



March 15, 2024

EA Modernization Project Team  
Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch  
135 St Clair Ave West - 4th Floor  
Toronto, ON  
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**Re: Municipality of Clarington Comments to ERO# 019-7891**

The Municipality of Clarington (Municipality) is pleased to provide on the Province's commitment to modernize the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process (MCEA), specifically ERO-019-7891.

In general, the Municipality supports the Province's commitment to modernizing the MCEA process with the goal to help deliver critical public works to support housing infrastructure for Ontario's rapidly growing population. However, the Municipality does have some concerns and requests for clarification regarding the list of exempt projects, Developer exemptions and MPAP process. The following commentary is broken into two sections, 'Comments' and 'Clarification'.

Comments:

1. The Municipality has concerns with the exclusion of all municipal road and bridge/water crossing projects and all private sector infrastructure projects from the Municipal Project List.
2. Municipalities require justification for land taking required for road widenings and new road projects, beyond the information provided at the master plan/secondary plan level. Proper and consistent assessment of alternatives and public consultation is important to ensure that the public is being protected and due diligence investigations are being completed.
3. Removal of consistent requirements for public engagement will put additional onus on municipalities and may make it difficult to enforce on the private sector.
4. No oversight from a higher body to ensure that all municipalities are consistently assessing all aspects of the environment could increase risk and negatively impact important matters such as impacts to Indigenous Communities or climate change.
5. The constricted 6-month timeline for public consultation on projects that will follow the MPAP process put a difficult burden on municipalities to meet unrealistic timelines.

The Corporation of the Municipality of Clarington, 40 Temperance Street, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3A6  
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6. In general, the Municipality supports MEA's comments submitted on March 12, 2024. The potential for new processes that will be maintained by the MEA may eliminate some of the above concerns, however, this still needs to be created, adopted and really needs provincial wide buy-in to be successful. This is essentially the current MCEA that is being revoked. Enforcement will also put further burden on the municipal government.

Clarification

1. The Municipality seeks clarification as to when the proper inventory of environment and assessment of alternatives and required studies should take place. If being done prior to public consultation, the project becomes less transparent, and the consultation becomes more of a check mark rather than valuable feedback into the preferred solution.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes and welcome the opportunity to discuss in more detail.

Sincerely,



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