

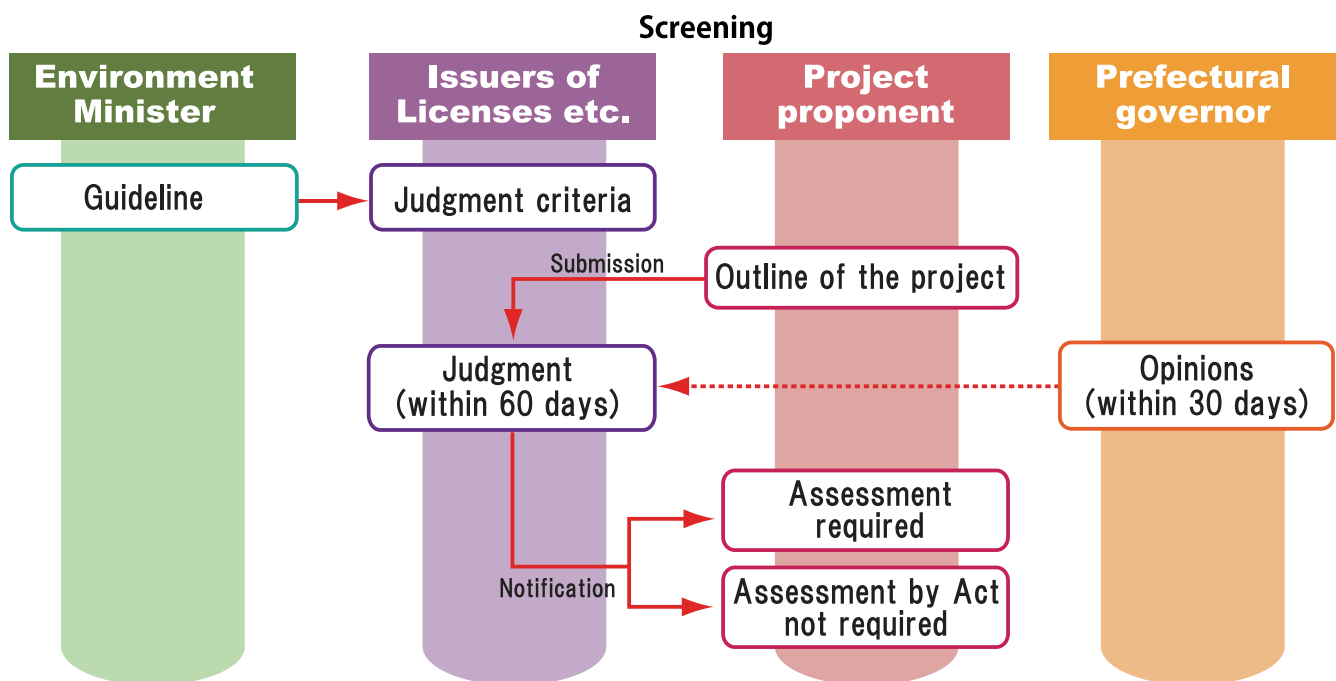
(7) Judgment of Class-2 projects (Screening)

The procedure for deciding whether EIA should be applied to projects is called "Screening" .

In the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, whether EIA should be applied to a project is determined in accordance with the scale of the project. However, the extent of the environmental impacts does not necessarily depend only on the project scale. For instance, even though a project near a school, a hospital, an intake point for drinking-water production, or a reclamation project filling a wetland inhabited by many wild birds, are small in scale, these projects could have serious impacts on the environment.

Therefore, the decision on whether EIA should be applied to a Class-2 project is made individually on a case-by-case basis.

The judgment is made by the issuers of licenses etc. in accordance with the judgment criteria (for example, decisions on road projects are made by the Minister of Infrastructure, Land, Transport and Tourism; decisions on power plant projects by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, etc.). In making the judgment, opinions from the prefectural governor who is well-acquainted with the local situation should be taken into consideration.



Examples of projects that are small in scale but are required to be assessed.

Criteria associated with the nature of the project

- A thermoelectric power plant using fuel causing more serious air pollution
- A road that is a part of a comprehensive project, which could cause serious environmental impacts.

Criteria associated with the regional situation

- A dam near the nesting ground of golden eagles
- A project within a National Park
- A road passing through an area where the concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) exceeds the ambient environmental quality standard.