

Notice of a proposal regarding the types of projects subject to requirements for a comprehensive environmental assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act

EA Modernization (MECP) <EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca>

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To: EA Modernization (MECP) <EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca>

Hello,

The Government of Ontario is committed to modernizing its almost 50-year old environmental assessment program by proposing sensible, practical changes that would ensure strong environmental oversight while reducing delays on infrastructure projects that matter most to Ontario communities.

A modernized environmental assessment program will help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 outbreak by ensuring municipalities and other proponents have more certainty, enabling the creation of jobs and allowing key infrastructure to be built faster, while maintaining strong environmental protections.

The vision of a modernized Environmental Assessment Program was set out in a discussion paper titled, "Modernizing Ontario's Environmental Assessment Program", which the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) consulted on in April 2019. It was also referenced as a key commitment in the government's 2018 Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.

Amendments to the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) were passed in the legislature on July 21, 2020 as part of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020. We are now taking the next steps by seeking input on a proposed list of projects that will be subject to Comprehensive Environmental Assessment requirements. This Project List will be set out in a regulation.

If this regulation is made, and the corresponding amendments to the EAA are brought into force, the list of projects described in the regulation will require an approval under the Comprehensive Environmental Assessment provisions (Part II.3) of the amended EAA. Until this happens, the EAA will continue to apply as it does currently.

A second regulation setting out projects that will be subject to the Streamlined Environmental Assessment provisions of the amended EAA (Part II.4) will be developed in the future. As the ministry transitions from class environmental assessments and applying exemption regulations to using a new process of Streamlined Environmental Assessments, we will be consulting on regulations that define the types of projects that would be subject to this process.

Until the Streamlined Project List is in place, the projects which undergo a Streamlined Environmental Assessment under a Class Environmental Assessment or regulation will continue to be required to do so.

How you can provide input

The government is committed to building a strong environmental assessment program that considers the input of local communities and supports getting projects off the ground quickly while building safer and stronger communities and we look forward to receiving your feedback on the proposal, including

advice on which projects should be considered for inclusion in the Project List for comprehensive environmental assessments.

Details of our policy proposal, including the proposed list of projects that would be subject to a Comprehensive Environmental Assessment, are available on the Environmental Registry of Ontario [here](#) (posting 019-2377).

Please review the proposal and submit your comments via the Environmental Registry of Ontario [here](#) or directly by e-mail to EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca by November 10, 2020.

If you would like to provide comments on the proposal and ask questions through a webinar forum, you may register for one of the webinars being held on October 6 and 7, 2020. To register, click on the Eventbrite link below. Once you have registered, you will receive further details, including login information, in an email that will be sent close to the webinar date.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/modernizing-ontarios-environmental-assessment-program-tickets-120537018467>

Please do not hesitate to contact the ministry at EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca with any questions you may have at any time.

Sincerely,

Annamaria Cross
Director
Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks