

# ***ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT***

## **NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS**

### **Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment**

RE: Amendments to the Municipal Class Environment Assessment

Proponent: Municipal Engineers Association (MEA)

EA File No.: EA-03-03-02-02

The Municipal Engineer's Association, as part of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' modernization initiative, submitted amendments to its approved Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for a decision under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The ministry also proposed amendments to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, including administrative amendments and updates to address the 2019 and 2020 amendments to the EAA.

Section 15.4 of the EAA establishes the authority and process for making amendments to a class environmental assessment, including amendments made on the ministry's own initiative. To amend a class environmental assessment, the minister must be satisfied that the amendments are consistent with the purpose of the Act and the public interest.

The ministry consulted on the proposed amendments with Indigenous communities, members of the public, government agencies and stakeholders. Information on the proposed amendments was posted on Ontario's Environmental Registry and Ontario.ca. Indigenous communities, government agencies and other stakeholders were directly notified and provided with information on the proposed amendments.

The ministry reviewed the proposed amendments and recommended amendments be made to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment that would be consistent with the purpose of the EAA and the public interest taking into account the feedback received during the consultations, potential impacts to the environment, and other criteria established for the review of the proposed amendments.

Having considered section 15.4 of the Act and the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, the proposed amendments to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, the submissions on the proposed amendments, the purpose of the EAA and the public interest, I am hereby

amending the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. The amendments are incorporated in the March 3, 2023 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, to which this notice is attached.

## REASONS

My reasons for amending the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment are as follows:

- (1) I am satisfied that adequate public notice of the proposed amendments has been provided and members of the public have had an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments. The public, provincial government agencies, and all municipalities in Ontario had an opportunity to submit comments to the ministry during the 45-day comment period, from July 8, 2020, until August 22, 2020. The proposal was posted on the Ontario.ca website and the Environmental Registry of Ontario and identified this 45-day comment period.
- (2) I am also satisfied that adequate consultation with municipalities, as the proponents of projects that proceed pursuant to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, has occurred, with an appropriate opportunity provided to proponents to review the proposed substantive amendments and to provide their comments.
- (3) The ministry has directly engaged with Indigenous communities on the proposed amendments, providing communities with information, an opportunity to attend webinar sessions or individualized meetings, an opportunity to comment and raise any concerns and has considered those comments and concerns. The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment provides a formal, recognized process for Indigenous communities to learn about projects and to be consulted on those projects both on an interest basis and in terms of potential impacts to existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Additional information was provided in response to questions or concerns from Indigenous communities and concerns about the potential impact of proposed amendments on rights was considered by the ministry in their analysis and by me in my decision.
- (4) The ministry has responded to concerns raised by provincial government agencies, municipalities and Indigenous communities with respect to the proposed amendments, including not recommending approval of certain amendments, proposing changes to other amendments, and proposing a new screening process to address Indigenous community concerns related to archaeological resources.
- (5) The ministry has assessed the proposed amendments in accordance with the criteria established by the ministry and has made its recommendations based on that analysis. The ministry has demonstrated that the final recommended amendments are consistent with current legislative requirements and planning practices and will provide for a more effective planning process to deliver municipal infrastructure and servicing in a more efficient and environmentally sustainable manner.
- (6) The administrative amendments proposed by the ministry are necessary and would correct errors in the class environmental assessment, update references to acts, regulations, ministries, etc., would update the class environmental assessment to be

consistent with changes made to the EAA in 2019 and 2020 and/or are necessary to clarify the existing text of the class environmental assessment.

- (7) The ministry, based on its analysis of the proposed amendments, concluded that the amendments recommended for approval are consistent with the purpose of the EAA and would be in the public interest and based on my reasons set out above, I concur with this conclusion.

Notice of my decision to amend the class environmental assessment will be posted in the Environmental Registry of Ontario to bring the amendments into effect, as required by the EAA, and to provide public notice of the changes made to the class environmental assessment.

Dated the 3rd day of March 2023 at TORONTO.



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Minister of the Environment, Conservation and  
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