



## **Comments on ERO 019-7891 January 23, 2026**

### **About the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA)**

The MEA is a non-profit Association representing the interests of over 1,260 professional engineers who are employed by over 100 Ontario municipalities. MEA also has members from provincial agencies, conservation authorities, and consulting engineers who are designated as the engineer-of-record for smaller Ontario municipalities. MEA was established over 60 years ago as an amalgamation of the City Engineers Association (formed 1946) and the County Engineers Association (formed 1951).

Municipal engineers play a vital role in maintaining, renewing, and constructing municipal infrastructure. Specializing in municipal infrastructure services, municipal engineers contribute at various levels, from design and construction to project management and leadership. Our expertise and knowledge help guide both small- and large-scale capital infrastructure projects.

Through its membership, MEA provides specific expertise in the various areas associated with municipal engineering in Ontario. MEA is the sole proponent for the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) since its inception in the mid 1980's and the MCEA process has been a collaboration between the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) and the MEA. MEA, together with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO), are the co-proponents of Ontario Provincial Standards & Specifications (Municipal). MEA provides training for Ontario Provincial Standards and MCEA.

MEA members actively collaborate with multiple ministries, including IO, MECP, MTO, and MMAH, contributing at all decision-making levels and shaping billions of dollars in infrastructure investments essential to advancing our province. Through a strong network of municipal engineers, the MEA offers valuable expertise, resources, and strategic support to help develop policy and drive the success of provincial initiatives. By fostering stronger connections between local governments and the province, the MEA ensures that our communities remain both collaborative and competitive. We encourage the Province to continue leveraging the association's expertise to advance initiatives that benefit all Ontarians.

## **MEA's General Comments to ERO 019-7981:**

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) is pleased to comment on the Province's commitment to modernize the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process (MCEA), specifically ERO-019-7891.

MEA supports the Province's commitment to modernize and streamline the EA process. However, given our current understanding of MECP's proposal, MEA has significant concerns that the revised Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP) will fail to deliver the results the Province previously announced – to introduce *“sensible, practical changes that maintain environmental safeguards while reducing delays on municipal infrastructure projects”*.

The MEA has concerns about the effectiveness of the proposed process to achieve the Province's goals at a procedural level and at the project level regarding project descriptions. The key issues are explained below but should not be considered the limit of the MEA's concerns.

The MEA's wants to be part of the solution and is willing to invest time and resources in the refinement of MPAP and associated regulatory details in partnership with the Province to “help deliver critical public works faster to support housing for Ontario's rapidly growing population”. The MEA respectfully requests the Province establish a group of industry experts and stakeholders to assist in the full vetting of the proposed MPAP through a series of progressive workshop style sessions. The MEA will source infrastructure experts from its staff and membership plus provide suggestions on other stakeholders.

MEA's comments to the ERO are broken down into seven (7) components.

1. The new Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP);
2. Archaeological Assessment Process (AAP)
3. Transition provisions
4. Diagram 1: Overview of proposed streamlined environmental assessment and archaeological assessment processes
5. Table 1: Projects proposed to be subject to the Archaeological Assessment Process (AAP)
6. Table 2 Projects proposed to be subject to the streamlined environmental assessment process (MPAP)
7. Projects where AAP or MPAP is applicable to Private Sector

## **MEA Specific Comments/Questions:**

### **1. The new Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP);**

The MECP has proposed changes to the MPAP that will add effort, staff time and cost. Of particular concern is the new requirement for the creation of a draft EPR and mandatory circulation of this report with a 30-day commenting period.

- *How does the addition of this new step in the EA process align with the goal to propose sensible, practical changes that maintain environmental safeguards while reducing delays on municipal infrastructure projects?*

MECP is steering the new EA process away from the MCEA process (which includes consultation during consideration and selection of alternatives) and towards a process where the project is presented to stakeholders with a justification (similar to the Planning Act).

- *What is the rationale for this approach?*

In 2024, MPAP was proposed to be very similar to the well-established Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP).

- *What were the reasons to move away from TPAP format or problems which have been noted with TPAP projects and how the changes now being proposed will address these problems?*
- *Also, will the TPAP be amended to match the proposed MPAP?*
- *What is the reasoning and advantages of this new EA regime?*

*Further information and answers to the above questions are required before proper comments related to the newly proposed MPAP can be provided. Before moving forward, it is suggested that MECP lead a workshop with MEA and other stakeholders which would allow for focused two-way discussion specifically on the details of the MPAP.*

*The workshop needs take selected example projects and illustrate how the sample projects would follow the new EA regime compared to the existing MCEA process.*

### **2. Archaeological Assessment Process (AAP)**

Historically, Indigenous Communities have been considered as special stakeholders under the MCEA. In 2023, the MECP introduced the 2023 Archaeological Screening Process (ASP) and now, the more onerous/rigorous AAP is being proposed and will be applied to more project types (49 vs 18).

To illustrate why AAP is more onerous/rigorous, following ASP, a proponent can complete a checklist, determine that the project area does not include known or potential archaeological resources and then qualify the project as exempt by filing the checklist in the project file and making the file available upon request. Importantly, there is no notice requirement or expectation for Indigenous Community's involvement.

Whereas, AAP requires a draft report, a final report and direct contact with Indigenous Communities twice for all projects, including simple projects where the project area does not have archaeological potential.

MEA has heard considerable feedback from various EA practitioners from across Ontario, and individual municipalities are encouraged to submit their specific comments to MECP. While different issues with the current system (MCEA and ASP) were identified, there is a clear consensus that the AAP, as proposed, could become unworkable as it's application may overwhelm the available resources resulting in significant delays for important municipal projects.

- *Before moving forward, it is suggested that MECP lead a workshop with MEA and other stakeholders which would allow for focused two-way discussion specifically on the details of the AAP.*
- *The workshop needs take selected example projects and illustrate how the sample projects would follow the new process compared to the existing MCEA and ASP process.*

### **3. Transition provisions.**

MEA continues to support transition provisions that would allow projects that:

- are not on the MPAP Project List to complete the MCEA process or easily withdraw from the process by providing notice, or,
- are on the MPAP Project List to be able to complete the EA Act requirements either under the MCEA process or the MPAP.

### **4. Diagram 1: Overview of proposed streamlined environmental assessment and archaeological assessment processes**

MEA is developing a Screening Tool for Assessment of Municipal Projects (STAMP) which will guide proponents through the pre-planning activities required in MPAP.

Diagram 1 is too general – a flowchart with more specific details (something like the TPAP flow chart combined with our STAMP flowchart) is needed to illustrate the entire process and ensure the process is organized to minimize effort/cost/time and illustrate how MPAP, AAP and STAMP should work together.

*Before moving forward, it is suggested that MECP lead a workshop with MEA and other stakeholders which would allow for focused two-way discussion specifically on the details of the flowchart in Diagram 1. The workshop needs take selected example projects and illustrate how the sample projects would follow the new process compared to the existing MCEA process.*

## **5. Table 1: Projects proposed to be subject to the Archaeological Assessment Process (AAP)**

MEA's review of Table 1: Projects proposed to be subject to the Archaeological Assessment Process (AAP) has generated a significant number of questions and concerns. MEA feels that considerable revisions to Table 1 will be required. One such example is described below;

|   |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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) | <p>This clause, as written, seems to mean that new local roads, greater than 1 lane km must follow the AAP.</p> <p>Local roads within a subdivision have always been approved through the subdivision Planning Act process. Subdivisions routinely include new local roads greater than 1 lane kilometer.</p> <p>When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as exempting roads within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture roads within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.</p> |
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MEA has identified numerous other issues. Please see the attachment to this letter for preliminary detailed comments to date.

- *Before moving forward, it is suggested that MECP lead a workshop with MEA and other stakeholders which would allow for focused two-way discussion specifically on the details of each line in a Table 1.*
- *Each line in the Table needs to be scrutinized to identify all possible applications and confirm the wording is appropriate given the new proposed EA regime.*

## **6. Table 2 Projects proposed to be subject to the streamlined environmental assessment process (MPAP)**

MEA's review of Table 2: Projects proposed to be subject to the MPAP has generated a significant number of questions and concerns. MEA feels that considerable revisions to Table 2 will be required. One such example is described below;

|    |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| 15 | Establishing a conveyance system that conveys water from one watercourse to another. | <p>It needs to be clear that this does not include infrastructure that collects surface water runoff from the drainage area for one watercourse and discharges into another water course.</p> <p>When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as stormwater systems within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.</p> |
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MEA has identified numerous other issues. Please see the attachment to this letter for preliminary detailed comments to date.

- *Before moving forward, it is suggested that MECP lead a workshop with MEA and other stakeholders which would allow for focused two-way discussion specifically on the details of each line in a Table 2.*
- *Each line in the Table needs to be scrutinized to identify all possible applications and confirm the wording is appropriate given the new proposed EA regime.*

## 7. Projects where AAP or MPAP is applicable to Private Sector

As part of the MCEA system, the [Private Sector Developers Regulation \(O. Reg. 345/93\)](#) currently exempts private sector projects that are for residents of a municipality unless they are listed in Schedule C of the MCEA. This regulation is proposed to be revoked and, in its place, Table 1 and Table 2 will designate which private sector projects will be subject to MPAP or AAP.

Each project type included in Table 1 or Table 2 needs to be carefully reviewed to ensure the historical exemptions remain. New EA requirements for the Private Sector should only be considered if there is a demonstrated problem that exists.

MEA's review of Table 1 and Table 2 Private Sector subject to MPAP or AAP has generated a significant number of questions and concerns. MEA believes that.

considerable revisions to Table 1 and Table 2 will be required. One such example is described below;

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| 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 | Projects such as sidewalks at major commercial complexes, sidewalks at condos, pathways around storm treatment ponds, pathways at golf courses, glamping, pick-your-own farms (corn mazes) and natural outdoor wedding venues should not be subject. What are examples of private sector projects that should be subject? |
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MEA has identified numerous other issues. Please see the attachment to this letter for preliminary detailed comments to date.

- *Before moving forward, it is suggested that MECF lead a workshop with MEA and other stakeholders (including representatives from impacted Private Sector) which would allow for focused two-way discussion specifically on the details of each line in Table 1 and Table 2.*
- *Each line in the Tables need to be scrutinized to identify all possible applications and confirm the wording is appropriate given the new proposed EA regime.*

## 8. Table 1: Projects proposed to be subject to the Archaeological Assessment Process (AAP)

### Detailed Comments

MEA's review of Table 1: Projects proposed to be subject to the Archaeological Assessment Process (AAP) has generated a significant number of questions and concerns as detailed below.

| # | Proposed Project Description                                                              | MEA's Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Initial stockpiling of de-icing material within an engineered permanent storage structure | Under the MCEA regime, beginning the activity of storing salt was subjected to Schedule B process and the impact of the activity of storing salt on the environment was assessed. However, with the proposed changes, for this project type, only the impact on archaeological resources will be considered. The first load of salt will not be delivered until the engineered permanent storage structure has been complete. There is no point in subjecting the project to AAP after the |



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|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>structure has been completed. The activity of storing salt will not impact archaeological resources.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project type should not be reworded to state “construction of a new engineered permanent storage structure” as the risk of impacting archaeological resources during the construction of an engineered permanent salt storage structure is not any greater than during the construction of any other component of a Public Works facility.</p>                                                                |
| 2 | Construction of new parking lots not associated with a building greater 60,000 square feet (approximately 200 spaces)                                                                                                                      | <p>The wording should be improved so it is clear the 60,000 refers to the parking lot not the size of the building and the size should be metric.</p> <p>Also, the threshold in the MCEA for this project type is &lt;\$12 M (based on 2022 cost index). Constructing a 6,000m<sup>2</sup> (that would park approximately 200 cars) would cost &lt;\$1M so the clause should be re-written as follows;</p> <p>Construction of new parking lots greater than 72,000 m<sup>2</sup> where the parking lot is not associated with a building.</p> |
| 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) | <p>Or 500m for a two-lane road? Or 250m for a four-lane road? Please confirm.</p> <p>Please explain why the risk of impacting archaeological resources during the construction of a collector road are different than a local road or an arterial road?</p> <p>Somewhere it needs to be clear that temporary infrastructure such as coffer dams, bypass pumps, overland water supplies and detour roads/bridges are not subject to either Table 1 or Table 2</p>                                                                              |
| 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                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5 | Construction of underpasses or overpasses for pedestrian, cycling, recreational or agricultural use outside of a                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



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|    | previously disturbed portion of an existing right-of-way and/or in a utility or rail corridor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 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) | How does this mesh with the provincial ban on road diets?<br>When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as exempting roads within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture roads within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 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)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | This clause, as written, seems to mean that new local roads, greater than 1 lane km must follow the AAP.<br>Local roads within a subdivision have always been approved through the subdivision Planning Act process. Subdivisions routinely include new local roads greater than 1 lane kilometer. When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as exempting roads within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture roads within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act. |
| 8  | Reconstruction of a water crossing where the reconstructed facility will not be for the same purpose, use, capacity or at the same location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Somewhere it needs to be clear that temporary infrastructure such as coffer dams, bypass pumps, overland water supplies and detour roads/bridges are not subject to either Table 1 or Table 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10 | Construction of new water crossings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11 | Construction of new grade separations and interchanges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 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                                                                                                                                            | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as extending water system within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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| 13 | Increasing drinking water pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure                                                              | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as pumping stations within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.         |
| 14 | Construct a new drinking water pumping station                                                                                                                                | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as pumping stations within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.         |
| 15 | Replace/expand existing drinking water storage facilities, where additional land must be acquired                                                                             | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as water storage facilities within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act. |
| 16 | Establish new drinking water storage facilities                                                                                                                               | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as water storage facilities within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act. |
| 17 | Install a new well on an existing municipal well site                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 18 | Establish a well at a new municipal well site                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 19 | Construct a new drinking water system<br>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.               | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 20 | Establish a new drinking water surface water source<br>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies. | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 21 | Expand existing drinking water treatment plant including intake up to existing rated capacity where land acquisition is required                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| 22 | Construct new drinking water treatment plant This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                                       | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 23 | Expand existing drinking water treatment plant. This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                                    | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 24 | New, expansion or replacement of drinking water intake pipe for a surface water source                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 25 | Install sewer connections for disposal of process wastewater from a drinking water treatment plant                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 26 | Establish facilities for disposal of proposal wastewater (e.g. construct holding pond, dewatering and hauling operations to disposal sites)                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 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 | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as extending sewage system within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act. |
| 28 | Increase wastewater pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure                                                                                                                                                | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as pumping stations within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.        |
| 29 | Construct new wastewater pumping station                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as pumping stations within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.        |
| 30 | Construct or expand communal sewage systems with subsurface effluent disposal that requires an approval under Section 53 of the Ontario Water Resources Act                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 31 | A new municipal holding tank that is designed for the total retention of all                                                                                                                                                                              | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|    | sanitary sewage disposed into it and requires periodic emptying                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | a list of exempted projects such as holding tanks within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.                                                                                      |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 33 | Construct new sewage treatment plant<br>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 34 | Expand existing sewage treatment plant beyond existing rated capacity This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 36 | Construct new sewage lagoons This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 37 | Expand an existing sewage lagoon This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 38 | Establishing a sewage detention or retention facility that provides treatment of the sewage This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                                                                                                                                          | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 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. 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. | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as LID features within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act. |

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|    | LID comprises a set of site design strategies that minimize runoff and distributed, small scale practices that mimic natural or predevelopment hydrology through the process of infiltration, evapotranspiration, harvesting, filtration and detention of stormwater.                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 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 | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as ponds within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.           |
| 41 | Construct a stormwater control demonstration or pilot facility for the purpose of assessing new technology or procedures.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 42 | Establish stormwater infiltration system for end-of-pipe control and/or for groundwater recharge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as storm treatment within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act. |
| 43 | Construct berms along a watercourse for purposes of flood control in areas subject to damage by flooding                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 44 | Modify existing water crossings for the purposes of flood control                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 45 | Works undertaken in a watercourse for the purposes of flood control or erosion control. This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                                                                  | <i>Waiting for explanation from MECP</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 46 | Construction of spillway facilities at existing outfalls for erosion or sedimentation control                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 47 | Construct a fishway or fish ladder in a natural watercourse, expressly for the purpose of providing a fishway                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 49 | Enclose a watercourse in a storm sewer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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|  |  | a list of exempted projects such as storm sewer works within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act. |
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## 9. Table 2 Projects proposed to be subject to the streamlined environmental assessment process (MPAP)

### Detailed Comments

MEA's review of Table 2: Projects proposed to be subject to the MPAP has generated a significant number of questions and concerns. See below for detailed comments.

| #                | Proposed Project Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | MEA's Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br>2<br>&<br>3 | Establishing a drinking water system if,<br>i the system has a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day, <u>AND</u><br><u>or OR</u><br>ii. a permit under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 is required to establish the system, and<br>iii. a licence under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 is required to use or operate the system. | <i>Seems to be missing AND or OR</i><br><br><i>What capacities/requirements require a permit or a licence?</i><br><br>Somewhere it needs to be clear that temporary infrastructure such as coffer dams, bypass pumps, overland water supplies and detour roads/bridges are not subject to either Table 1 or Table 2 |
| 3                | 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.                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 4                | Establishing infrastructure for the purpose of artificially recharging an aquifer from a surface water source for the purposes of using the aquifer as a source of drinking water.                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 5                | 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.<br><br>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   | <i>This is a very complex project type description. Could MECP please explain this description with actual examples?</i>                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|   | <p>described above, if making the change would result in,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the rated capacity increasing by at least 50 per cent of the comparator rated capacity, or</li> <li>ii. the rated capacity being at least 2,275,000 litres per day more than the comparator rated capacity.</li> </ul> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the plant has a rated capacity of less than or equal to 100,000 litres per day, and</li> <li>ii. 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.</li> </ul> <p>“comparator rated capacity” means, in respect of a drinking water treatment plant, the greater of, a) the lowest rated capacity of the plant during the previous 10-year period; and b) the rated capacity of the plant used for the purposes of an environmental assessment most recently completed in respect of the plant.</p> |                                                                                                                |
| 6 | Establishing a sewage system other than a subsurface sewage disposal system, with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                |
| 7 | Establishing a sewage treatment plant with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                |
| 8 | Making a change to an existing sewage treatment plant with a rated capacity of less than or equal to 100,000 litres per day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Somewhere it needs to be clear that temporary infrastructure such as coffer dams, bypass pumps, overland water |



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|   | <p>if making the change would result in the plant having a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.</p> <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"> <li>i the rated capacity of the plant increasing by 50% or more of the comparator rated capacity; or</li> <li>ii. the rated capacity of the plant being at least 2,275,000 litres per day more than the comparator rated capacity.</li> </ul> <p>“comparator rated capacity” means, in respect of a sewage treatment plant, the greater of, 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.</p> | <p>supplies and detour roads/bridges are not subject to either Table 1 or Table 2</p> <p><i>This is a very complex project type description. Could MECP please explain this description with actual examples?.</i></p> |
| 9 | <p>Establishing a sewage lagoon facility with a rated capacity of greater than 100,000 litres per day.</p> <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.</p> <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"> <li>a) the lowest rated capacity of the plant or facility set out in an environmental</li> </ul>                                                                                                                       | <p><i>This is a very complex project type description. Could MECP please explain this description with actual examples.</i></p>                                                                                        |

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|    | <p>compliance approval that applied in respect of the facility during the previous 10-year period; and</p> <p>b) the lowest rated capacity of the facility used for the purposes of an environmental assessment most recently completed in respect of the facility.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 11 | <p>Establishing a sewage lagoon facility that temporarily stores sewage biosolids and that,</p> <p>(a) treats sewage biosolids;</p> <p>(b) discharges to a water body or water course; and</p> <p>(c) is not located at a thermal treatment site, landfilling site, organic soil conditioning site, sewage treatment plant or an existing sewage lagoon facility.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 14 | <p>Establishing a storm water management facility that,</p> <p>(a) manages storm water that is contaminated with pollutants other than total suspended solids, oil, grease, and chlorides from roads; and</p> <p>(b) uses a chemical or biological treatment or disinfection to treat the storm water, and</p> <p>(c) requires the operator of the facility to be actively involved in treating the storm water.</p> <p>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.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 15 | <p>Establishing a conveyance system that conveys water from one watercourse to another.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>It needs to be clear that this does not include infrastructure that collects surface water runoff from the drainage area for one watercourse and discharges into another water course.</p> <p>When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as stormwater systems within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture infrastructure within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.</p> |

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| 16 | 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 break wall that protects a shoreline from eroding. |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 17 | Establishing a dam.<br>“dam” means a structure constructed in a watercourse for the purpose of holding back water and includes a weir.                                                                                                                   | Somewhere it needs to be clear that temporary infrastructure such as coffer dams, bypass pumps, overland water supplies and detour roads/bridges are not subject to either Table 1 or Table 2 |

## 7. Projects where AAP or MPAP is applicable to Private Sector

### Detailed Comments

**Table 1**

| # | Proposed Project Description                                                                                                                                                                                                               | MEA's Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| 1 | Initial stockpiling of de-icing material within an engineered permanent storage structure                                                                                                                                                  | Agree – Private Sector not subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2 | Construction of new parking lots not associated with a building greater 60,000 square feet (approximately 200 spaces)                                                                                                                      | Agree – Private Sector not subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 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) | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as exempting roads within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture roads within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.                                 |
| 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                                        | Projects such as sidewalks at major commercial complexes, sidewalks at condos, pathways around storm treatment ponds, pathways at golf courses, glamping, pick-your-own farms (corn mazes) and natural outdoor wedding venues should not be subject. What are examples of private sector projects that should be subject? |

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| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Agree – Private Sector not subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 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)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | When reviewing this list of project types, we need to remember that there will not be a list of exempted projects such as exempting roads within a subdivision. To avoid duplication, this project type can not capture roads within a plan of subdivision or required by a Planning Act.<br>Somewhere it needs to be clear that temporary infrastructure such as coffer dams, bypass pumps, overland water supplies and detour roads/bridges are not subject to either Table 1 or Table 2 |
| 8  | Reconstruction of a water crossing where the reconstructed facility will not be for the same purpose, use, capacity or at the same location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Agree – Private Sector not subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Agree – Private Sector not subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 10 | Construction of new water crossings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Agree – Private Sector not subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 11 | Construction of new grade separations and interchanges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Agree – Private Sector not subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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                                                                                                                                            | Agree – Private Sector not subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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| 13 | Increasing drinking water pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure                                                              | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 14 | Construct a new drinking water pumping station                                                                                                                                | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 15 | Replace/expand existing drinking water storage facilities, where additional land must be acquired                                                                             | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 16 | Establish new drinking water storage facilities                                                                                                                               | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 17 | Install a new well on an existing municipal well site                                                                                                                         | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 18 | Establish a well at a new municipal well site                                                                                                                                 | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 19 | Construct a new drinking water system<br>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.               | Waiting for explanation from MECP  |
| 20 | Establish a new drinking water surface water source<br>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies. | Waiting for explanation from MECP  |
| 21 | Expand existing drinking water treatment plant including intake up to existing rated capacity where land acquisition is required                                              | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 22 | Construct new drinking water treatment plant<br>This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.        | Waiting for explanation from MECP  |
| 23 | Expand existing drinking water treatment plant. This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.        | Waiting for explanation from MECP  |
| 24 | New, expansion or replacement of drinking water intake pipe for a surface water source                                                                                        | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 25 | Install sewer connections for disposal of process wastewater from a drinking water treatment plant                                                                            | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 26 | Establish facilities for disposal of proposal wastewater (e.g. construct holding pond, dewatering and hauling operations to disposal sites)                                   | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 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              | Agree – Private Sector not subject |

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|    | located in a previously disturbed portion of an existing road allowance utility corridor                                                                                                                           |                                    |
| 28 | Increase wastewater pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure                                                                                                         | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 29 | Construct new wastewater pumping station                                                                                                                                                                           | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 30 | Construct or expand communal sewage systems with subsurface effluent disposal that requires an approval under Section 53 of the Ontario Water Resources Act                                                        | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 31 | A new municipal holding tank that is designed for the total retention of all sanitary sewage disposed into it and requires periodic emptying                                                                       | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 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                                        | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 33 | Construct new sewage treatment plant This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                        | Waiting for explanation from MECP  |
| 34 | Expand existing sewage treatment plant beyond existing rated capacity This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                       | Waiting for explanation from MECP  |
| 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                               | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 36 | Construct new sewage lagoons This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                | Waiting for explanation from MECP  |
| 37 | Expand an existing sewage lagoon This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                            | Waiting for explanation from MECP  |
| 38 | Establishing a sewage detention or retention facility that provides treatment of the sewage This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies. | Waiting for explanation from MECP  |

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| 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. 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 practices that mimic natural or predevelopment hydrology through the process or infiltration, evapotranspiration, harvesting, filtration and detention of stormwater. | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 41 | Construct a stormwater control demonstration or pilot facility for the purpose of assessing new technology or procedures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 42 | Establish stormwater infiltration system for end-of-pipe control and/or for groundwater recharge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 43 | Construct berms along a watercourse for purposes of flood control in areas subject to damage by flooding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 44 | Modify existing water crossings for the purposes of flood control                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 45 | Works undertaken in a watercourse for the purposes of flood control or erosion control. This designation does not apply if the project is designated as a project to which the streamlined EA process applies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 46 | Construction of spillway facilities at existing outfalls for erosion or sedimentation control                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 47 | Construct a fishway or fish ladder in a natural watercourse, expressly for the purpose of providing a fishway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Agree – Private Sector not subject |



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| 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 | Agree – Private Sector not subject |
| 49 | Enclose a watercourse in a storm sewer                                                                                                         | Agree – Private Sector not subject |

Table 2 - *To be added after MECP responds to questions posed December 21, 2025.*