

# Environmental Assessment of Network Infrastructure

As a telecommunications company, Bell relies on high-performance networks supported by varied infrastructure, deployed across a large territory. This infrastructure consists of components that range from telecommunications towers and data hosting rooms, to manholes, pole storage sites and aerial and underground networks. It also includes all of the equipment installed in our buildings that supports the distribution of services to customers.

The wide geographical distribution of Bell's network, along with the great variety of its components, necessitates careful planning for all network deployment or infrastructure management projects. Work carried out by Bell can potentially affect natural environments and human environments. Since these environments can exhibit specific individual characteristics, and can include sensitive, protected or heritage areas that are subject to regulations, we study each network/infrastructure project to assess whether any potential negative environmental impact exists and apply the appropriate mitigation and/or corrective measures as necessary.

Bell seeks to ensure that practices in our operations respect the applicable laws and regulations. We developed a network infrastructure program that includes:

- Environmental assessment processes
- The obligation to obtain the applicable permits and authorizations required for work
- The application of mitigation measures (where required) that minimize environmental impacts (such as those affecting wildlife and biodiversity) and seek to ensure compliance with air and noise emission limits

## Did you know?

Network infrastructure work carried out by Bell includes network design, construction, operation and maintenance phases.

Each of these phases, if not done in accordance with Bell's environmental policies, directives, management frameworks, procedures and standards has the potential to adversely impact the natural environment.

If not properly managed, potential adverse effects can include:

Visual nuisances  
Functional nuisances  
Noise

Which can affect...

Water, Air, Soil, Flora, Fauna  
Human environments

SDG 9, SDG 15

- Good management practices for waste materials generated during operations

The procedures of the program are embedded directly into current operational practices. They are applied at every stage of a project, including: planning, design, construction, maintenance and decommissioning of installations.

Audits of network projects are conducted annually on a sample of projects to validate adherence to laws, regulations and Bell's practices. Audits of network projects are conducted annually on a sample of projects to validate adherence to laws, regulations and Bell's practices.

*To the extent this information sheet contains forward-looking statements including, without limitation, outlooks, plans, objectives, strategic priorities, commitments, undertakings and other statements that do not refer to historical facts, these statements are not guarantees of future performance or events, and we caution you against relying on any of these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties and are based on assumptions that give rise to the possibility that actual results or events could differ materially from our expectations expressed in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. Refer to BCE Inc.'s most recent annual management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), as updated in BCE Inc.'s subsequent quarterly MD&As, for further information on such risks, uncertainties and assumptions. BCE Inc.'s MD&As are available on its website at [bce.ca](http://bce.ca), on SEDAR at [sedar.com](http://sedar.com) and on EDGAR at [sec.gov](http://sec.gov).*