HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT of the PROPOSED COMPRESSOR STATION WEYMOUTH, MA

Advisory Committee Meeting #7

November 28, 2018

Agenda

- Welcome and Agenda Overview
- Impact Characterization Discussion
- Discussion of Potential Recommendations
- Meeting Evaluation and Next Steps

Meeting Objectives

- Awareness of how impacts are proposed to be characterized so that advisors can provide feedback and inform the format and content of the impact characterization table that will be include in the HIA report
- List of potential recommendations for the HIA
- List of outstanding questions and additional sources of information

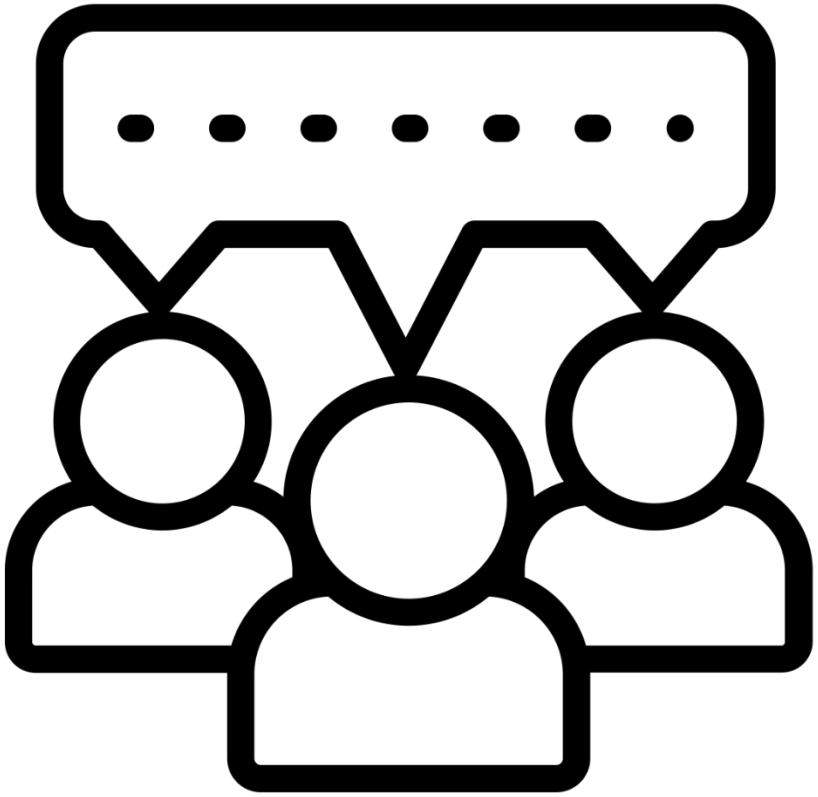
HIA Project Team

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

Advisory Committee Member Introductions

- Name

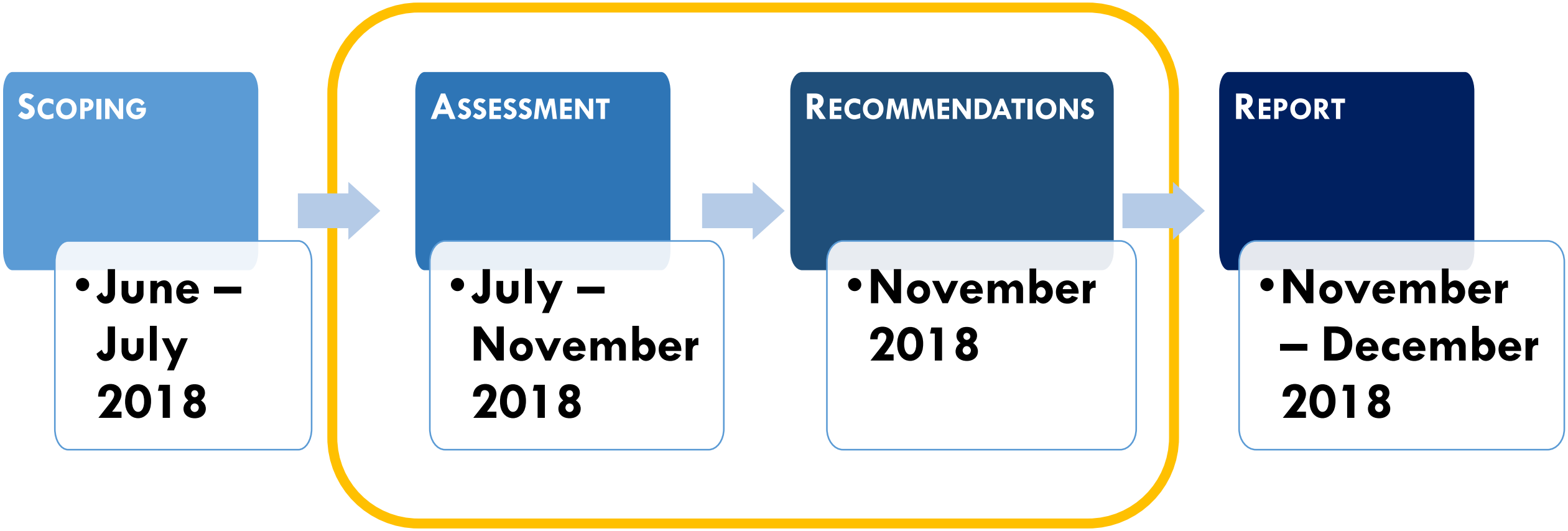
- Where from/Who Representing



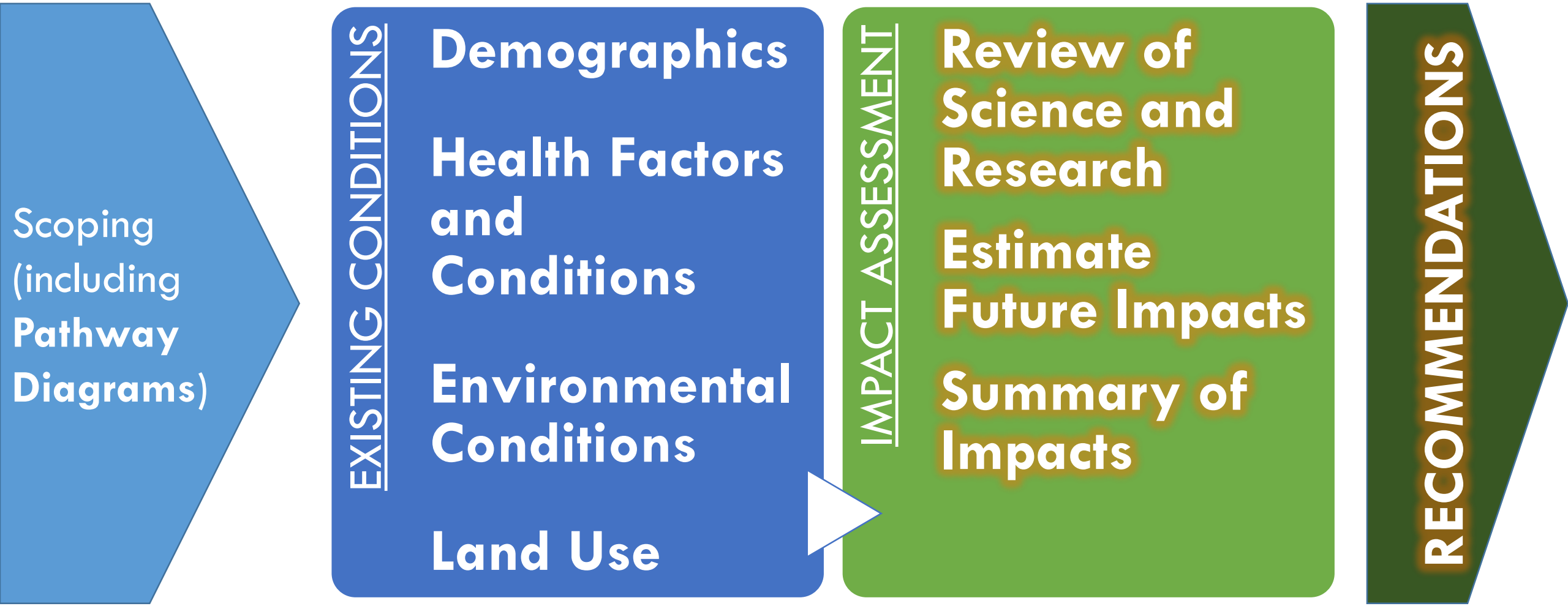
Advisory Committee Roles and Responsibilities

- Advise the project team during all phases of the HIA (e.g., scoping the HIA, assessment of health impacts)
- Share expertise and range of experiences and perspectives related to the HIA
- Consultation by phone and email

HIA Timeline



Assessment Step of HIA



HIA Advisors Update

Participant updates and information sharing

Characterization of Potential Health Impacts

Continue discussion of potential effects of projected changes on health in surrounding communities

Purpose of Impact Characterization

- Provide a summary of assessed impacts and potential health effects
- Provide an informed judgement of impacts and effects based on available information, analysis, expertise and experience
- Accompanied by acknowledgements of assumptions and limitations

Approach to Impact Characterization

- Consider existing conditions: demographics, health, air quality, noise and land use and natural resources
- Take into account changes projected to occur
  - Were the compressor station to be constructed as proposed
  - Were the compressor station to be operated as proposed
- Provide attributes by which to characterize potential health impacts that could occur if these changes (construction and operation) were to occur

- *Characterization intended to be project specific and should not be used to compare to other HIAs, risk assessments, or health standards.*
- *Does not represent a quantitative estimate of risk.*

Example Table

Figure 3: A Health Impact Assessment to inform the Healthy Neighborhood Equity Fund

Health Determinant	Direction of Impact	Likelihood of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Severity of Impact	Distribution	Strength of Evidence
Walkability/ Active Transport	+	Likely	Medium	Medium	Wide	++++
Safety from Crime	+	Likely	Medium	High	Wide	++++
Economic Opportunity	+	Likely	Medium	High	Narrow (those gaining employment	++++
Food Access	+	Likely	High	Medium	Wide	+++
Traffic Safety	–	Likely	Medium	High	Wide	++++
Affordable Housing	+	Likely	Medium	High	Narrow (Residents of Affordable Housing)	++++
Green Housing	+	Likely	Low	Medium	Narrow (Residents of Green Housing)	+++
Green Space	+	Likely	Low	Low	Narrow (Those accessing new green spaces)	++
Social Cohesion	+	Likely	Low	Low	Wide	++++
Air Quality	–	Likely	Low	Low	Wide	++++
Gentrification/ Displacement	–	Possible	Medium	High	Narrow (Cost Burdened)	+++
Environmental Contamination	+/–	Possible	Medium	High	Narrow (Those living and working on site of remediation)	++++

Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Transit-Oriented Development and Health: A Health Impact Assessment to inform the Healthy Neighborhood Equity Fund, 2013. Available at http://www.mapc.org/sites/default/files/HNEF%20HIA%20Report%20v5_0.pdf

Proposed Approach to Characterization of Potential Impacts

- Characterize changes based on the following attributes:
  - Type of Health Effects
  - Geographic Extent of Health Effects
  - Direction of Health Effects
  - Likelihood of Health Effects
  - Relative Magnitude of Health Effects
  - Vulnerable Populations

Proposed Approach to Characterization of Potential Impacts

Proposed characterization – Definition of attributes

Type of Health Effects	Direct: the change occurs through physical exposures	Other: the change occurs through other mechanisms (e.g., perception, awareness)		
Geographic Extent of Health Effects	Local: Effects felt within the focus area	Community-wide: Effects felt in focus and surrounding areas		
Direction of Health Effects	~/Neutral No Meaningful Change Predicted	+/Positive = Change that is predicted to positively impact associated health conditions	-/Negative Change that is predicted to negatively impact associated health conditions	
Likelihood of Health Effects	Uncertain = it is unclear if impacts will occur as a result of the proposal	Unlikely = it is unlikely that impacts will occur as a result of the proposal	Possible = it is possible that impacts will occur as a result of the proposal	Likely = it is likely that impacts will occur as a result of the proposal
Relative Magnitude of Health Effects	Very Low: No cases expected	Low: Individual cases	Medium: Local, small limited impact to households	High: Entire communities affected
Vulnerable Populations	Yes = Disproportionately affects vulnerable populations	No = Affects populations evenly		

Proposed Approach Characterization of Potential Impacts

Assessment Pathway	Type of Health Effects	Geographic Extent of Health Effects	Direction of Health Effects	Likelihood of Health Effects	Relative Magnitude of Health Effects	Vulnerable populations
Air Quality						
Noise						
LU/NR						

Group Discussion of Impact Characterization for HIA

Assessment Pathway	Type of Health Effects	Geographic Extent of Health Effects	Direction of Health Effects	Likelihood of Health Effects	Relative Magnitude of Health Effects	Vulnerable populations
Air Quality						
Noise						
LU/NR						

Potential Recommendations

Actions to reduce the potential for negative health outcomes and increase the potential for positive health changes were the proposed station to be constructed

Frame for Recommendations

Recommendations should:

- Flow from the results of the assessment
- Be based on public health principles of harm avoidance
- Be evidence-based
- Both mitigate harms and enhance health benefits
- Be specific and actionable
- Be useable by those who must implement them

Recommendations

Starting points

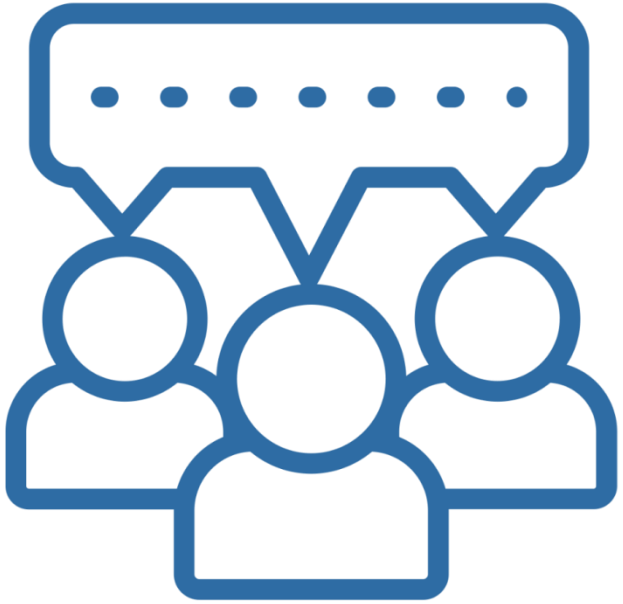
- Feedback to date
  - Installation of Air Quality Monitor in Fore River Basin
  - Enhanced Notice Schedule of Blowdowns
  - Decommissioning Plan

- Based on Feedback
  - Install plantings on site

Group Review and Discussion of Potential Recommendations

As a group, identify and develop list of potential recommendations for consideration in the HIA.

Reconvene as large group to share ideas.



Proposed Layout of HIA Report

Proposed outline of the HIA Report

Proposed Outline

Executive Summary

- Part 1: Health Impact Assessment Introduction
- Part 2: Process
- Part 3: Summary of Baseline Community Profiles
- Part 4: Assessment of Health Impacts
  - Assessment of Air Quality Impacts
  - Assessment of Noise Impacts
  - Assessment of Land Use and Natural Resources Impacts
- Part 5: Recommendations

References

Meeting Evaluation and Next Steps

Meeting Evaluation

Plus / Delta

Next Steps

A. Update website with meeting materials
B. Continue to collect and review comments
C. Draft HIA Report for review by agencies
D. Release HIA Report

HIA Timeline