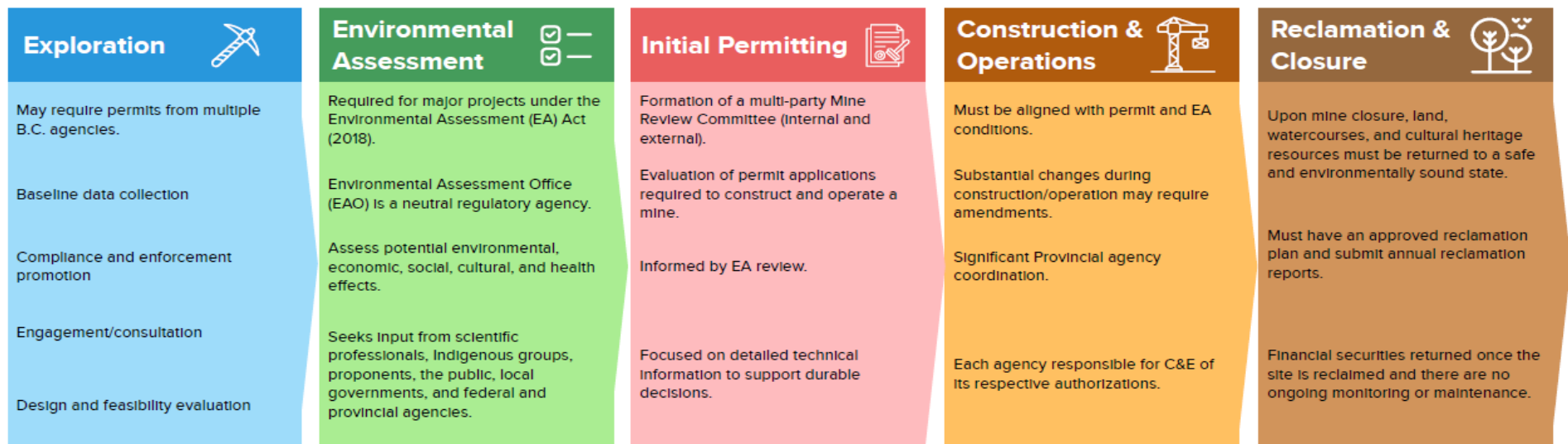
B.C. mines require multiple approvals by numerous ministries, moving through a comprehensive regulatory continuum process

In Canada, provinces have the primary responsibility for mining regulation.

In B.C., multiple provincial government ministries work together and with Indigenous Nations through the life cycle of a mine to ensure projects are planned, operated and closed safely. Permits and other authorizations from these ministries need to be in place before mines are built or begin operating.

Compliance and enforcement inspectors ensure mining companies follow the laws and regulations and meet permit requirements.

Indigenous engagement



Authorizations as needed

Progressive reclamation

Compliance and enforcement

WASTE DISCHARGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy uses the Environmental Management Act (EMA) and its regulations to protect the environment from pollution. Under EMA, the mining industry is required to hold a site-specific authorization called a Waste Discharge Permit to discharge any waste to the environment.

Wastes authorized under EMA, include:

- Mining-impacted water
- Air emissions
- Solid waste

Waste Discharge Permits set requirements for how mining activities must be carried out to control the generation of waste. They set limits on how much and what kind of waste can be released into the environment.

Permits for the release of wastes from mines usually require:

- Treatment of water that has come into contact with disturbed areas and mine wastes
- Monitoring of water quality on the mine site and in the environment
- Studies and assessments to make sure the environment is being protected

The EMA permitting process is very comprehensive and is often coordinated with applications for Mines Act Permits. Mines have stringent water quality monitoring and reporting requirements set out in their permits.

AGENCIES INVOLVED IN REGULATING MINES IN B.C.:

Environmental Assessment Office

- Major project review under the EA Act

Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

- Permits under the Mines Act
- Mine design, operation, reclamation, worker health and safety

Environment and Climate Change Strategy

- Permits under the Environmental Management Act
- Waste discharges and environmental monitoring

Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

- Cumulative Effects Management Framework
- Permits under the Water Sustainability Act and Land Act

Forests

- Authorizations under the Forest and Range Practices Act and Forest Act

ROLE OF THE MINE REVIEW COMMITTEE

A Mine Review Committee (MRC) is an advisory committee established by the Chief Permitting Officer during initial permitting.

The MRC brings together technical reviewers, Indigenous nations, federal and local governments and other reviewers to review the application and develop recommendations.

The proponent is not a member of the MRC.

MRCs increase efficiency and effectiveness by reducing duplication and by focusing on the project as a whole and not splitting the authorizations apart.

RESOURCES

More information: <https://mines.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>