



October 30, 2023

Office of the Commissioner
Public Works
Halton Region
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, ON L6M 3L1

Permissions Modernization Team
Client Services and Permissions Branch
135 St Clair Avenue West, Floor 1
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Dear Permissions Modernization Team,

RE: Permit-By-Rule Framework

The Region of Halton (Halton Region) has received notice through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO 019-6951 - <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6951>) of potential changes to streamline the permit-by-rule framework.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (the Ministry) is exploring opportunities to allow a wider range of activities to register for a permission where proponents demonstrate that activities can meet established environmental outcomes. This may introduce requirements such as:

- Technical assessment conducted by a qualified person
- Technical studies showing how activities would meet specific outcomes
- Peer review by a third-party consultant for some activities

The Ministry is considering having more activities move to a permit-by-rule approach rather than developing sector-specific rules for each activity. The Ministry requested suggestions about other types of outcomes that are currently required to obtain a ministry-reviewed permission but could be move to an assessed EASR.

Recommendation

Halton Region recommends that aggregate operations may be a good candidate for the permit-by-rule framework. There are best management practices and established industry solutions capable of treating sediment-laden water. The requirement for a technical assessment, study, and peer-review would be well-applied to aggregate operations.

Halton Region does not recommend removing the requirement to have a Qualified Professional perform an assessment or complete a technical study.

Regional Municipality of Halton

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Conclusion

Halton Region has reviewed the opportunities presented by the Ministry to widen the range of activities registering for permission. Halton Region suggests that aggregate operations would be a good candidate for the permit-by-rule framework.

Please contact us for additional clarification or consultation, if desired. Please contact us for additional clarification or consultation, if desired.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Marchant', with a stylized, cursive script.

Danielle Marchant
Manager, Integrated Management System & Quality Assurance

cc: Public Works Departmental Management Team, Halton Region