

Qualitative Evaluation

The qualitative evaluation involved a non-quantitative assessment of the alternative haul routes with respect to the eight major evaluation factors: Aquatic Environment, Terrestrial Environment, Land Uses, Social Environment, Economic Environment, Cultural Heritage, Transportation and Safety, and Cost. One of the main advantages of this approach is that it considers the main tradeoffs among the alternatives, and therefore highlights the major advantages and disadvantages for each alternative. This approach has been applied in other studies.

- The project team reviewed the analysis results and discussed the key advantages and disadvantages of each of the alternatives for each of the evaluation factors.
- Each participant applied professional judgment.
- The team evaluated each alternative haul route in terms of the major evaluation factors as “most preferred” alternative haul route to the “least preferred” alternative haul route.
- The project team came to a consensus on the qualitative assessment for each factor, considering public and stakeholder comments on the relative importance of the factors.

