



Evaluation Summary: Regulatory Framework Program Evaluation

About the Evaluation

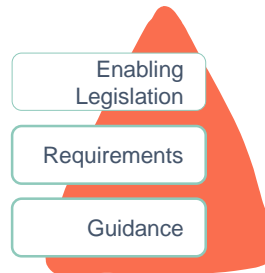
- In 2019–20, this evaluation was carried out to examine the **design** of the Regulatory Framework (RF) Program and **governance** of the Regulatory Framework (RF).
- The evaluation was planned and conducted according to internal evaluation processes that are based on the Policy on Results and related standards/procedures for evaluation. It was carried out by an internal credentialed evaluator.
- Information for analysis in this evaluation came from interviews with key informants, an internal survey across several other programs that interact with the RF Program processes and the RF as well as timesheet data, document and literature review.
- This is the first evaluation of the RF Program since the policy function was formalized as the RF Program in the Canada Energy Regulator's (CER) Departmental Results Framework (DRF).

Regulatory Framework

- The Regulatory Framework consists of enabling legislation (acts), requirements (such as regulations) and guidance. It is relevant to the work of most programs across the CER.

Regulatory Framework Program

- The RF Program is a unique program and serves a fundamental function for the CER. It is part of the Safety & Environment Oversight Core Responsibility in the DRF. The main role of the RF Program is to carry out the regulatory policy function (policy research, analysis, development and implementation) for the CER and to manage regulatory cooperation processes.
- Staff are regulatory and technical specialists and are responsible for using their expertise to manage and update the RF in a way that complies with specific internal and external requirements. At times, other program staff may be involved in RF Program processes and assist RF Program staff on regulatory development projects.



Program Design



Key Findings

- The RF Program should use a new approach to define the Regulatory Framework in the context of lifecycle regulation. This starts with a more comprehensive description of Regulatory Framework components and its lifecycle.
- Governance of the RF and the RF Program is unclear thus the CER needs to address this by clarifying and documenting roles, responsibilities and accountabilities.
- The RF Program needs to finalize program design such as performance measures and program documentation. This includes developing and approving processes and supporting process documents and making them available and accessible.
- More training and support on the RF and RF Program processes and requirements has been identified by CER staff as a gap that should be addressed.
- The RF Program is the custodian of two important inventories for regulatory instruments and cooperative agreements. The RF Program needs to improve the design and organization of information in these databases so it is easier to manage, track and retrieve up-to-date information.
- Recommendations can be found in the [RF Program Evaluation Report](#) on pages 7-8 and the Management Response and Action Plan on pages 61. These recommendations will improve the CER's conceptualization of the Regulatory Framework and help improve management of the RF Program.
- Recommendations are formally monitored internally for timely implementation whereas the opportunities for improvement provided in the report are for consideration and in some cases they refer to good practices that may help respond to recommendations.