



Planning and Economic Development Department

Planning Division

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May 14, 2026

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Province of Ontario

SENT VIA ERO POSTING

RE: City of Hamilton Comments on ERO 26-0301 - Proposed amendments to the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025 and consequential amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002

Attached, please find City of Hamilton staff comments in response to the above noted ERO posting. Hamilton Planning Committee and City Council will be reviewing these comments at their June 16, 2026, and June 24, 2026, meetings.

Hamilton City Council may choose to amend or add to the enclosed comments which would be provided in a subsequent letter.

Should you have questions or comments, please contact myself or Steve Burke, Manager, Sustainable Communities Section, at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5863 or by email at Steve.Burke@hamilton.ca.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Fabac".

Anita Fabac, MCIP, RPP
Acting Director of Planning and Chief Planner
Planning Division
Planning and Economic Development Department
City of Hamilton

Enclosed.

ERO 26-301: Proposed amendments to the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025 and consequential amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002

The following table provides the opportunity to comment on [ERO 26-301](#).

ERO 26-301: Proposed amendments to the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025 and consequential amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002	
Description	Comments
<p>As part of the MMAH Spring Bill, MMAH is proposing legislative amendments to the <i>Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025</i> (WWPCA).</p> <p>These include:</p> <p>Explicitly prohibiting private ownership in any new water and wastewater public corporation to maintain 100% public sector ownership.</p>	<p>The risk of private ownership was raised in previous comments. This amendment addresses this concern and ensures public ownership of WWPCs.</p>
<p>Supporting the continuation of existing contracts so that existing contracts are not affected by a transfer to a new water and wastewater public corporation. This includes contracts such as employment or insurance, or a collective agreement.</p>	<p>The continuation of existing contracts was raised in previous comments. This amendment seems to address this concern.</p>
<p>Clarifying that certain rights (such as successor, employment, and pay equity rights) are carried forward to a new water and wastewater public corporation. This would include regulation-making authority to help ensure continuity of services related to contracts and employees that are transferred to a new water and wastewater public corporation.</p>	<p>Ensuring certain rights was raised in previous comments. This amendment seems to address this concern.</p>

Description	Comments
<p>Prohibiting the transfer of water and wastewater debt from Peel Region to the water and wastewater public corporation, while creating new regulation-making authority to enable future regulations to address all matters related to municipal debt.</p>	
<p>Legislative amendment to the <i>Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002</i> (SDWA) to clarify that drinking water systems owned by WWPCs constitute municipal drinking water systems and such that applicable SDWA provisions would apply to them.</p>	<p>In cases where system ownership and operating authority transfer from a municipality to a WWPC, there should be sufficient time given for the DWQMS accreditation. More information is needed on future regulations and implementation timelines.</p> <p>Clear roles and responsibilities are essential. The relationships between municipal councils, any WWPC board, and the Province must be clearly defined, especially for emergency response, regulatory compliance, and public communication about drinking water safety. Drinking water is a public health issue, and accountability must always be clear.</p>