

Environmental Assessment Modernization

FOR DISCUSSION

Proposed Streamlined Environmental Assessment and Archaeological Assessment Processes and Project Lists

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Diagram 1: Overview of proposed streamlined environmental assessment and archaeological assessment processes

For more details on the steps outlined below, please refer to the Environmental Registry Posting [New regulation to focus municipal environmental assessment requirements](#) | [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

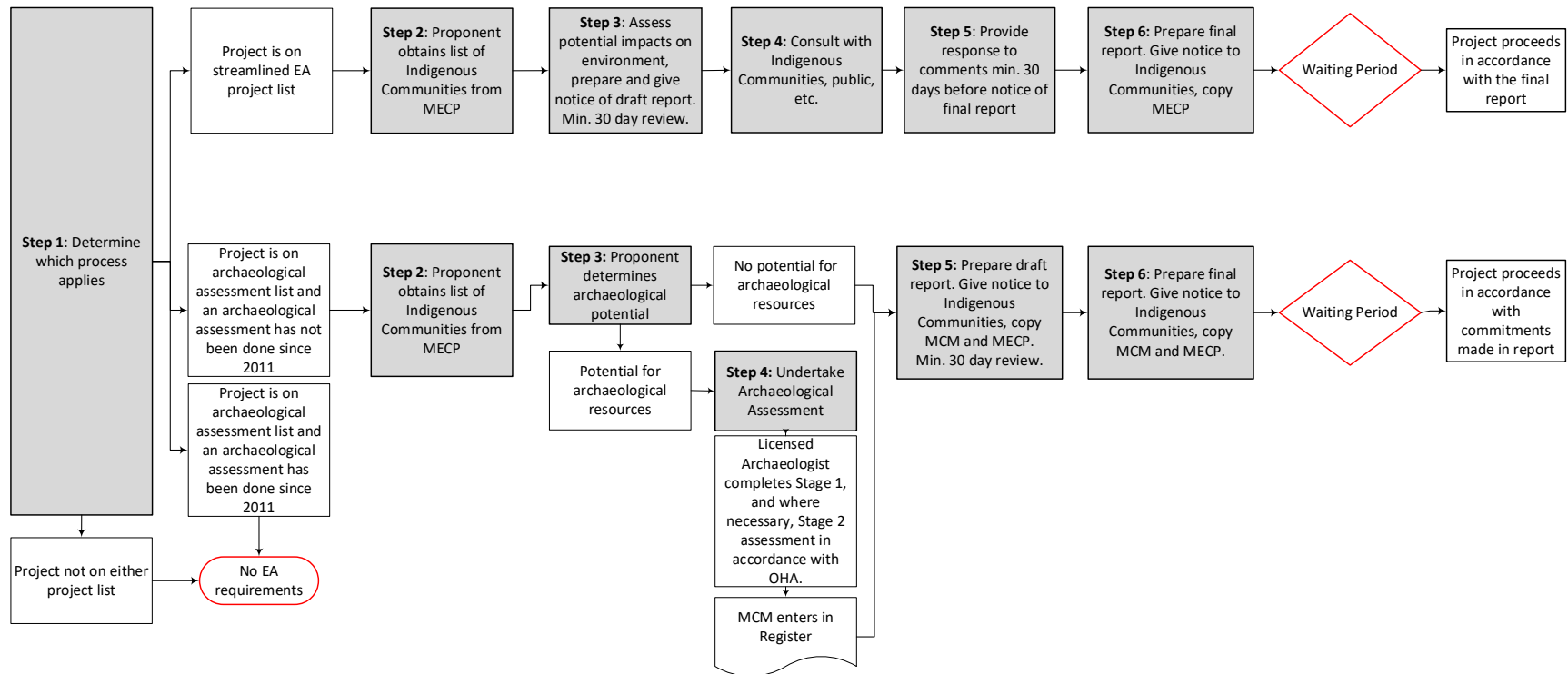


Table 1: Projects proposed to be subject to the Archaeological Assessment Process

#	Proposed Project Description ^{1,2}	Applicable to Private Sector ³
Road and Road-Related Projects		
1	Initial stockpiling of de-icing material within an engineered permanent storage structure	No
2	Construction of new parking lots not associated with a building greater 60,000 square feet (approximately 200 spaces)	No
3	Construction of a new collector road, or reconstruction or widening of an existing collector road that will not be for the same purpose, use, capacity or at the same location, greater than 1 lane kilometer (i.e., 1km single-lane road)	Yes
4	Construction of sidewalks, multi-purpose paths or cycling facilities outside of the previously disturbed portion of an existing right-of-way and/or in a utility or rail corridor, greater than 1km	Yes
5	Construction of underpasses or overpasses for pedestrian, cycling, recreational or agricultural use outside of a previously disturbed portion of an existing right-of-way and/or in a utility or rail corridor	No
6	Reconstruction or widening of roads or other linear paved road facilities where the reconstructed road or other linear road paved facilities (e.g. HOV lanes) will not be for the same purpose, use, capacity or at the same location (e.g. additional motor vehicle lanes, continuous centre turn lane that requires property, i.e. not at the same location), greater than 1 lane kilometer (i.e., 1km single-lane road)	Yes
7	Construction of new roads or other linear paved road facilities (e.g. HOV lanes), greater than 1 lane kilometer (i.e., 1km single-lane road)	Yes
8	Reconstruction of a water crossing where the reconstructed facility will not be for the same purpose, use, capacity or at the same location	No

¹ This proposed project list would apply only to projects which are not Part II.3 projects under the EA Act and projects which are not on the streamlined EA project list. If there is an overlap between a project description on this list and the streamlined EA project list, the project would be subject to the streamlined EA process. If an activity designated as subject to the archaeological assessment process is ancillary to a project that is designated as subject to the streamlined EA process, the activity would be considered part of the streamlined EA project and would be considered as part of the streamlined EA.

² A project designated as subject to the archaeological assessment process would include any enterprise or activity that is ancillary to the project.

³ All projects on this list are proposed to be subject to the archaeological assessment process when undertaken by a municipality. Projects undertaken by private sector developers are proposed to be designated as indicated in this column.

9	Reconstruction of, or alteration to a structure (bridge) or the grading adjacent to it when the structure is over 40 years old where there is an increase in footprint	No
10	Construction of new water crossings	No
11	Construction of new grade separations and interchanges	No
Municipal Drinking Water Projects		
12	Establish, extend or enlarge a drinking water distribution system and all works necessary to connect the system to an existing system or water source, where such facilities are not in a previously disturbed portion of either an existing road allowance or utility corridor	No
13	Increasing drinking water pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure	No
14	Construct a new drinking water pumping station	No
15	Replace/expand existing drinking water storage facilities, where additional land must be acquired	No
16	Establish new drinking water storage facilities	No
17	Install a new well on an existing municipal well site	No
18	Establish a well at a new municipal well site	No
19	Construct a new drinking water system <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	Yes
20	Establish a new drinking water surface water source <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	Yes
21	Expand existing drinking water treatment plant including intake up to existing rated capacity where land acquisition is required	No
22	Construct new drinking water treatment plant <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	Yes
23	Expand existing drinking water treatment plant. <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	Yes
24	New, expansion or replacement of drinking water intake pipe for a surface water source	No
25	Install sewer connections for disposal of process wastewater from a drinking water treatment plant	No
26	Establish facilities for disposal of proposal wastewater (e.g. construct holding pond, dewatering and hauling operations to disposal sites)	No

Municipal Wastewater Projects		
27	Establish, extend or enlarge a sewage collection system and all works necessary to connect the system to an existing sewage outlet where such facilities are not located in a previously disturbed portion of an existing road allowance utility corridor	No
28	Increase wastewater pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure	No
29	Construct new wastewater pumping station	No
30	Construct or expand communal sewage systems with subsurface effluent disposal that requires an approval under Section 53 of the Ontario Water Resources Act	No
31	A new municipal holding tank that is designed for the total retention of all sanitary sewage disposed into it and requires periodic emptying	No
32	Expand sewage treatment plant, including relocation or replacement of outfall to receiving water body, up to existing rated capacity where new land acquisition is required	No
33	Construct new sewage treatment plant <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	Yes
34	Expand existing sewage treatment plant beyond existing rated capacity <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	Yes
35	Establish sewage flow equalization tankage for influent and/or effluent control within existing sewer system or at existing sewage treatment plants, or at existing pumping stations	No
36	Construct new sewage lagoons <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	Yes
37	Expand an existing sewage lagoon <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	Yes
38	Establishing a sewage detention or retention facility that provides treatment of the sewage <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	Yes
39	Establish new or modify, retrofit or improve LID features outside of a previously disturbed portion of an existing road allowance or utility corridor or where property acquisition is required. <i>LID – Low Impact Development Means a stormwater management strategy that seeks to mitigate the impacts of increased runoff and stormwater pollution by managing runoff as close to its source as possible. LID comprises a set of site design strategies that minimize runoff and distributed, small scale</i>	No

	<i>practices that mimic natural or predevelopment hydrology through the process or infiltration, evapotranspiration, harvesting, filtration and detention of stormwater.</i>	
40	Establish new or expand existing stormwater detention/retention ponds or tanks and appurtenances including outfall to receiving water body where all such facilities are not located in a previously disturbed portion of an existing utility corridor, or an existing road allowance or where property acquisition is required	No
41	Construct a stormwater control demonstration or pilot facility for the purpose of assessing new technology or procedures.	No
42	Establish stormwater infiltration system for end-of-pipe control and/or for groundwater recharge	No
Shoreline / In water works		
43	Construct berms along a watercourse for purposes of flood control in areas subject to damage by flooding	No
44	Modify existing water crossings for the purposes of flood control	No
45	Works undertaken in a watercourse for the purposes of flood control or erosion control. <i>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.</i>	No
46	Construction of spillway facilities at existing outfalls for erosion or sedimentation control	No
47	Construct a fishway or fish ladder in a natural watercourse, expressly for the purpose of providing a fishway	No
48	Reconstruct existing weir or dam at the same location where the purpose, use and/or capacity are changed and there is an increase in footprint	No
49	Enclose a watercourse in a storm sewer	No

Table 2: Projects proposed to be subject to the streamlined environmental assessment process

#	Initial Proposal	Updated Proposal		Description of Change
		Proposed Project Description ⁴	Applicable to Private Sector ⁵	
Drinking Water Projects				
1	Construct a new drinking water system that includes a new well.	Establishing a drinking water system if, i. the system has a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day, ii. a permit under the <i>Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002</i> is required to establish the system, and iii. a licence under the <i>Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002</i> is required to use or operate the system.	Yes	Project description combines three project types from initial proposal and more clearly identifies the types of systems that are subject to the process. Changes also incorporate a proposed threshold of 100,000 litres per day.
2	Construct a new drinking water system that includes a new water distribution system.			
3	Establish a new surface water source.			
3	Establish a new surface water source.	Making a change to an existing drinking water system described above if making the changes would result in the system using a surface water source that is not currently being used by the system.	No	Clarified project description.
4	Artificially recharge an existing aquifer from a surface water source for purposes of water supply.	Establishing infrastructure for the purpose of artificially recharging an aquifer from a surface water source	No	Clarified project description.

⁴ A project designated as subject to the streamlined EA process would include any enterprise or activity that is ancillary to the project.

⁵ All projects on this list are proposed to be designated as Part II.4 projects under the EA Act when undertaken by a municipality. Projects undertaken by private sector developers are proposed to be designated as indicated in this column.

		for the purposes of using the aquifer as a source of drinking water.		
5	Construct a new drinking water treatment plant or expand existing drinking water treatment plant beyond existing rated capacity.	Establishing a drinking water treatment plant that has a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day and is part of a drinking water system described above.	Yes	Project description from initial proposal is now split into separate project descriptions for new plants and changes to existing plants and incorporates a proposed threshold of 100,000 litres per day. Only the designation for establishing a new drinking water treatment plant is proposed to apply to private sector developers.
		Making a change to an existing drinking water treatment plant that has a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day and is part of a drinking water system described above, if making the change would result in, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the rated capacity increasing by at least 50 per cent of the comparator rated capacity, or ii. the rated capacity being at least 2,275,000 litres per day more than the comparator rated capacity. 	No	Updated proposed project description incorporates a proposed threshold to designate expansions greater than 50%, or 2,275,000 litres per day, increase in rated capacity.

		Making a change to an existing drinking water treatment plant that is part of a drinking water system for which a permit is required and a licence is required to use or operate the system, if <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. the plant has a rated capacity of less than or equal to 100,000 litres per day, andii. making the change would result in the plant having a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.		Updated to designate expansions that would create a drinking water treatment plant with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.
		“comparator rated capacity” means, in respect of a drinking water treatment plant, the greater of, <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) the lowest rated capacity of the plant during the previous 10-year period; andb) the rated capacity of the plant used for the purposes of an environmental assessment most recently completed in respect of the plant.		
Wastewater Projects				
6	Construct new sewage system with a rated capacity of greater than 50,000 litres per day, including outfall to receiving water body and/or a constructed wetland for treatment.	Establishing a sewage system other than a subsurface sewage disposal system, with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.	Yes	Updated the proposed project threshold.
7	Construct a new sewage treatment plant with a rated capacity of greater than 50,000 litres per day.	Establishing a sewage treatment plant with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.	Yes	Updated the proposed project threshold.

8	Expand an existing sewage treatment plant by 25% or more of existing rated capacity.	Making a change to an existing sewage treatment plant with a rated capacity of less than or equal to 100,000 litres per day if making the change would result in the plant having a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.	No	Updated to designate expansions that would create a sewage treatment plant greater than 100,000 litres per day or that expand a sewage treatment plant by more than 50% or 2,275,000 liters per day.
		<p>Making a change to a sewage treatment plant with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day, if making the change would result in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the rated capacity of the plant increasing by 50% or more of the comparator rated capacity; or ii. the rated capacity of the plant being at least 2,275,000 litres per day more than the comparator rated capacity. <p>“comparator rated capacity” means, in respect of a sewage treatment plant, the greater of,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the lowest rated capacity of the plant set out in an environmental compliance approval that applied in respect of the plant during the previous 10-year period; and b) the lowest rated capacity of the plant used for the purposes of an environmental assessment most recently completed in respect of the plant. 	No	
9	Establish new sewage lagoons with a rated capacity of greater than 50,000	Establishing a sewage lagoon facility with a rated capacity of greater than	Yes	Project description from initial proposal is now split

	litres per day or expand existing lagoons by 25% or more of existing rated capacity or install new or additional sewage storage tanks which will increase by 25% or more of existing rated capacity.	100,000 litres per day.		<p>into separate project descriptions for new lagoon facilities and changes to existing lagoon facilities. Only the designation for establishing a sewage lagoon facility is proposed to apply to private sector developers.</p> <p>Updated proposed project description incorporates a proposed threshold of 100,000 litres per day.</p>
		Making a change to a sewage lagoon facility with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day, if making the change would increase the rated capacity of the facility by greater than or equal to 25% of the comparator rated capacity.	No	Note that the 25% expansion threshold is not proposed to change for sewage lagoons.

		<p>Making a change to an existing sewage lagoon facility with a rated capacity of less than or equal to 100,000 litres per day if making the change would result in the facility having a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.</p> <p>“comparator rated capacity” means, in respect of a sewage lagoon facility, the greater of,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the lowest rated capacity of the plant or facility set out in an environmental compliance approval that applied in respect of the facility during the previous 10-year period; and b) the lowest rated capacity of the facility used for the purposes of an environmental assessment most recently completed in respect of the facility. 		Updated to designate expansions that would create a sewage treatment plant with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.
10	Establish a new biosolids landfill site or new biosolids incineration site for purposes of biosolids disposal.	N/A	N/A	The designation of waste disposal sites is addressed in Part IV of O.Reg. 50/24.
11	Establish a new transfer station or new sewage holding tank/storage lagoon not located at a sewage treatment plant, incinerator, landfill site, or organic soil conditioning site, for purposes of biosolids management.	<p>Establishing a sewage lagoon facility that temporarily stores sewage biosolids and that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) treats sewage biosolids; (b) discharges to a water body or water course; and (c) is not located at a thermal treatment site, landfilling site, organic soil conditioning site, 	Yes	<p>This project description is now focused on new storage lagoons only used as transfer stations. Holding tanks with no discharge are considered waste disposal sites, and the designation of waste disposal sites are</p>

		sewage treatment plant or an existing sewage lagoon facility.		addressed in Part IV of O.Reg. 50/24.
12	Construct new sanitary or combined sewage retention / detention facility at a new location.	Establishing a sewage detention or retention facility that provides treatment of the sewage with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.	Yes	Updated project description clarifies that this applies to facilities with treatment and incorporates a proposed threshold to align with other projects.
13	Provide sewage effluent for land application through spray irrigation system or overland flow.	N/A	N/A	This designation is not necessary. If a sewage system, sewage treatment plant, sewage lagoon facility or sewage detention or retention facility is proposed to be established or changed and the system, plant or facility would dispose of sewage effluent through land application, the land application of sewage would be considered an ancillary activity to the establishing or changing of the system, plant or facility and would be assessed under those projects that are designated.
Stormwater Management Projects				

14	Construct new or modify, retrofit or improve existing retention/detention facility or infiltration system for the purpose of stormwater quality control where active chemical or biological treatment or disinfection is included, including outfall to receiving water body.	Establishing a storm water management facility that, (a) manages storm water that is contaminated with pollutants other than total suspended solids, oil, grease, and chlorides from roads; and (b) uses a chemical or biological treatment or disinfection to treat the storm water, and (c) requires the operator of the facility to be actively involved in treating the storm water.	No	Clarified project description.
		Making a change to a storm water management facility not described above if making the change would result in the facility being a facility described above.	No	
Shoreline/In-water works				
15	Construction of a diversion channel or sewer for the purpose of diverting flows from one watercourse to another.	Establishing a conveyance system that conveys water from one watercourse to another.	No	Clarified project description.
16	Construct new shoreline works, such as off-shore breakwaters, shore-connected breakwaters, groynes and sea walls.	Establishing erosion works. “erosion works” means a works that rehabilitates, protects or manages a shoreline by preventing erosion or controlling sediment exchange between land and water such as a breakwall that protects a shoreline from eroding.	No	Clarified project description.
17	Construct a new dam or weir in a watercourse.	Establishing a dam.	No	Clarified project description.

		<p>“dam” means a structure constructed in a watercourse for the purpose of holding back water and includes a weir.</p>		
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