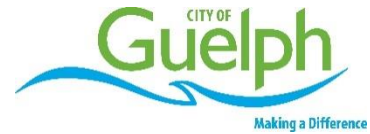


Provincial and Federal Consultation Alert



Environmental assessment modernization: amendment proposals for Class Environmental Assessments

Ministry

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Consultation Deadline

August 22, 2020

Summary

This class environmental assessment establishes a planning and approval process for a variety of municipal infrastructure projects.

Class environmental assessment—proposed major amendment (2020)

Ontario is taking the next steps to update its almost 50-year-old environmental assessment program as committed to in its [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#).

To support the government's modernization initiative, the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) has proposed amendments to the Municipal Class EA. The proposed amendments would align assessment requirements with environmental impact, reduce duplication, and increase the efficiency of assessments.

The proposed amendments include:

- changing the project schedules for some projects to better align study requirements with the potential environmental impact of the project and reduce duplication, including:
 - exempting 28 project types that are considered to be low impact (e.g. modifications to traffic signals), where there is duplication with other processes, or the project types would be needed in cases of emergency
 - upgrading or downgrading assessment requirements for projects (e.g. shifting project schedules from B to C, or from C to B)
 - removing cost thresholds for road projects
- clarifying and modernizing current process requirements (e.g. removing the requirement to publish project notices in newspapers)
- updating the requirements for transit projects to be more consistent with *O. Reg. 231/08: Transit Projects* and Metrolinx Undertakings under the Act and proposing additional exemptions

Proposed Form of Input

Submit staff comments on the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting at the link below.

Rationale

The proposed amendment impacts a number of departments that undertake municipal class environmental assessments and an interdepartmental team response is appropriate for this review.

Lead

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Link to Ministry Website

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/class-ea-municipal-infrastructure-projects>

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