

Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la  
Protection de la nature et des Parcs



Environmental Assessment  
Branch

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February 1, 2024

Diana Glean  
Project Manager  
City of Brampton  
[diana.glean@brampton.ca](mailto:diana.glean@brampton.ca)  
\*\*\*BY EMAIL ONLY

Re: **Intermodal Drive and Watermain Extension to Gorewood Drive  
City of Brampton  
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, Schedule B  
Acknowledgement of Notice of Commencement**

Dear Diana Glean,

This letter is in response to the Notice of Commencement for the above noted project. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) acknowledges that the City of Brampton (proponent) has indicated that the study is following the approved environmental planning process for a Schedule B project under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA).

The **updated (August 2022)** attached “Areas of Interest” document provides guidance regarding the ministry’s interests with respect to the Class EA process. Please address all areas of interest in the EA documentation at an appropriate level for the EA study. Proponents who address all the applicable areas of interest can minimize potential delays to the project schedule. **Further information is provided at the end of the Areas of Interest document relating to recent changes to the Environmental Assessment Act through Bill 197, Covid-19 Economic Recovery Act 2020.**

The Crown has a legal duty to consult Aboriginal communities when it has knowledge, real or constructive, of the existence or potential existence of an Aboriginal or treaty right and contemplates conduct that may adversely impact that right. Before authorizing this project, the Crown must ensure that its duty to consult has been fulfilled, where such a duty is triggered.

Although the duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples is a duty of the Crown, the Crown may delegate procedural aspects of this duty to project proponents while retaining oversight of the consultation process.

The proposed project may have the potential to affect Aboriginal or treaty rights protected under Section 35 of Canada's *Constitution Act 1982*. Where the Crown's duty to consult is triggered in relation to the proposed project, **the MECP is delegating the procedural aspects of rights-based consultation to the proponent through this letter**. The Crown intends to rely on the delegated consultation process in discharging its duty to consult and maintains the right to participate in the consultation process as it sees fit.

The project study area is located within the northeastern corner of treaty 13a, 1805 w/Mississaugas, within the traditional territory and claim area of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, within the 1701 Nanfan deed which allows for fishing and hunting (Six Nations). It's located on the western edge of the WTFN settlement lands, within an area of archaeological interest to the Huron-Wendat. Based on the current use, geography and location of the area it is not anticipated to impact hunting, fishing, gathering or trapping rights. However, it is unknown if there is the potential to impact archaeological resources as there is not enough information at this time. Based on information provided to date and the Crown's preliminary assessment the proponent is required to consult with the following communities who have been identified as potentially affected by the proposed project:

- **Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation**
- **Curve Lake First Nation**
- **Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation**
- **Alderville First Nation**
- **Hiawatha First Nation**
- **Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation**
- **Chippewas of Rama First Nation**
- **Beausoleil First Nation**
- **Huron-Wendat- if a stage one has been carried out and there is the potential of archaeological resources.**

Nothing in this advice should prevent the proponent from reaching out to Indigenous communities with whom they have an established relationship or with whom they are seeking to develop a relationship to get their input/ideas associated with the projects.

Steps that the proponent may need to take in relation to Aboriginal consultation for the proposed project are outlined in the "[Code of Practice for Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process](#)". Additional information related to Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act is available online at: [www.ontario.ca/environmentalassessments](http://www.ontario.ca/environmentalassessments).

**Please also refer to the attached document “A Proponent’s Introduction to the Delegation of Procedural Aspects of consultation with Aboriginal Communities” for further information, including the MECP’s expectations for EA report documentation related to consultation with communities.**

The proponent must contact the Director of Environmental Assessment Branch ([EABDirector@ontario.ca](mailto:EABDirector@ontario.ca)) under the following circumstances after initial discussions with the communities identified by the MECP:

- Aboriginal or treaty rights impacts are identified to you by the communities;
- You have reason to believe that your proposed project may adversely affect an Aboriginal or treaty right;
- Consultation with Indigenous communities or other stakeholders has reached an impasse; or
- A Section 16 Order request is expected based on impacts to Aboriginal or treaty rights

The MECP will then assess the extent of any Crown duty to consult for the circumstances and will consider whether additional steps should be taken, including what role you will be asked to play should additional steps and activities be required.

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**Please ensure a copy of the final notice and project file report is sent to the ministry’s Central Region EA notification email account ([eanotification.cregion@ontario.ca](mailto:eanotification.cregion@ontario.ca)) for filing.**

Should you or any members of your project team have any questions regarding the material above, please contact me at [Krishna.Selvakumar@ontario.ca](mailto:Krishna.Selvakumar@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Krishna Selvakumar  
Environmental Resource Planner/Assessment Coordinator – Central Region  
Project Review Unit, Environmental Assessment Branch

Cc:       Gavin Battarino, Special Project Officer, Project Review Unit, MECP  
          Dan Panko, Manager, Halton Peel District Office, MECP  
          Richard Morales, Consultant Project Manager, Arcadis Professional Services Inc.

Enclosed: Areas of Interest

Attached: Client’s Guide to Preliminary Screening for Species at Risk

A Proponent’s Introduction to the Delegation of Procedural Aspects of Consultation with Aboriginal Communities

## AREAS OF INTEREST (v. August 2022)

*It is suggested that you check off each section after you have considered / addressed it.*

### Planning and Policy

- Applicable plans and policies should be identified in the report, and the proponent should describe how the proposed project adheres to the relevant policies in these plans.
  - Projects located in MECP Central, Eastern or West Central Region may be subject to [A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe \(2020\)](#).
  - Projects located in MECP Central or Eastern Region may be subject to the [Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan \(2017\)](#) or the [Lake Simcoe Protection Plan \(2014\)](#).
  - Projects located in MECP Central, Southwest or West Central Region may be subject to the [Niagara Escarpment Plan \(2017\)](#).
  - Projects located in MECP Central, Eastern, Southwest or West Central Region may be subject to the [Greenbelt Plan \(2017\)](#).
  - Projects located in MECP Northern Region may be subject to the [Growth Plan for Northern Ontario \(2011\)](#).
- The [Provincial Policy Statement \(2020\)](#) contains policies that protect Ontario's natural heritage and water resources. Applicable policies should be referenced in the report, and the proponent should describe how the proposed project is consistent with these policies.
- In addition to the provincial planning and policy level, the report should also discuss the planning context at the municipal and federal levels, as appropriate.

### Source Water Protection

The *Clean Water Act, 2006* (CWA) aims to protect existing and future sources of drinking water. To achieve this, several types of vulnerable areas have been delineated around surface water intakes and wellheads for every municipal residential drinking water system that is located in a source protection area. These vulnerable areas are known as a Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) and surface water Intake Protection Zones (IPZs). Other vulnerable areas that have been delineated under the CWA include Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVAs), Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs), Event-based modelling areas (EBAs), and Issues Contributing Areas (ICAs). Source protection plans have been developed that include policies to address existing and future risks to sources of municipal drinking water within these vulnerable areas.

Projects that are subject to the Environmental Assessment Act that fall under a Class EA, or one of the Regulations, have the potential to impact sources of drinking water if they occur in designated vulnerable areas or in the vicinity of other at-risk drinking water systems (i.e. systems that are not municipal residential systems). MEA Class EA projects may include

activities that, if located in a vulnerable area, could be a threat to sources of drinking water (i.e. have the potential to adversely affect the quality or quantity of drinking water sources) and the activity could therefore be subject to policies in a source protection plan. Where an activity poses a risk to drinking water, policies in the local source protection plan may impact how or where that activity is undertaken. Policies may prohibit certain activities, or they may require risk management measures for these activities. Municipal Official Plans, planning decisions, Class EA projects (where the project includes an activity that is a threat to drinking water) and prescribed instruments must conform with policies that address significant risks to drinking water and must have regard for policies that address moderate or low risks.

- In October 2015, the MEA Parent Class EA document was amended to include reference to the Clean Water Act (Section A.2.10.6) and indicates that proponents undertaking a Municipal Class EA project must identify early in their process whether a project is or could potentially be occurring with a vulnerable area. **Given this requirement, please include a section in the report on source water protection.**
  - The proponent should identify the source protection area and should clearly document how the proximity of the project to sources of drinking water (municipal or other) and any delineated vulnerable areas was considered and assessed. Specifically, the report should discuss whether or not the project is located in a vulnerable area and provide applicable details about the area.
  - If located in a vulnerable area, proponents should document whether any project activities are prescribed drinking water threats and thus pose a risk to drinking water (this should be consulted on with the appropriate Source Protection Authority). Where an activity poses a risk to drinking water, the proponent must document and discuss in the report how the project adheres to or has regard to applicable policies in the local source protection plan. This section should then be used to inform and be reflected in other sections of the report, such as the identification of net positive/negative effects of alternatives, mitigation measures, evaluation of alternatives etc.
- While most source protection plans focused on including policies for significant drinking water threats in the WHPAs and IPZs it should be noted that even though source protection plan policies may not apply in HVAs, these are areas where aquifers are sensitive and at risk to impacts and within these areas, activities may impact the quality of sources of drinking water for systems other than municipal residential systems.
- In order to determine if this project is occurring within a vulnerable area, proponents can use [Source Protection Information Atlas](#), which is an online mapping tool available to the public. Note that various layers (including WHPAs, WHPA-Q1 and WHPA-Q2, IPZs, HVAs, SGRAs, EBAs, ICAs) can be turned on through the “Map Legend” bar on the left. The mapping tool will also provide a link to the appropriate source protection plan in order to identify what policies may be applicable in the vulnerable area.

- For further information on the maps or source protection plan policies which may relate to their project, proponents must contact the appropriate source protection authority. **Please consult with the local source protection authority to discuss potential impacts on drinking water. Please document the results of that consultation within the report and include all communication documents/ correspondence.**

### More Information

For more information on the *Clean Water Act*, source protection areas and plans, including specific information on the vulnerable areas and drinking water threats, please refer to [Conservation Ontario's website](#) where you will also find links to the local source protection plan/assessment report.

A list of the prescribed drinking water threats can be found in [section 1.1 of Ontario Regulation 287/07](#) made under the *Clean Water Act*. In addition to prescribed drinking water threats, some source protection plans may include policies to address additional “local” threat activities, as approved by the MECP.

### **Climate Change**

The document "[Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process](#)" (Guide) is now a part of the Environmental Assessment program's Guides and Codes of Practice. The Guide sets out the MECP's expectation for considering climate change in the preparation, execution and documentation of environmental assessment studies and processes. The guide provides examples, approaches, resources, and references to assist proponents with consideration of climate change in EA. Proponents should review this Guide in detail.

- **The MECP expects proponents of Class EA projects to:**
  1. Consider during the assessment of alternative solutions and alternative designs, the following:
    - a. the project's expected production of greenhouse gas emissions and impacts on carbon sinks (climate change mitigation); and
    - b. resilience or vulnerability of the undertaking to changing climatic conditions (climate change adaptation).
  2. Include a discrete section in the report detailing how climate change was considered in the EA.

How climate change is considered can be qualitative or quantitative in nature and should be scaled to the project's level of environmental effect. In all instances, both a project's impacts on climate change (mitigation) and impacts of climate change on a project (adaptation) should be considered.

- The MECP has also prepared another guide to support provincial land use planning direction related to the completion of energy and emission plans. The "[Community Emissions Reduction Planning: A Guide for Municipalities](#)" document is designed to educate stakeholders on the municipal opportunities to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and to provide guidance on methods and techniques to incorporate consideration of energy and greenhouse gas emissions into municipal activities of all types. We encourage you to review the Guide for information.

### Air Quality, Dust and Noise

- If there are sensitive receptors in the surrounding area of this project, a quantitative air quality/odour impact assessment will be useful to evaluate alternatives, determine impacts and identify appropriate mitigation measures. The scope of the assessment can be determined based on the potential effects of the proposed alternatives, and typically includes source and receptor characterization and a quantification of local air quality impacts on the sensitive receptors and the environment in the study area. The assessment will compare to all applicable standards or guidelines for all contaminants of concern. **Please contact this office for further consultation on the level of Air Quality Impact Assessment required for this project if not already advised.**
- If a quantitative Air Quality Impact Assessment is not required for the project, the MECP expects that the report contain a qualitative assessment which includes:
  - A discussion of local air quality including existing activities/sources that significantly impact local air quality and how the project may impact existing conditions;
  - A discussion of the nearby sensitive receptors and the project's potential air quality impacts on present and future sensitive receptors;
  - A discussion of local air quality impacts that could arise from this project during both construction and operation; and
  - A discussion of potential mitigation measures.
- As a common practice, "air quality" should be used an evaluation criterion for all road projects.
- Dust and noise control measures should be addressed and included in the construction plans to ensure that nearby residential and other sensitive land uses within the study area are not adversely affected during construction activities.
- The MECP recommends that non-chloride dust-suppressants be applied. For a comprehensive list of fugitive dust prevention and control measures that could be applied, refer to [Cheminfo Services Inc. Best Practices for the Reduction of Air Emissions from Construction and Demolition Activities](#) report prepared for Environment Canada. March 2005.

- The report should consider the potential impacts of increased noise levels during the operation of the completed project. The proponent should explore all potential measures to mitigate significant noise impacts during the assessment of alternatives.

### **Ecosystem Protection and Restoration**

- Any impacts to ecosystem form and function must be avoided where possible. The report should describe any proposed mitigation measures and how project planning will protect and enhance the local ecosystem.
- Natural heritage and hydrologic features should be identified and described in detail to assess potential impacts and to develop appropriate mitigation measures. The following sensitive environmental features may be located within or adjacent to the study area:
  - Key Natural Heritage Features: Habitat of endangered species and threatened species, fish habitat, wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSIs), significant valleylands, significant woodlands; significant wildlife habitat (including habitat of special concern species); sand barrens, savannahs, and tallgrass prairies; and alvars.
  - Key Hydrologic Features: Permanent streams, intermittent streams, inland lakes and their littoral zones, seepage areas and springs, and wetlands.
  - Other natural heritage features and areas such as: vegetation communities, rare species of flora or fauna, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas, federal and provincial parks and conservation reserves, Greenland systems etc.

We recommend consulting with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and your local conservation authority to determine if special measures or additional studies will be necessary to preserve and protect these sensitive features. In addition, for projects located in Central Region you may consider the provisions of the Rouge Park Management Plan if applicable.

### **Species at Risk**

- The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has now assumed responsibility of Ontario's Species at Risk program. Information, standards, guidelines, reference materials and technical resources to assist you are found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk>.
- The Client's Guide to Preliminary Screening for Species at Risk (Draft May 2019) has been attached to the covering email for your reference and use. Please review this document for next steps.

- For any questions related to subsequent permit requirements, please contact [SAROntario@ontario.ca](mailto:SAROntario@ontario.ca).

## Surface Water

- The report must include enough information to demonstrate that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of any watercourses within the study area. Measures should be included in the planning and design process to ensure that any impacts to watercourses from construction or operational activities (e.g. spills, erosion, pollution) are mitigated as part of the proposed undertaking.
- Additional stormwater runoff from new pavement can impact receiving watercourses and flood conditions. Quality and quantity control measures to treat stormwater runoff should be considered for all new impervious areas and, where possible, existing surfaces. The ministry's [Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual \(2003\)](#) should be referenced in the report and utilized when designing stormwater control methods. **A Stormwater Management Plan should be prepared as part of the Class EA process** that includes:
  - Strategies to address potential water quantity and erosion impacts related to stormwater draining into streams or other sensitive environmental features, and to ensure that adequate (enhanced) water quality is maintained
  - Watershed information, drainage conditions, and other relevant background information
  - Future drainage conditions, stormwater management options, information on erosion and sediment control during construction, and other details of the proposed works
  - Information on maintenance and monitoring commitments.
- Ontario Regulation 60/08 under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* (OWRA) applies to the Lake Simcoe Basin, which encompasses Lake Simcoe and the lands from which surface water drains into Lake Simcoe. If a proposed sewage treatment plant is listed in Table 1 of the regulation, the report should describe how the proposed project and its mitigation measures are consistent with the requirements of this regulation and the OWRA.
- Any potential approval requirements for surface water taking or discharge should be identified in the report. A Permit to Take Water (PTTW) under the OWRA will be required for any water takings that exceed 50,000 L/day, except for certain water taking activities that have been prescribed by the Water Taking EASR Regulation – *O. Reg. 63/16*. These prescribed water-taking activities require registration in the EASR instead of a PTTW. Please review the [Water Taking User Guide for EASR](#) for more information. Additionally, an

Environmental Compliance Approval under the OWRA is required for municipal stormwater management works.

## **Groundwater**

- The status of, and potential impacts to any well water supplies should be addressed. If the project involves groundwater takings or changes to drainage patterns, the quantity and quality of groundwater may be affected due to drawdown effects or the redirection of existing contamination flows. In addition, project activities may infringe on existing wells such that they must be reconstructed or sealed and abandoned. Appropriate information to define existing groundwater conditions should be included in the report.
- If the potential construction or decommissioning of water wells is identified as an issue, the report should refer to Ontario Regulation 903, Wells, under the OWRA.
- Potential impacts to groundwater-dependent natural features should be addressed. Any changes to groundwater flow or quality from groundwater taking may interfere with the ecological processes of streams, wetlands or other surficial features. In addition, discharging contaminated or high volumes of groundwater to these features may have direct impacts on their function. Any potential effects should be identified, and appropriate mitigation measures should be recommended. The level of detail required will be dependent on the significance of the potential impacts.
- Any potential approval requirements for groundwater taking or discharge should be identified in the report. A Permit to Take Water (PTTW) under the OWRA will be required for any water takings that exceed 50,000 L/day, with the exception of certain water taking activities that have been prescribed by the Water Taking EASR Regulation – *O. Reg. 63/16*. These prescribed water-taking activities require registration in the EASR instead of a PTTW. Please review the [Water Taking User Guide for EASR](#) for more information.
- Consultation with the railroad authorities is necessary wherever there is a plan to use construction dewatering in the vicinity of railroad lines or where the zone of influence of the construction dewatering potentially intercepts railroad lines.

## **Excess Materials Management**

- In December 2019, MECP released a new regulation under the Environmental Protection Act, titled “[On-Site and Excess Soil Management](#)” (*O. Reg. 406/19*) to support improved management of excess construction soil. This regulation is a key step to support proper management of excess soils, ensuring valuable resources don’t go to waste and to provide clear rules on managing and reusing excess soil. New risk-based standards referenced by

this regulation help to facilitate local beneficial reuse which in turn will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from soil transportation, while ensuring strong protection of human health and the environment. The new regulation is being phased in over time, with the first phase in effect on January 1, 2021. For more information, please visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/handling-excess-soil>.

- The report should reference that activities involving the management of excess soil should be completed in accordance with O. Reg. 406/19 and the MECP's current guidance document titled "[Management of Excess Soil – A Guide for Best Management Practices](#)" (2014).
- All waste generated during construction must be disposed of in accordance with ministry requirements.

### **Contaminated Sites**

- Any current or historical waste disposal sites should be identified in the report. The status of these sites should be determined to confirm whether approval pursuant to Section 46 of the EPA may be required for land uses on former disposal sites. We recommend referring to the [MECP's D-4 guideline](#) for land use considerations near landfills and dumps.
  - Resources available may include regional/local municipal official plans and data; provincial data on [large landfill sites](#) and [small landfill sites](#); Environmental Compliance Approval information for waste disposal sites on [Access Environment](#).
- Other known contaminated sites (local, provincial, federal) in the study area should also be identified in the report (Note – information on federal contaminated sites is found on the Government of Canada's [website](#)).
- The location of any underground storage tanks should be investigated in the report. Measures should be identified to ensure the integrity of these tanks and to ensure an appropriate response in the event of a spill. The ministry's Spills Action Centre must be contacted in such an event.
- Since the removal or movement of soils may be required, appropriate tests to determine contaminant levels from previous land uses or dumping should be undertaken. If the soils are contaminated, you must determine how and where they are to be disposed of, consistent with *Part XV.1 of the Environmental Protection Act* (EPA) and Ontario Regulation 153/04, Records of Site Condition, which details the new requirements related to site assessment and clean up. Please contact the appropriate MECP District Office for further consultation if contaminated sites are present.

## **Servicing, Utilities and Facilities**

- The report should identify any above or underground utilities in the study area such as transmission lines, telephone/internet, oil/gas etc. The owners should be consulted to discuss impacts to this infrastructure, including potential spills.
- The report should identify any servicing infrastructure in the study area such as wastewater, water, stormwater that may potentially be impacted by the project.
- Any facility that releases emissions to the atmosphere, discharges contaminants to ground or surface water, provides potable water supplies, or stores, transports or disposes of waste must have an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) before it can operate lawfully. Please consult with MECP's Environmental Permissions Branch to determine whether a new or amended ECA will be required for any proposed infrastructure.
- We recommend referring to the ministry's [environmental land use planning guides](#) to ensure that any potential land use conflicts are considered when planning for any infrastructure or facilities related to wastewater, pipelines, landfills or industrial uses.

## **Mitigation and Monitoring**

- Contractors must be made aware of all environmental considerations so that all environmental standards and commitments for both construction and operation are met. Mitigation measures should be clearly referenced in the report and regularly monitored during the construction stage of the project. In addition, we encourage proponents to conduct post-construction monitoring to ensure all mitigation measures have been effective and are functioning properly.
- Design and construction reports and plans should be based on a best management approach that centres on the prevention of impacts, protection of the existing environment, and opportunities for rehabilitation and enhancement of any impacted areas.
- The proponent's construction and post-construction monitoring plans must be documented in the report, as outlined in Section A.2.5 and A.4.1 of the MEA Class EA parent document.

## **Consultation**

- The report must demonstrate how the consultation provisions of the Class EA have been fulfilled, including documentation of all stakeholder consultation efforts undertaken during the planning process. This includes a discussion in the report that identifies concerns that were raised and describes how they have been addressed by the proponent throughout

the planning process. The report should also include copies of comments submitted on the project by interested stakeholders, and the proponent's responses to these comments (as directed by the Class EA to include full documentation).

- Please include the full stakeholder distribution/consultation list in the documentation.

### **Class EA Process**

- If this project is a Master Plan: there are several different approaches that can be used to conduct a Master Plan, examples of which are outlined in Appendix 4 of the Class EA. **The Master Plan should clearly indicate the selected approach for conducting the plan**, by identifying whether the levels of assessment, consultation and documentation are sufficient to fulfill the requirements for Schedule B or C projects. Please note that any Schedule B or C projects identified in the plan would be subject to Part II Order Requests under the Environmental Assessment Act, although the plan itself would not be. **Please include a description of the approach being undertaken (use Appendix 4 as a reference)**.
- If this project is a Master Plan: Any identified projects should also include information on the MCEA schedule associated with the project.
- The report should provide clear and complete documentation of the planning process in order to allow for transparency in decision-making.
- The Class EA requires the consideration of the effects of each alternative on all aspects of the environment (including planning, natural, social, cultural, economic, technical). The report should include a level of detail (e.g. hydrogeological investigations, terrestrial and aquatic assessments, cultural heritage assessments) such that all potential impacts can be identified, and appropriate mitigation measures can be developed. Any supporting studies conducted during the Class EA process should be referenced and included as part of the report.
- Please include in the report a list of all subsequent permits or approvals that may be required for the implementation of the preferred alternative, including but not limited to, MECP's PTTW, EASR Registrations and ECAs, conservation authority permits, species at risk permits, MTO permits and approvals under the *Impact Assessment Act, 2019*.
- Ministry guidelines and other information related to the issues above are available at <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/environment-and-energy>. We encourage you to review all the available guides and to reference any relevant information in the report.

### **Amendments to the EAA through the Covid-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020**

Once the EA Report is finalized, the proponent must issue a Notice of Completion providing a minimum 30-day period during which documentation may be reviewed and comment and input can be submitted to the proponent. The Notice of Completion must be sent to the appropriate MECP Regional Office email address.

The public can request a higher level of assessment on a project if they are concerned about potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. In addition, the Minister may issue an order on his or her own initiative within a specified time period. The Director (of the Environmental Assessment Branch) will issue a Notice of Proposed Order to the proponent if the Minister is considering an order for the project within 30 days after the conclusion of the comment period on the Notice of Completion. At this time, the Director may request additional information from the proponent. Once the requested information has been received, the Minister will have 30 days within which to make a decision or impose conditions on your project.

Therefore, the proponent cannot proceed with the project until at least 30 days after the end of the comment period provided for in the Notice of Completion. Further, the proponent may not proceed after this time if:

- a Section 16 Order request has been submitted to the ministry regarding potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights, or
- the Director has issued a Notice of Proposed order regarding the project.

Please ensure that the Notice of Completion advises that outstanding concerns are to be directed to the proponent for a response, and that in the event there are outstanding concerns regarding potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights, Section 16 Order requests on those matters should be addressed in writing to:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
[minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

and

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor  
Toronto ON, M4V 1P5  
[EABDirector@ontario.ca](mailto:EABDirector@ontario.ca)