



**MCEA Amendment Webinar Handout**

**Appendix 1 of Amended MCEA Document**

**User Notes**

**May 2023**

**Attachments Updated July 2023**

# Appendix 1: Project Tables

## 1.1 General

The class of undertakings approved to proceed pursuant to the MCEA are set out in the tables in Appendix 1 together with their classification. The projects are broken into three tables based on the type of infrastructure: roads, water and wastewater and transit.

Projects are classified into one of four schedules:

- a) exempt from Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) requirements,
- b) is eligible for exemption based on the results of the screening process(es) in Appendix 1;
- c) should proceed through Schedule B or C despite being eligible for screening;
- d) Schedule B, and
- e) Schedule C.

Project Schedules are detailed in Section A.1.2.2.

### Exempt from Environmental Assessment Act requirements

Most of the projects identified as exempt in the tables are exempt from the requirements of the EAA by section 15.3(4) of the EAA. As a result of the 2023 amendments a few additional projects have been exempted through section 15.3(1) of the EAA.

A proponent of an exempt project may decide to undertake consultation and assessment activities outside of the Class EA process.

Tables A, B, and C identify the schedule for each of the municipal undertakings (roads, water and wastewater and transit) that may proceed pursuant to the MCEA. The schedule of the undertakings determines the MCEA process that must be followed to proceed with an undertaking pursuant to the MCEA rather than completing an individual EA for a project. As part of the 2023 amendments, undertakings in the tables have been reorganized under new subheadings to assist users in finding the applicable project description and schedule.

### Eligible for Screening

Those projects that are identified as eligible for screening may be exempt from the requirements of the EAA based on the results of the archaeological screening process, and the collector roads screening process. Proponents must fully and accurately complete the archaeological or collector road screening processes in order to determine whether their project can proceed without further application of the Act or if they must complete the identified Schedule B or C process. Completing the screening processes is voluntary and proponents may choose to proceed with the Schedule B or C process instead.

See more information on these screening processes below.

### Voluntary Elevation of Schedule B and C Projects

A proponent may choose to voluntarily elevate a project classified as Schedule B by completing the Schedule C process or a project classified as Schedule C by completing an individual EA. **Projects that are classified as exempt cannot be elevated to a Schedule B or C process.** Exempt project cannot be elevated

Proponents may want to elevate a project where a project may have a greater environmental impact. In selecting the appropriate project schedule, it must be recognized that the level of complexity will vary depending on the nature of the project. Given the varying levels of complexity, the divisions among Schedules B and C projects are therefore often not distinct. The Class EA document defines the minimum requirements for the MCEA process or the planning of the project; the proponent is responsible for “customizing” it to reflect the complexities and needs of a specific project. Proponents should refer to Section A.2.1.1 for guidance in selecting the appropriate schedule and customizing the process to fit the project and the community. The classification of the project should be considered not only at the outset of project planning but throughout the process.

Key considerations are outlined in Parts B through D, and in Appendix 3 and include requiring property, affecting watercourses, affecting fisheries, affecting significant natural heritage features (e.g. woodlots and wetlands), or having impacts which are considered significant to your community.

### Finding the Correct Schedule

Proponents must consider all aspects of their projects when reviewing the project tables to ensure the correct schedule is followed. In cases where components of a single project fall within more than one project description, the more rigorous schedule applies to the entire project. This does not include elements of a project that are classified as exempt (first column), though it does include projects that are classified as eligible for screening (second column).

Proponents must review all of the relevant project descriptions in the various tables (roads, water and wastewater and transit) for their project as some projects will involve work on more than one type of infrastructure.

For example, a project that includes a new road crossing and a new dyke will fit within project descriptions in both the roads and water and wastewater tables. The classification for both parts of the project must be determined and the highest schedule followed. The proponent must plan the project in accordance with all applicable requirements and may document the planning process in one Project File Report or Environmental Study Report.

### Planning the Project in its Entirety

Proponents are required to plan large or extended projects in their entirety and the project schedule should be determined accordingly. Projects which are to be implemented in stages over an extended period of time must be planned in their entirety at the time when the first stage is to be undertaken and must not be broken up, or piecemealed, into smaller components.

The preamble to Appendix 1 of the 2017 MCEA included:

*Schedule A activities are Pre-approved. The proponent may proceed without following the procedures set out in any other part of this Class EA. Projects which take place partly outside the proponents municipal boundary shall be planned at least under Schedule B, other than normal or emergency operational activities which shall be Schedule A.*

However, the new 2023 MCEA does not include an equivalent clause and, now that Schedule A and A+ projects are exempt rather than pre-approved, they cannot be elevated to Schedule B or C.

## **1.2 Archaeological Screening Process**

The projects that are identified as eligible for screening, subject to the archaeological screening process (identified as “ASP”) may be exempt from the requirements of the EAA as determined by the archaeological screening process set out below. In order to proceed with a project that is identified as eligible for screening, a proponent must either (i) carry out the process for a Schedule B/C project; or (ii) complete the archaeological screening process and follow the directions set out in the screening process. If the outcome of the screening process is that the project is exempt from the requirements of the EAA, the proponent may proceed with the undertaking/project without further application of the EAA to the project.

[See Note A1-2](#)

The archaeological screening process consists of three questions with links to various tools and criteria under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Proponents must carry out the specified research and consultation to accurately respond to each question. This includes, but is not limited to, consultation with Indigenous Communities, municipal governments, and the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and may require the assistance of a licensed archaeologist. Proponents will not be able to accurately and properly answer the questions in the screening without the knowledge and assistance of other parties.

The ministry recognizes that some municipal proponents have an established relationship with Indigenous Communities and may have regular meetings to share information about upcoming projects and initiatives. It is appropriate for municipalities to use these meetings to discuss information on archaeological resources to respond to the checklists required by question 1 of the archaeological screening process. A consultation record must be maintained as part of the documentation for the undertaking/project.

If a proponent does not fully and properly complete the archaeological screening process in accordance with the questions set out below and the checklists/instructions referred to in those questions or mischaracterizes their project or the impacts associated with the project, the proponent cannot proceed with their project and would be out of compliance with the EAA. A project is not exempt unless the archaeological screening process is completed as required, project documentation maintained and all mitigation measures that are identified through the screening process are implemented. Despite whether a project screens as exempt through the archaeological screening process the project is not exempt from any subsequent permits and approvals. All other applicable permits and approvals continue to be required for the project.

### 1. Does the project area include known or potential archaeological resources?

- Proponents must complete the Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential Checklist (form 021-0478E) and/or the Criteria for Evaluating Marine Archaeological Potential Checklist (form 021-0503E) if your project is located in or by the water. The marine licensing program is different from the land-based system. The checklists can be accessed at:  
<https://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/?OpenDatabase&ENV=WWE>
- Instructions:
  - Fill out the Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential Checklist beginning at question 2.
  - If your project is located in or by the water, fill out the Criteria for Evaluating Marine Archaeological Potential Checklist beginning at question 2.
  - To answer this question and complete the associated checklists, proponents need to contact:
    - The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism at [archaeology@ontario.ca](mailto:archaeology@ontario.ca)
    - Appropriate Indigenous Communities \*
    - Local municipal staff
    - Research known burial sites or cemeteries

\* You can contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for guidance on which Indigenous Communities should be contacted.

- Responses:
  - If the checklist(s) identifies that there are known archaeological sites on or within 300 metres of the project area, or that the project area has potential for archaeological resources, then an archaeological assessment shall be undertaken by an archaeologist licensed under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Please proceed to question two.
  - If the checklist identifies that the project area does not include known or potential archaeological resources, a project that is identified as exempt conditional on the completion of this screening is exempt from the EAA,

provided that the notification/documentation process is followed, as set out below.

- Notification/Documentation:
  - The screening checklists must be filed as project documentation and made available upon request of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and/or any interested parties.
  - Proponents should also consider posting the screening checklists and/or relevant supporting documentation on the project/municipality's website.

## **2. Based on the archaeological assessment(s), will the proposed project/undertaking have negative impacts (effects) to archaeological resources?**

- Instructions:
  - To respond to this question, archaeological assessment(s) must be undertaken by a licensed archaeologist. There are various stages of archaeological assessments, which your licensed archaeologist will be able to advise you on. For more information on archaeological assessment and their requirements, please refer to [www.ontario.ca/archaeology](http://www.ontario.ca/archaeology).
  - Indigenous Communities should be engaged throughout the archaeological assessment process and any traditional knowledge that is shared should be considered and/or incorporated, as appropriate, into the assessment of potential impacts associated with the project.
    - Proponents should reference the following bulletin which is intended to help consultant archaeologists engage Indigenous Communities in archaeology as effectively as possible. <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/publications/AbEngageBulletin.pdf>
  - Archaeological concerns have not been addressed until a report(s) has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports where those reports recommend that:
    - the archaeological assessment of the project area is complete and
    - all archaeological sites identified by the assessment are either of no further cultural heritage value or interest (as per Section 48(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*) or that mitigation of impacts has been accomplished through excavation or an avoidance and protection strategy.
  - Proponents cannot proceed with any ground disturbing activities before receiving a letter from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism indicating that the above criteria have been met.

- Responses:
  - Based on the archaeological assessment(s), if it has been determined that the proposed undertaking/project may have negative impacts to archaeological resources, proceed to question 3.
  - Based on the archaeological assessment(s), if it has been determined that the undertaking/project will not have negative impacts to archaeological resources, a project that is identified as exempt conditional on the completion of this screening is exempt from the EAA, provided that the notification/documentation requirements are met, as set out below.
  
- Notification/Documentation:
  - The archaeological assessment must be submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. That ministry may review the report to ensure that the licensed archaeologist met the terms and conditions of their licence, including requirements for fieldwork and reporting, and to ensure that concerns for any archaeological sites found were properly addressed.
  - A Notice of Project Screening must be provided to the ministry's regional email account, provided in section A.1.5, documenting that the proponent has followed the archaeological screening process.
  - The archaeological assessment(s) must be filed with other project documentation.
  - Proponents should also consider posting the Notice of Project Screening and relevant supporting documentation on the project/municipality's website.

**3. Based on the archaeological assessment(s), will any negative impacts (effects) be appropriately mitigated?**

- Instructions:
  - To respond to this question, archaeological assessment(s) must be undertaken by a licensed archaeologist. There are various stages of archaeological assessments, which your licensed archeologist will be able to advise you on. For more information on archaeological assessment and their requirements, please refer to [www.ontario.ca/archaeology](http://www.ontario.ca/archaeology).
  - Indigenous Communities should be engaged throughout the archaeological assessment process and any traditional knowledge that is shared should be considered and/or incorporated, as appropriate, into the assessment of potential impacts associated with the project.
    - Proponents should reference the following bulletin which is intended to help consultant archaeologists engage Indigenous Communities in archaeology as effectively as possible.  
<http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/publications/AbEngageBulletin.pdf>
  - Archaeological concerns have not been addressed until a report(s) has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports where those reports recommend that:
    - the archaeological assessment of the project area is complete and
    - all archaeological sites identified by the assessment are either of no

further cultural heritage value or interest (as per Section 48(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*) or that mitigation of impacts has been accomplished through an avoidance and protection strategy.

- Proponents cannot proceed with any ground disturbing activities before receiving a letter from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism indicating that the above criteria have been met.
- Responses:
  - Based on the archaeological assessment(s), if it has been determined that the proposed **project will have negative impacts on archaeological resources** that cannot be appropriately mitigated, the project **is not exempt** from the EAA.
  - Based on the archaeological assessment(s), if it has been determined that **the impacts to archaeological resources can be appropriately mitigated**, a project that is identified as exempt conditional on the completion of this screening **is exempt** from the EAA, provided that the notification/documentation requirements are met, as set out below, and the proponent implements all necessary mitigation measures that were identified in the archaeological assessments.
- Notification/Documentation:
  - The archaeological assessment must be submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism That ministry may review the report to ensure that the licensed archaeologist met the terms and conditions of their licence, including requirements for fieldwork and reporting, and to ensure that concerns for any archaeological sites found were properly addressed.
  - A Notice of Project Screening must be provided to the ministry's regional email account, provided in section A.1.5, documenting that the proponent has followed the archaeological screening process.
  - The archaeological assessment(s) must be filed with other project documentation.
  - Proponents should also consider posting the Notice of Project Screening and relevant supporting documentation on the project/municipality's website.

### 1.3 Collector Road Screening Process

In order to proceed with an undertaking identified as subject to the collector road screening process (CR) in the column titled Eligible for Screening in Table A: Municipal Roads Projects, a proponent must either (i) carry out the process for a Schedule B or C project, as applicable; or (ii) undertake the Archaeological Assessment Screening Process and Collector Road Screening Process and follow the directions provided for each of the screenings. If the outcome of the screening process is that the project is exempt from the requirements of the EAA, the proponent may proceed with the undertaking without further application of the EAA. If the outcome of the screening processes is that the undertaking is not exempt, the proponent must complete the Schedule B or Schedule C process, as applicable (refer to the columns under Class EA in the table).

See Note A1-3

Proponents are required to answer “yes” or “no” to the questions below. If the answer to any of the questions is “no”, then the proponent must proceed with the applicable Schedule B or C process. If the answer to each of the questions is “yes” the project may be exempt subject to the results of the Archaeological Screening Process.

Proponents may rely on information and studies already prepared that include the project, such as work completed under the *Planning Act* (e.g. approved Master Plans under MCEA [Approach 2] or Secondary Plans), to meet the requirements of the screening questions below. Where a time lapse has occurred between when a Master Plan was completed and when the project is proceeding, the conclusions and assumptions in the Master Plan should be revisited. The proposed project must have been sufficiently planned, described, and detailed under the *Planning Act* to rely on this information. A road illustrated with a line on a schedule to a Secondary Plan or an Official Plan is not sufficient for the purposes of this screening. The municipality must be satisfied that the proposed road will provide the required function in the road system. Alternative alignments and a specific location for the road must be identified as part of the *Planning Act* approvals (i.e. road allowance) and design (i.e. cross-section for a road) for the project such that the municipality, the public and other stakeholders could understand and raise any concerns with the proposed project through the *Planning Act* process. Municipalities are responsible for ensuring that there are sufficient controls in the *Planning Act* approval (i.e. specific clauses in the draft conditions and/or subdivision agreement) to ensure that the collector road will be properly designed, constructed and implemented and that they are constructed in accordance with the approval.

Proponents who have answered “yes” to all of the questions below are required to provide the local MECP Regional Environmental Planner with the project documentation, including a summary about the evaluation of the alternative solutions (and design concepts) and rationale of the preferred solution (and design concept), defined alignments, mitigation measures, and consultation process, to confirm that the project is exempt before proceeding. Proponents must also maintain consultation records. Proponents should contact the MECP Regional Environmental Planner for direction on which Indigenous Communities should be consulted with.

Proponents should provide the local MECP Regional Environmental Planner with project documentation before completing the archaeological screening process.

## Screening Questions

1. Has the final collector road alignment been specifically defined in the *Planning Act* approval, **AND**

- a) The majority of the collector road is located on a new alignment in a plan of subdivision; **OR**,
- b) The collector road is located in an existing road allowance associated with a plan of subdivision (e.g. condition of approval);

### **AND**

The collector road was identified in an approved Master Plan such as a Transportation Master Plan completed under the master planning process in the MCEA and the new alignment is identified on a Secondary Plan or an Official Plan approved under the *Planning Act*, or other approved municipal transportation studies or master plans.

Note - Municipally approved Master Plans or transportation studies that were completed by a municipality but were not completed pursuant to the master planning process in the MCEA may still meet the criteria above. Proponents must demonstrate that the criteria above are met and provide these studies to the MECP to confirm.

- 2. Has the problem (deficiency) or opportunity been identified? **(Y/N)**
- 3. Were environmental studies completed based on the broad definition of the environment as defined in the EAA to describe the existing environment? **(Y/N)**
- 4. a) Were alternative solutions identified and assessed, including selecting a preferred solution, taking into consideration the existing environment and potential effects as part of the Master Plan completed under MCEA process? **(Y/N)**  
  
b) Were alternative designs identified, assessed and consulted on taking into consideration the existing environment and potential effects as part of the *Planning Act* approval in a manner that is similar to the MCEA process? **(Y/N)**
- 5. Were potential environmental effects assessed, and mitigation measures developed committed to be implemented, and documented as a part of the *Planning Act* approval at an increased level of detail for the preferred undertaking? **(Y/N)**

Note - Proponents must implement any mitigation measures developed for the project and undertake any environmental monitoring (as may be applicable).

- 6. Did consultation with federal, provincial, and local governments and agencies, the public and Indigenous Communities occur at all key decision-making milestones (e.g. with respect to the alternatives considered and the preferred solution)? **(Y/N)**

Note - The proponent must have consulted with interested persons at key decision-making milestones (e.g. consideration of alternatives, selected of a preferred alternative and preferred design concept). Federal agencies will be consulted as may be applicable.

7. Have all outstanding commitments and concerns raised been appropriately addressed/considered? **(Y/N)**

Note – if an Indigenous Community raises concerns with respect to an Aboriginal or treaty right, the proponent must contact the ministry before proceeding further.

8. Have any other applicable permits, approvals or authorizations been identified and relevant government agencies consulted? **(Y/N)**

## 1.4 Notes for Tables A, B, And C

- “ASP” means the archaeological screening process described in section 1.2
- “CR” means the collector road screening process described in section 1.3

### Table A: Municipal Road Projects

Table A uses cost thresholds to determine the schedule for a road project. A determination as to which schedule is appropriate will require the proponent to prepare a cost estimate for the project during Phase 2 when the appropriate schedule is still under consideration.

In the Table A, the following notations apply:

- NL – No financial limit
- < \$12 m – less than \$12 million
- ≥ \$12 m – greater than or equal to \$12 million

Note: Previously the MCEA allowed for cost thresholds to be indexed by MEA based on MTO’s Tender Price Index. The cost thresholds in the table have been adjusted to March 2022 based on MEA’s prior indexing in March 2019.

- The cost limit of \$2.4 million has increased to \$3 million.
- The cost limited of \$3.5 million has increased to \$4.1 million.
- The cost limit of \$9.5 million has increased to \$12 million.

Cost thresholds will be updated on an annual basis by the ministry based on MTO’s Tender Price Index, and will be effective when published on the Environmental Registry on Ontario (ERO).

MEA will monitor MECP’s progress at adjusting cost thresholds annually. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the latest cost thresholds

### Table B: Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects

The **dams** and **weirs** referred to in the table are flow control structures located within a watercourse. Any outfall structure at a wastewater treatment facility or sewage lagoon would be part of that wastewater treatment facility or sewage lagoon and would not be considered a dam or weir within one of these sections. Stormwater management facilities, whether located within a watercourse or not, would not be considered a dam or weir.

### Table C: Municipal Transit Projects

In accordance with section 2(6) of O. Reg. 231/08 made under the EAA (Transit Regulation), proponents must provide written notice to the Director of the Environmental Assessment Branch and the appropriate Regional Director of the ministry if they intend to proceed with the process set out in this Class EA where the Transit Assessment Process otherwise applies. The notice must clearly state that the proponent intends to proceed with their undertaking pursuant to the MCEA process.

**Transit projects that include heavy rail cannot proceed pursuant to the MCEA but rather must proceed pursuant to the Transit Assessment Process set out in the Transit Regulation.**

The term “environmentally-sensitive area” includes natural heritage features, cultural heritage and archaeological resources, recreational and other sensitive land uses as per Schedule 1 of Transit Regulation. It is the responsibility of the proponent to undertake the appropriate investigations and consultation to determine the adjacent land use and to identify “environmentally-sensitive” area(s) by applying the applicable legislation, policies, and

**Table A: Municipal Road Projects – The black font is the 2023 MCEA text. The green font is MEA’s Companion Guide advice for proponents**

MECP has designated all Schedule A and A+ projects as Exempt. MEA still retains the A and A+ designations to guide municipalities with their consultation for these projects.

Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<b>OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>1</b> Normal or emergency operation and maintenance of linear paved facilities, cycling lanes/facilities & multi-purpose paths, sidewalks, parking lots and related facilities located within or outside existing rights-of-way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Related facilities include bridges</i></li> </ul> <i>This clause is intended to be inclusive. Operational and maintenance activities are those activities that keep the infrastructure in good condition and safe for the intended use by the public. Related facilities include bridges and freeways and any other infrastructure located in the road allowance</i>	A			
<b>2</b> Shaping and cleaning existing roadside ditches	A			
<b>3</b> Gravel replacement and reshaping on existing roads	A			
<b>4</b> Plowing and sanding <i>Initial storage of snow considered exempt. See A1-1</i>	A			
<b>5</b> Snow and de-icing operations that comply with MECP’s Guideline B-4 “Snow Disposal and De-icing Operations in Ontario	A			
<b>6</b> Stockpiling sand, gravel and fill	A			
<b>7</b> Stockpiling of de-icing material at existing service facility where stockpiling has previously taken place	A			
<b>8</b> Culvert repair and replacement where the capacity of the culvert is not increased beyond the minimum municipal standard or the capacity required to adequately drain the area, whichever is greater, and where there is no change in drainage area <i>Note – 8 and 20 together include all culverts</i>	A			

Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<p><b>9a</b> Initial stockpiling of de-icing material within an engineered permanent storage structure where the storage structure has an impervious ground surface and de-icing material will be protected from precipitation and surface runoff and the storage structure is not located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential, or other sensitive land use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to “environmentally sensitive natural area” in the Glossary</li> </ul> <p>See A1-2</p>		ASP	X	
<p><b>9b</b> Initial stockpiling of de-icing material, where the de-icing material will be stored in an outdoor or unprotected facility or the facility is located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential, or other sensitive land use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to “environmentally sensitive natural area” in the Glossary</li> </ul>			X	
<b>ROAD RELATED FACILITIES</b>				
<p><b>10</b> Establishment of a roadside park or picnic area</p> <p><i>This clause does not include qualifiers such as property requirements or proximity to sensitive features</i></p>	A+			
<p><b>11a</b> Expansions, improvements and modifications to existing patrol yard and maintenance facilities where land acquisition is required provided the project conforms to <i>Planning Act</i> requirements and with municipal and other requirements</p>	A+			
<p><b>11b</b> Establish new patrol yards or maintenance facilities provided the project conforms to <i>Planning Act</i> requirements and with municipal and other requirements</p> <p><b>11a &amp; 11b together include all maintenance facilities</b></p>	A+			
<p><b>12a</b> Construction of new parking lots not associated with a building</p> <p><i>This clause does not include qualifiers such as property requirements or proximity to sensitive features</i></p>	A+ < \$12M			
<p><b>12b</b> Construction of new parking lots not associated with a building and are not located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential or other sensitive land use, or on lands with cultural heritage or archaeological potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To determine whether there is “archaeological potential” refer to MCM’s Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential checklist posted on the MEA website.</li> <li>Refer to “environmentally sensitive natural area” in the Glossary</li> </ul>		≥\$12M ASP	≥\$12M	

Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<p><b>12c</b> Construction of new parking lots not associated with a building and are located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential or other sensitive land use, or on lands with cultural heritage or archaeological potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To determine whether there is “archaeological potential” refer to MCM’s Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential checklist posted on the MEA website.</li> <li>Refer to “environmentally sensitive natural area” in the Glossary</li> </ul>			≥\$12M	
<b>OTHER PROJECTS</b>				
<b>13</b> Projects planned and approved under Ontario Regulation 586/06 (see Section A.2.10.4)	A			
<p><b>14a</b> Construction of local roads which are required as a condition of approval on a site plan, consent, plan of subdivision or plan of condominium which will come into effect under the <i>Planning Act</i> prior to the construction of the road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local” refers to roadway function not municipal jurisdiction. See the definition of “Roads” in the Glossary</li> </ul>	A			
<p><b>14b</b> 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, and is required as a condition of approval on a plan of subdivision and/or the subdivision agreement which will come into effect under the <i>Planning Act</i></p> <p>See A1-2, A1-3 Arterial roads must follow #34</p>		ASP CR	<\$3M	≥\$3M
<p><b>15</b> Any road project classified as a Schedule B or C undertaking for where the proponents determined that the work must be undertaken to address an emergency and the Director of the EAB is notified, and the conservation authority where relevant. A situation created by intentional delay does not constitute an emergency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice should be provided within 30 days at the latest</li> </ul>	A			
<b>16</b> Restoration of a facility immediately after a natural disaster, provided the facility is for the same purpose, use, capacity and all at the same location	A			
<b>RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS WITH NO INCREASE TO TRAVEL LANES</b>				
<b>17a</b> Urban: Resurfacing, with no change to horizontal alignment	A+			

Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<b>17b</b> Urban: Patching and frost heave treatment	A			
<b>17c</b> Rural: Resurfacing, patching and frost heave treatment with no change to horizontal alignment	A			
<b>18</b> Streetscaping (e.g. decorative lighting, sidewalk improvements, benches, landscaping not part of another project) <i>This clause is intended to be inclusive. Retaining Walls not specifically identified but considered a component of landscaping</i>	A+			
<b>19a</b> Construction of localized operational improvements at specific locations, and construction of intersections and roundabouts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Project must be within an existing right-of-way</i></li> <li>• <i>For projects that require property acquisition, refer to project description 33 to determine project schedule</i></li> </ul> <i>See A1-4, A1-6</i>	A+			
<b>19b</b> Installation of guide rails	A			
<b>20</b> Construction of a new culvert or increase culvert size due to change in the drainage area <i>Note – 8 and 20 together include all culverts</i>	A			
<b>21</b> Reconstruction where the reconstructed road or other linear paved facilities (e.g. HOV lanes) will be for the same purpose, use, capacity and at the same location (e.g. addition or reduction of cycling lanes/facilities, parking lanes, or continuous centre turn lanes – no change to the number of motor vehicle lanes) <i>Road Diets are considered Schedule A+ See A1-5</i> <i>Traffic Calming projects are exempt per s3.3(1) of EA Act</i> <i>See A1-6 regarding same location and property acquisition</i>	A+			
<b>22</b> Redesignation of a Linear Paved Facility through signage or pavement marking modifications (i.e. not requiring physical construction beyond localized operational improvements described in activity No. 19a above): including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ addition or removal of parking or turning lane markings on an existing roadway</li> <li>○ conversion of one-way or two-way streets</li> <li>○ redesignation of existing General-Purpose Lane (GPL) or on- street parking to High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) or cycling lanes/facilities or vice versa:</li> <li>○ addition or removal of cycling lanes/facilities or continuous turn lanes</li> </ul>	A+			

Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<b>23</b> Construction of noise barriers (i.e. structures such as walls and berms or a combination of the two, including retaining walls which are part of a noise wall)	A+			
<b>24a</b> Retirement of existing roads and road related facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Related facilities include bridges</i></li> <li>• <i>Proponents should consider cultural heritage value in accordance with MEA's Municipal Heritage Bridge Checklist developed with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) and posted on the MEA website. Completion of the checklist does not mean approval or permission from MCM to remove a bridge with potential heritage value</i></li> </ul> <i>Retirement of Bridges – See A1-7</i>	A+			
<b>24b</b> Retirement of existing laneways	A+			
<b>25a</b> Construction or removal of sidewalks or multi-purpose paths or cycling facilities within existing or protected rights-of-way	A+			
<b>25b</b> Construction or removal of sidewalks, multi-purpose paths or cycling facilities including water crossings outside existing right-of-way and/or in a utility or rail corridor <i>This clause does not include qualifiers such as property requirements or proximity to sensitive features. Instead cost of project triggers classification.</i>	A+<\$4.1M		≥\$4.1M	≥\$12M
<b>26</b> Utility removal, modification or relocation for safety or aesthetic purposes	A			
<b>27</b> New fence installations not associated with another project	A+			
<b>28a</b> Installation, construction, or reconstruction of traffic control devices (e.g. signing, signalization)	A+<\$12M			
<b>28b</b> Installation, construction, or reconstruction of traffic control devices (e.g. signing, signalization) <i>See A1-2</i>		≥\$12M ASP	≥\$12M	
<b>29a</b> Installation of safety projects (e.g. lighting including “high mast”, grooving, glare screens, safety barriers, energy attenuators)	A<\$3M			
<b>29b</b> Installation of safety projects (e.g. lighting including “high mast”, grooving, glare screens, safety barriers, energy attenuators) <i>See A1-2</i>		≥\$3M ASP	≥\$3M	

Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<b>RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES WITH NO INCREASE TO TRAVEL LANES</b>				
<p><b>30</b> Reconstruction of a water crossing where the reconstructed facility will be for the same purpose, use, capacity and at the same location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity refers to either hydraulic or road capacity but does not include alterations to include or remove facilities for cycling, pedestrians or to support utilities</li> <li>This includes ferry docks</li> </ul> <p><i>Applies bridges less than 40 years old</i></p>	A+			
<p><b>31a</b> Reconstruction of, or alteration to a structure or the grading adjacent to it, when the structure is over 40 years old and has been found not to have cultural heritage value or interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To determine whether a bridge has “cultural heritage value”, refer to the MEA’s municipal heritage bridge checklist developed with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and posted on the MEA website</li> </ul> <p><i>See A1-7</i></p>	A+			
<p><b>31b</b> Reconstruction of, or alteration to a structure or the grading adjacent to it when the structure is over 40 years old, the structure is found to have cultural heritage value or interest, and the heritage attributes will be conserved in accordance with the recommendations of a Heritage Impact Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To determine whether a bridge has “cultural heritage value”, refer to the MEA’s municipal heritage bridge checklist developed with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and posted on the MEA website</li> </ul> <p><i>See A1-7, A1-2</i></p>		ASP	X	
<p><b>31c</b> Reconstruction of, or alteration to a structure or the grading adjacent to it, when the structure is over 40 years old the structure is found to have cultural heritage value or interest, but heritage attributes will not be conserved in accordance with the recommendations of a Heritage Impact Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To determine whether a bridge has “cultural heritage value”, refer to the MEA’s municipal heritage bridge checklist developed with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and posted on the MEA website</li> </ul> <p><i>See A1-7</i></p>			X	
<b>NON-VEHICLE BRIDGES</b>				
<p><b>32a</b> Construction of underpasses or overpasses for pedestrian, cycling, recreational or agricultural use</p> <p><i>See A1-7</i></p>	A+<\$3 M			

Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<p><b>32b</b> Construction of underpasses or overpasses for pedestrian, cycling, recreational or agricultural use, and where the underpass or overpass would not be located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, potential built heritage resource or cultural heritage landscape or other sensitive land use, or on lands with archaeological potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To determine whether there is “archaeological potential” refer to MCM’s Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential checklist</li> <li>Refer to new definition of “environmentally sensitive natural area” in the Glossary</li> </ul> <p>See A1-7, A1-2</p>		≥\$3M ASP	≥\$3M	
<p><b>32c</b> Construction of underpasses or overpasses for pedestrian, cycling, recreational or agricultural use, and where the underpass or overpass would be located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, potential built heritage resource or cultural heritage landscape or other sensitive land use, or on lands with archaeological potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To determine whether there is “archaeological potential” refer to MCM’s Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential checklist</li> <li>Refer to new definition for “environmentally sensitive natural area” in the Glossary</li> </ul> <p>See A1-7</p>			≥\$3M	
<b>RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS WITH INCREASE TO TRAVEL LANES</b>				
<p><b>33</b> Reconstruction or widening where the reconstructed road or other linear 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)\</p>			<\$3M	≥\$3M
<p><b>34</b> Construction of new roads or other linear paved facilities (e.g. HOV lanes)</p>			<\$3M	≥\$3M
<b>RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES WITH INCREASE TO TRAVEL LANES</b>				
<p><b>35</b> Reconstruction of a water crossing where the reconstructed facility will not be for the same purpose, use, capacity or at the same location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity refers to either hydraulic or road capacity but does not include alterations to include or remove facilities for cycling, pedestrians or to support utilities</li> <li>This includes ferry docks</li> </ul> <p>See A1-7</p>			X	

Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<p><b>36a</b> Reconstruction of, or alteration to a structure or the grading adjacent to it when the structure is over 40 years old and has cultural heritage value or interest and the heritage attributes will <b>not be</b> conserved in accordance with the recommendations of a Heritage Impact Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To determine whether a bridge has “cultural heritage value”, refer to the MEA’s municipal heritage bridge checklist developed with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and posted on the MEA website</i></li> </ul> <p><i>See A1-7</i></p>			<b>X</b>	
<p><b>36b</b> Reconstruction of, or alteration to a structure or the grading adjacent to it when the structure is over 40 years old and is not found to have cultural heritage value or interest or is found to have cultural heritage value or interest but the heritage attributes will be conserved in accordance with the recommendations of a Heritage Impact Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To determine whether a bridge has “cultural heritage value”, refer to the MEA’s municipal heritage bridge checklist developed with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and posted on the MEA website</i></li> </ul> <p><i>See A1-7</i></p>			<b>X</b>	
<p><b>37</b> Construction of new water crossings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This includes ferry docks</i></li> <li><i>This does not include culverts. See Projects # 8 and 20.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>See A1-7</i></p>			<b>X</b>	
<p><b>38</b> Construction of new grade separations and interchanges</p> <p><i>See A1-7</i></p>			<b>X</b>	

**Table B: Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects - The green font is MEA’s Companion Guide advice for proponents**

MECP has designated all Schedule A and A+ projects as Exempt. MEA still retains the A and A+ designations to guide municipalities with their consultation for these projects

Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<b>DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS – MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, DISTRIBUTION, STORAGE &amp; RETIREMENT</b>				
<p><b>1</b> Normal or emergency operational activities (see Glossary definition of “Operation”). Such activities may include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• modify, repair, reconstruct existing facilities to provide operational maintenance or other improvements such as reducing odour, insulating of buildings to reduce noise levels and conserve energy, landscaping</li> <li>• on-going maintenance activities</li> <li>• normal operation of water treatment plants</li> <li>• install new service connections, hydrants and appurtenances from existing water mains</li> <li>• maintenance and/or minor improvements to grounds and structures</li> <li>• addition of minor buildings, sheds and equipment and materials storage areas</li> <li>• repairs or cleaning of a well or intake</li> <li>• repairs and renovations to treatments and pumping plant equipment, water storage facilities, distribution mains and appurtenances</li> <li>• installation of corrosion protection systems</li> <li>• cleaning and/or relining existing watermains</li> </ul> <p><i>This clause is intended to be inclusive. Operational and maintenance activities are those activities that keep the infrastructure in good condition and safe for the intended use by the public.</i></p>	A			
<p><b>2</b> Install chemical or other process equipment or provide additional treatment facilities such as filtration for operational or maintenance purposes in existing pumping stations</p>	A			
<p><b>3</b> Repairs, renovation, and replacement of existing outfall in the same location for a water treatment plant <i>New clause – outfall at water plant? Why Schedule B</i></p>		ASP	X	

See A1-2				
Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<p><b>4a</b> Establish, extend or enlarge water distribution system and all necessary works to connect the system to an existing system, where it is required as a condition of approval on a site plan, consent, plan of subdivision or plan of condominium which will come into effect under the <i>Planning Act</i> prior to the construction of the extension of the <b>collection distribution</b> system  <i>Project should be specifically described in Planning Act approval. Typo noted</i></p>	A			
<p><b>4b</b> Establish, extend or enlarge a water distribution system and all works necessary to connect the system to an existing system or water source, provided all such facilities are either in an existing road allowance or an existing utility corridor including the use of Trenchless Technology for water crossings  <i>See A1-4, A1-8</i></p>	A+			
<p><b>4c</b> Establish, extend or enlarge a water distribution system and all works necessary to connect the system to an existing system or water source, where such facilities <b>are not</b> in either an existing road allowance or an existing utility corridor</p>			X	
<p><b>5a</b> Increasing pumping station capacity by adding or replacing equipment where new equipment is located within an existing building or structure</p>	A+			
<p><b>5b</b> Increasing pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure and the new building or structure is located on the existing pumping station site, or located on municipally owned lands adjacent to the existing pumping station site where the lands are not in an environmentally sensitive natural area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to “environmentally sensitive natural area” in the Glossary</li> <li><i>See A1-2</i></li> </ul>		ASP	X	
<p><b>5c</b> Increasing pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure and the new building or structure would be located outside the existing pumping station site  <i>This also includes construct a new pumping station where the facility is located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential or other sensitive land use, or on land with cultural heritage or archaeological potential</i>  <i>Project Gap See A1-9</i></p>			X	

<b>5d</b> Construct a new pumping station where the facility is not located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential or other sensitive land use, or on land with cultural heritage or archaeological potential <i>See A1-2</i>		ASP	X	
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Eligible for Screening</b>	<b>Schedule B</b>	<b>Schedule C</b>
<b>6a</b> Replace/expand existing water storage facilities provided all such facilities are in either an existing road allowance or an existing utility corridor or where no land acquisition is required <i>See A1-4, A1-8</i>	A+			
<b>6b</b> Replace/expand existing water storage facilities, where additional land must be acquired <i>This also includes construct new water storage facilities where the facility is located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential or other sensitive land use, or on land with cultural heritage or archaeological potential</i> <i>Project Gap See A1-9</i>			X	
<b>6c</b> Establish new water storage facilities where the facility is not located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential or other sensitive land use, or on lands with cultural heritage or archaeological potential <i>See A1-2</i>		ASP	X	
<b>7</b> Retire any water infrastructure facility (see Glossary for definition of Retirement)	A+			
<b>NEW DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS AND WATER SUPPLY</b>				
<b>8</b> New water systems for which an approval under the <i>Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002</i> is not required	A			
<b>9a</b> Install new or replacement wells or deepen existing wells or increase pumping capacity of existing wells, at an existing municipal well site, where the existing rated yield will not be exceeded	A			

<b>9b</b> Install a new well on an existing municipal well site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This does not include the construction of a new water system</i></li> </ul> See A1-2		ASP	X	
<b>9c</b> Deepen or increase the pumping capacity of an existing well where the well is located on an existing municipal well site and the existing rated yield will be exceeded. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This does not include the construction of a new water system</i></li> </ul>	A			
<b>9d</b> Establish a well at a new municipal well site			X	
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Eligible for Screening</b>	<b>Schedule B</b>	<b>Schedule C</b>
<b>10a</b> Construct new water system including a new well				X
<b>10b</b> Construct new water system including a water distribution system				X
<b>11</b> Establish a new surface water source				X
<b>12</b> Artificially recharge an existing aquifer from a surface water source for purposes of water supply				X
<b>WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES</b>				
<b>13</b> Increase water treatment plant capacity through improvements to operations and maintenance activities only, but without construction of works to expand, modify or retrofit the plant	A			
<b>14</b> Install chemical or other process equipment or provide additional treatment facilities such as filtration for operational or maintenance purposes in existing treatment plants	A			
<b>15a</b> Expand / refurbish / upgrade water treatment plant up to existing rated capacity where no land acquisition is required	A			
<b>15b</b> Expand existing water treatment plant including intake up to existing rated capacity where land acquisition is required See A1-4			X	

15c Construct new water treatment plant or expand existing water treatment plant beyond existing rated capacity				X
16 New, expansion or replacement of water intake pipe for a surface water source			X	
17 Install sewer connections for disposal of process wastewater See A1-2		ASP	X	
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Eligible for Screening</b>	<b>Schedule B</b>	<b>Schedule C</b>
18 Establish facilities for disposal of <b>proposal</b> wastewater (e.g. construct holding pond, dewatering and hauling operations to disposal sites) where the facility does not require new property or property is not disturbed, is not a significant drinking water threat in a source water protection area or requires a new outfall or does not discharge to a sensitive receiver, and is not located on lands with cultural heritage or archaeological potential Typo – proposal should be process See A1-2		ASP	X	
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Eligible for Screening</b>	<b>Schedule B</b>	<b>Schedule C</b>
<b>SEWAGE SYSTEMS – MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, <b>DISTRIBUTION</b>, STORAGE &amp; RETIREMENT</b>				

Typo – Distribution should be Collection				
<p><b>19</b> Normal or emergency operational activities (see Glossary definition for Operation). Such activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• modify, repair, reconstruct existing facilities to provide operational, maintenance or other improvements such as reducing odour, insulating buildings to reduce noise levels and conserve energy, landscaping</li> <li>• on-going maintenance activities</li> <li>• normal operation of sewage treatment plants</li> <li>• installation of new service connections, catch basins and appurtenances from existing sewers</li> <li>• maintenance and/or minor improvements to grounds and structures</li> <li>• addition of minor buildings, sheds and equipment and materials storage areas</li> <li>• repairs, cleaning, renovations or replacement of sewage treatment facilities, pumping plant equipment or outfalls</li> <li>• cleaning, relining, repairs and renovations to existing sewage collection system</li> </ul> <p><i>This clause is intended to be inclusive. Operational and maintenance activities are those activities that keep the infrastructure in good condition and safe for the intended use by the public</i></p>	A			
<p><b>20</b> Install chemical or other process equipment for operational or maintenance purposes in existing sewage collection system or existing sewage treatment facility</p>	A			
<p><b>21</b> Retire any wastewater infrastructure facility (see Glossary for definition of Retirement)</p>	A			
Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<p><b>22a</b> Establish, extend, or enlarge a sewage collection system and all necessary works to connect the system to an existing sewage outlet, where it is required as a condition of approval on a site plan, consent plan of subdivision or plan of condominium which will come into effect under the <i>Planning Act</i> prior to the construction of the collection system</p> <p><i>Project should be specifically described in Planning Act approval</i></p>	A			

<p><b>22b</b> Establish, extend, or enlarge a sewage collection system and all necessary works to connect the system to an existing sewage or natural drainage outlet, provided all such facilities are in either an existing road allowance or an existing utility corridor, including the use of Trenchless Technology for water crossings  <i>See A1-4, A1-8</i></p>	A			
<p><b>22c</b> 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 an existing road allowance, or existing utility corridor</p>			X	
<p><b>23a</b> Increase pumping station capacity by adding or replacing equipment and appurtenances, where new equipment is located in an existing building or structure  <i>Adding a Hauled Waste Receiving Station is permitted provided it does not require a new building or structure.</i></p>	A+			
<p><b>23b</b> Increase pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure and the new building or structure is located on the existing pumping station site, or located on municipally owned lands adjacent to the existing pumping station site where the lands are not in an environmentally sensitive natural area  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Refer to “environmentally sensitive natural area” in the Glossary</i></li> </ul> <i>Adding a Hauled Waste Receiving Station is permitted</i></p>		ASP	X	
<p><b>23c</b> Increase pumping station capacity where new equipment is located in a new building or structure and the new building or structure would be located outside the existing pumping station site  <i>This also includes construct a new pumping station where the facility is located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential or other sensitive land use, or on land with cultural heritage or archaeological potential</i>  <i>Project gap See A1-9</i></p>			X	
<p><b>24d</b> Construct new pumping station where the facility is not located in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive natural area, residential or other sensitive land use, or on land with cultural heritage or archaeological potential  <i>Adding a Hauled Waste Receiving Station is permitted</i></p>		ASP	X	
<p><b>Project Description</b></p>	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<p><b>25</b> Communal sewage systems (new or expanded) with subsurface effluent disposal subject to approval under Section 53 of the <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i></p>			X	

<b>26</b> A new municipal holding tank that is designed for the total retention of all sanitary sewage disposed into it and requires periodic emptying			X	
<b>27</b> Construct new sewage system, including outfall to receiving water body and/or a constructed wetland for treatment				X
<b>SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES</b>				
<b>28a</b> Increase sewage treatment plant capacity beyond existing rated capacity through improvements to operations and maintenance activities only, but without construction of works to expand, modify or retrofit the plant or the outfall to the receiving the water body, with no increase to total mass loading to receiving water body as identified in the Environmental Compliance Approval	A			
<b>28b</b> Increase sewage treatment plant capacity beyond existing rated capacity through improvements to operations and maintenance activities only but without construction of works to expand, modify or retrofit the plant or the outfall to the receiving water body where there is an increase to total mass loading to the receiving water body as identified in the Environmental Compliance Approval			X	
<b>29a</b> Expand / refurbish / upgrade sewage treatment plant including outfall up to existing rated capacity where no land acquisition is required <i>Adding a Hauled Waste Receiving Station is permitted provided it does not impact the rated capacity of the treatment plant</i> <i>See A1-4</i>	A+			
<b>29b</b> 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			X	
<b>29c</b> Construct new sewage treatment plant or expand existing sewage treatment plant beyond existing rated capacity including outfall to receiving water body				X
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Eligible for Screening</b>	<b>Schedule B</b>	<b>Schedule C</b>

<b>30a</b> 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 where no property acquisition is required <i>See A1-2, A1-4</i>		ASP	X	
<b>30b</b> Establish sewage flow equalization tankage for influent and/or effluent control within existing sewer system, at existing sewage treatment plant, or at existing pumping station where property must be acquired for the infrastructure			X	
<b>31a</b> Provide additional treatment facilities in existing lagoons, such as aeration, chemical addition, post treatment, including expanding lagoon capacity up to existing rated capacity, provided no land acquisition nor additional lagoon cells are required <i>See A1-4</i>	A			
<b>31b</b> Add additional lagoon cells or establish new lagoons or install new or additional sewage storage tanks at an existing sewage system, where land acquisition is required but existing rated capacity will not be exceeded			X	
<b>31c</b> Establish new lagoons or expand existing lagoons or install new or additional sewage storage tanks which will increase beyond existing rated capacity				X
<b>32a</b> Expansion of the buffer zone between a lagoon facility or land treatment area and adjacent uses where the buffer zone is entirely on the proponent's land	A			
<b>32b</b> Expansion of the buffer zone between a lagoon facility or land treatment area and adjacent uses, where the buffer zone extends onto lands not owned by the proponent			X	
<b>33a</b> Dispose of, utilize, or manage biosolids on an interim basis (e.g. further treatment in drying beds, composting, temporary holding at transfer stations), at: a) An existing sewage treatment plant where the biosolids is generated, or b) An existing landfill site, incinerator or organic soil conditioning site, where the biosolids is to be utilized or disposed of	A			
<b>33b</b> Establish a new biosolids organic soil conditioning site	A			

<b>33c</b> Establish biosolids management facilities at: a) A sewage treatment plant where the biosolids were not generated b) An existing landfill site, incinerator or organic soil conditioning site where the biosolids are not to be disposed of nor utilized			<b>X</b>	
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Eligible for Screening</b>	<b>Schedule B</b>	<b>Schedule C</b>
<b>33d</b> Establish a new biosolids landfill site or new biosolids incineration site for purposes of biosolids disposal				<b>X</b>
<b>34</b> Establish a new transfer station or new storage lagoon not located at a sewage treatment plant, incinerator, landfill site, or organic soil conditioning site, for purposes of biosolids management				<b>X</b>
<b>35</b> Construct new sanitary or combined sewage retention / detention facility at a new location				<b>X</b>
<b>36</b> Provide for land application of sewage effluent through spray irrigation system or overland flow				<b>X</b>
<b>STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>				
<b>37</b> Roadside ditches, culverts and other such incidental stormwater works constructed solely for the purpose of servicing municipal road works <i>See A1-10</i>	<b>A</b>			
<b>38a</b> Establish new or modify, retrofit or improve LID features within an existing road allowance or an existing utility corridor		<b>ASP</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>38b</b> Establish new or modify, retrofit or improve LID features where property acquisition is required <i>See A1-2</i>			<b>X</b>	

<p><b>39</b> Modify, retrofit, or improve a retention/detention facility including outfall or infiltration system for the purpose of stormwater quality control. Biological treatment through the establishment of constructed wetlands is permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Note – Biological treatment refers to passive treatment systems</i></li> </ul>	A			
<p><b>40a</b> Establish new or replace or expand existing stormwater detention/retention ponds or tanks and appurtenances including outfall to receiving water body provided all such facilities are in either an existing utility corridor or an existing road allowance where no additional property is required</p> <p><i>See A1-4</i></p>	A+			
Project Description	Exempt	Eligible for Screening	Schedule B	Schedule C
<p><b>40b</b> Establish new or replace 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 an existing utility corridor, or an existing road allowance or where property acquisition is required</p>			X	
<p><b>41</b> Construct a stormwater control demonstration or pilot facility for the purpose of assessing new technology or procedures.</p>			X	
<p><b>42</b> Establish stormwater infiltration system for end-of-pipe control and/or for groundwater recharge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This does not include LID features</i></li> </ul>			X	
<p><b>43</b> Construct new or modify, retrofit or improve existing retention/detention facility or infiltration system for the purpose of stormwater quality control where <b>active</b> chemical or biological treatment or disinfection is included, including outfall to receiving water body</p>				X
<p><b>44</b> Construction of stormwater management facilities which are required as a condition of approval on a consent, site plan, plan of subdivision or condominium which will come into effect under the Planning Act prior to the construction of the facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>This includes LID features</i></li> <li><i>Project should be specifically described in Planning Act approval</i></li> </ul>	A			
<b>WATER CROSSINGS</b>				

<p><b>22b</b> Establish, extend, or enlarge a sewage collection system and all necessary works to connect the system to an existing sewage or natural drainage outlet, provided all such facilities are in either an existing road allowance or an existing utility corridor, including the use of Trenchless Technology for water crossings</p>	<p>A+</p>			
<p><b>4b</b> Establish, extend or enlarge a water distribution system and all works necessary to connect the system to an existing system or water source, provided all such facilities are in either an existing road allowance or an existing utility corridor, including the use of Trenchless Technology for water crossings</p>	<p>A+</p>			
<p><b>Project Description</b></p>	<p><b>Exempt</b></p>	<p><b>Eligible for Screening</b></p>	<p><b>Schedule B</b></p>	<p><b>Schedule C</b></p>
<p><b>45</b> Water crossing for a new or replacement water or sewage facility where the facility will be supported by an existing bridge or structure and the project does not involve in-water works or significant modifications to the bridge or structures piers or abutments; the bridge or structure does not have cultural heritage value; and additional property is not required <i>See A1-2, A1-4</i></p>		<p><b>ASP</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	
<p><b>46</b> Water crossing for a new or replacement water or sewage facility where the project is not otherwise described in this table</p>			<p><b>X</b></p>	
<p><b>SHORELINE/IN WATER WORKS</b></p>				
<p><b>47</b> Replace traditional materials in an existing watercourse or in slope stability works with material of equal or better properties, at substantially the same location and for the same purpose</p>	<p>A</p>			
<p><b>48</b> Reconstruct an existing dam weir at the same location and for the same purpose, use and capacity</p>	<p>A+</p>			

<b>49</b> Construct berms along a watercourse for purposes of flood control in areas subject to damage by flooding			X	
<b>50</b> Modify existing water crossings for the purposes of flood control			X	
<b>51</b> Works undertaken in a watercourse for the purposes of flood control or erosion control, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bank or slope regrading</li> <li>• deepening the watercourse</li> <li>• relocation, realignment or channelization of watercourse</li> <li>• revetment including soil bio-engineering techniques</li> <li>• reconstruction of a weir or dam</li> </ul>			X	
<b>52</b> Construction of spillway facilities at existing outfalls for erosion or sedimentation control			X	
<b>53</b> Construct a fishway or fish ladder in a natural watercourse, expressly for the purpose of providing a fishway			X	
<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Exempt</b>	<b>Eligible for Screening</b>	<b>Schedule B</b>	<b>Schedule C</b>
<b>54</b> Reconstruct existing weir or dam at the same location where the purpose, use and/or capacity are changed			X	
<b>55</b> Removal of an existing weir or dam			X	
<b>56</b> Enclose a watercourse in a storm sewer			X	
<b>57</b> Construction of a diversion channel or sewer for the purpose of diverting flows from one watercourse to another				X
<b>58</b> Construct new shore line works, such as off-shore breakwaters, shore-connected breakwaters, groyne and sea walls <i>Recreation facilities such as a dock, marina, beach or boat launch are not included in the MCEA See A1-11</i>				X

59 Construct a new dam or weir in a watercourse				X
<b>OTHER PROJECTS</b>				
60 Installation and operation of standby power equipment	A			
61 Construct new or expand/modify existing service facilities (e.g. patrol yards, storage and maintenance facilities, parking lots for service vehicles) provided project is subject to <i>Planning Act</i> requirements and conforms with municipal and other requirements	A			
62 Projects planned and approved under Ontario Regulation 586/06: Local Improvement Charges – Priority Lien Status (see Section A.2.10.4)	A			
<p>63 Any water, wastewater or stormwater project classified as a Schedule B or C undertaking where the proponent determines that the work must be undertaken to address an emergency and the Director of the EAB is notified, and the Conservation Authority where relevant. A situation created by intentional delay does not constitute an emergency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Notice should be provided as soon as possible, or within 30 days at the latest</i></li> </ul>	A			

## Appendix 1 Tables A (Roads) & B (W/WW) - Attachments

### **A1-1 - Snow Storage Facility**

Snow storage is not currently addressed in the MCEA and, it needs to be defined before it is discussed. Snow is commonly plowed and 'stored' along the sides of roads and in selected areas near or within parking lots. This type of snow storage should be specifically excluded from any EA requirements. A proposed definition is **Snow Storage Facility** means a central location where snow, that is loaded and hauled, is stored until it melts in the summer.

Because Storage of Snow is not currently addressed in the MCEA, O Reg 331/90 applies and, creating a snow storage facility is exempt provided the cost of the facility is <\$3.5m. Proponent should follow appropriate guidelines and consult with community outside the EAA regime.

When the MCEA is amended at some future date, consideration should be given to including Snow Storage Facilities and using a trigger other than cost. For example, a new Snow Storage Facility could be Schedule A+ if storage area was <2.0 Ha and Schedule B if the storage area was >2.0 Ha.

### **A1-2 Archaeological Screening Process (ASP)**

The projects that are identified as eligible for screening, subject to the archaeological screening process (identified as "ASP") may be exempt from the requirements of the EAA as determined by the archaeological screening process set out below. In order to proceed with a project that is identified as eligible for screening, a proponent must either;

- (i) carry out the process for a Schedule B/C project; or
- (ii) complete the archaeological screening process and follow the directions set out in the screening process.

If the outcome of the screening process is that the project is exempt from the requirements of the EAA, the proponent may proceed with the undertaking/project without further application of the EAA to the project

**Proponents should carefully consider the ASP vs the Schedule B/C process to determine how to proceed.**

ASP involves considering the following three questions;

1. Does the project area include known or potential archaeological resources?

2. Based on the archaeological assessment(s), will the proposed project/undertaking have negative impacts (effects) to archaeological resources?
3. Based on the archaeological assessment(s), will any negative impacts (effects) be appropriately mitigated?

**Further Information**

Visit the MEA’s website [municipalengineers.on.ca](http://municipalengineers.on.ca)

Click “Municipal Class EA” under the “Quick Links” section of the homepage.

Click Clarification tab on MCEA page to download the following;

- Presentation materials from the [date] ASP Webinar**
- Form – Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential**
- Form – Criteria for Evaluating Marine Archaeological Potential**

**A1-3 Collector Road Screening Process (CR)**

In order to proceed with an undertaking identified as subject to the collector road screening process (CR) in the column titled Eligible for Screening in Table A: Municipal Roads Projects, a proponent must either;

- (i) carry out the process for a Schedule B or C project, as applicable; or
- (ii) undertake the Archaeological Assessment Screening Process and Collector Road Screening Process and follow the directions provided for each of the screenings

Proponents required to answer yes to a series of questions. If any answer is no the Schedule B or C process applies.

**Proponents should carefully consider the CR screening process vs the Schedule B/C process to determine how to proceed.**

**Further Information**

Visit the MEA’s website [municipalengineers.on.ca](http://municipalengineers.on.ca)

Click “Municipal Class EA” under the “Quick Links” section of the homepage.

Click Clarification tab on MCEA page to download the following;

- Presentation materials from the [date] CRSP Webinar**

#### **A1-4 Property Acquisition**

No EA process is required for property purchase. If the proponent acquires property through separate process (negotiation with owner or planning policies for minimum width of road allowances) such that the proponent owns the property required for a project before the Notice of Completion then no property acquisition is required for the project. For many project types, this could mean the project would be classified as Schedule A or A+ (exempt). If there is dispute about the property acquisition then a Schedule B process should be followed to support the acquisition (expropriation).

**A1-5 Road Diet Clarification** - Under Activity 21 of the Roads Schedule of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, reconstruction of a roadway, where the reconstructed road will be used for the same purpose, use and capacity is a Schedule A+ activity. Where the reconstructed roadway is not reconstructed for the same purpose, use and capacity (e.g. additional travel lanes), Activity No. 33 requires a Schedule C process is required where project costs exceed \$3M and a Schedule B process required where project costs are under \$3M.

There may be situations, particularly in densely populated urban areas where the pedestrian volumes may compete with vehicular traffic volumes, where there is a desire to reconstruct a roadway with fewer travel lanes. Reconstruction projects of this nature are frequently referred to as Road Diets and involve the reduction of through lane capacity with the retention of turn lanes at intersections. Where it can be demonstrated through the completion of a traffic study that sufficient capacity in the roadway will remain following the removal of travel lanes (e.g. the capability of the roadway remains the same), project proponents may determine, through the use of their engineering judgement, that the objective and application of the roadway remain unchanged and the volume, size and capability do not exceed the minimum municipal standard, or the existing rated capacity, and that on this basis, a road diet may be more appropriately subject to a Schedule A+ process under Activity No. 21

## **A1-6 Same purpose, use, capacity and location**

**From Glossary – OPERATION** Means use, maintenance, repair, and management of a municipal facility where the purpose, use, capacity and location remain the same.

*Same purpose, use, capacity and location refers to the replacement or upgrading of a structure or facility or its performance, where the objective and application remain unchanged, and the volume, size and capability do not exceed the minimum municipal standard (defined in glossary), or the existing rated capacity (defined in glossary), and there is no substantial change in location*

*Example a) a change from rural to urban cross section for a roadway is considered to be for the “same purpose, use and capacity” if the reconstructed cross section has the same number of lanes and is essentially in the same location. Works carried out within an existing road allowance such that no land acquisition is required are considered to be in the same location.*

*Example b) a treatment plant system which was approved under the Ontario Water Resources Act to operate at 30,000 cubic metres per day (m<sup>3</sup>/d) but which was only constructed to operate at 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d, can be expanded by up to 10,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d, at its existing site, and that expansion would qualify as an Operations activity.*

Same location means there is not a substantial change in location. A substantial change could be considered a change of more than approximately 10%. For example, a road allowance 20m wide and 1km long has an area of 20,000 sq m and a change less than 2,000 sq m would be <10%.

MECP staff have made a suggestion that a significant % increase in traffic volumes results in a change in purpose & use. Nothing in MCEA suggests there is a link between % increase in traffic volumes and purpose/use of road.

Traffic studies used to predict traffic movements/volumes. If predicted volumes identify need for increase in travel lanes - Schedule B/C

On the fringe of developing areas

- very low volumes of traffic will increase to medium volume
- this could be a very high % increase but no change to purpose/use

If MECP staff's suggested trigger was used – numerous projects across the province impacted.

MECP staff have made a suggestion that a change in road classification (Local to Local/Collector) results in a change in purpose & use.

Nothing in MCEA suggests there is a requirement for a MCEA Schedule B/C process when designating a road's classification.

Roads are classified through OP or TMP process. MCEA Schedule B/C process is only triggered if work proposed on newly classified road is categorized as Schedule B/C

If MECP staff's suggested trigger was used – numerous projects across the province could be impacted.

The MCEA is a self assessment process. To challenge the proponent's selection of project schedule there must be clear evidence the proponent has made a mistake. The MCEA would need to be amended to clearly define that the purpose and use of a road relates to the % increase in traffic and the designation of the road before a proponent should be expected to subject these projects to the MCEA process.

### **MEA Clarification June 2023**

#### **Administration and Amending the MCEA**

Municipalities, MECP and MEA all have important roles in the MCEA process.

**Municipalities** are the proponents of individual projects and, as the MCEA is a proponent - driven process, Municipalities are responsible for organizing an EA process that complies with the MCEA (and the EA Act) for all projects.

**MECP** has several roles, specifically, MECP is responsible for;

- **Compliance and Enforcement under the Environmental Assessment Act**

- MECP's compliance and enforcement role can be triggered at any time if a proponent is in or is planning action that would contravene the Act (eg. Not selecting the appropriate MCEA Schedule).
- The text of the MCEA, the EA Act and its regulations and any relevant case law is used to determine if there is a contravention.
- MECP has considerable discretion while ensuring compliance and enforcing the EA Act. MECP can decide when to caution/guide a proponent and when to initiate a charge. However, proponents should expect consistent application of the rules by MECP.

- **Amending/Approving/Interpreting the MCEA document**

- Section A.1.5.2 of the MCEA describes the two categories for amendments to the MCEA;

The Minister may amend the Class EA if the Minister is satisfied that the amendments are consistent with the purpose of this Act and the public interest. Examples of the types of amendments that the Minister may make include

1. Improving the efficiency or the effectiveness of the process described in the document;
2. Adding new projects to the Class EA;
3. Recategorizing existing undertakings in the Class EA; and
4. Updating the Class EA to be consistent with new or updated guidelines, policies, regulations or legislation.

The Director may amend the Class EA to make any of the administrative changes set out in section 15.4(5) of the EAA as described below.

1. Correcting errors that are editorial or typographical in nature;
2. Updating references to a guideline, Act or regulation, or provisions or other portions of an Act or regulation;
3. Updating references to bodies, offices, persons, places, names, titles, locations, websites or addresses;
- or
4. Clarifying the existing text of the Class EA.

- While the MCEA strives to cover all situations, if the wording in the EA Act or MCEA is unclear, case law should be applied. This would mean that the practice that has been established by former similar situations would apply.
- Any interpretation of MCEA must take into consideration all relevant factors, including but not limited to the particular facts or situation, the text of MCEA, the Act and its regulations and any relevant case law. Any interpretation that introduces new criteria that is not consistent with the wording of the MCEA and/or case law should be implemented by the amendment process.

- **Orders Related to the EA process.**

- Section 16 Orders may be made by the Minister on their own initiative or in response to a request made under the Act.
- When making a Section 16 Order, the Minister considers the matters set out in subsection 16 (4) of the Act, including: the purpose of the Act; the factors suggesting that the proposed undertaking differs from other undertakings in the class to which the class EA applies and the significance of these factors and differences; the reasons given in any request for a Section 16 Order; and any other matters the Minister considers relevant.
- Prior to July 21, 2020, the Part II Order request process enabled any person to request that the Minister order that the proponent prepare an individual EA or impose conditions on a project in addition to those required by the Class EA.
- Since July 21, 2020, a Section 16 Order request may only be made on the grounds that the order may prevent, mitigate or remedy an adverse impact on constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights.
- Schedule A and A+ undertakings under MCEA are now exempt from the Act, including the Section 16 Order provisions.

**MEA** is the proponent of the MCEA and has been assigned responsibility for;

- **Monitoring the use and application of the MCEA**

- MEA is required to prepare and submit an Annual MCEA Monitoring Report that examines the application of the MCEA throughout the province, identifies successes/challenges and recommends amendments or process changes that would improve the process.

- **Providing training to Municipalities and their consultants**

- Each year, MEA delivers training for proponents. The Introduction to the MCEA Process course is offered at least once per year. This on-going training is supplemented by specialized training on specific topics when appropriate – currently MEA is delivering training that explains the recently approved 2023 MCEA

- **Representing Municipalities as Proponent of the MCEA**

- MEA regularly provides guidance to Municipalities, liaises with MECP and communicates with other Class EA proponents representing Municipalities.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Municipalities need to be aware of these responsibilities and constraints. If a municipality encounters a situation where there are questions about compliance and interpretation of the MCEA, please contact MEA. It is important that MEA is involved in any discussions. Individual municipalities are entitled to make use of the MCEA. However, as proponent of the MCEA, **MEA needs to be involved with any discussions that involve application and/or new interpretations of the MCEA so that MEA can;**

- **report on the use and/or new interpretations of the MCEA,**
- **include the outcome of any discussion into training material**
- **represent the interests of all municipalities.**

### **A1-7 Heritage Bridge Evaluation**

In order to determine if a proposed project will impact cultural heritage value or interest, Proponents must complete the Municipal Bridge Checklist developed with Ministry of Citizen and Multiculturalism

If the project does not comply with the Checklist, the project must follow the Schedule B process.

#### **Further Information**

Visit the MEA's website [municipalengineers.on.ca](http://municipalengineers.on.ca)

Click "Municipal Class EA" under the "Quick Links" section of the homepage.

Click Clarification tab on MCEA page to download the following;

**Presentation materials from the May 16, 2023 Heritage Bridge Webinar**

**Checklist – Municipal Bridges - Criteria for Evaluating Cultural Heritage Resources [date]**

### **A1-8 Utility Corridor**

A utility corridor may include property that is non-linear, for example a rectangular area for a Stormwater Management Pond.

### **A1-9 Project Gaps related to Pumping Stations and Water Storage Facilities**

Project descriptions in 5a, 5b, and 5c all deal with increasing capacity at an existing facility. Project description 5d deals with New facilities but only those new facilities that are not located in or adjacent to certain areas. Wastewater pumping

stations and water storage facilities are categorized the same. What about new facilities that are located in or adjacent to certain areas?

It is worth noting that pumping stations in Drinking Water Systems are more commonly called booster stations as they involve a pump to boost the pressure within the water mains. Private booster stations exist within all tall residential buildings to provide adequate water pressure to all floors. It seems odd that location a booster station in a residential area would trigger a high level of assessment.

On the other hand, pumping stations in Wastewater Systems involve a wet well with pumps and a forcemain to pump the wastewater up a grade. Wastewater pumping stations have higher maintenance requirements (clean out screens and the wet well) and potential odour and spills. Despite the differences in impact, Appendix 1 of the 2023 MCEA classifies pumping stations for Drinking Water and for Wastewater the same.

It is also worth noting that Wastewater pumping stations are more common and are frequently built within a new subdivision and covered by #22a

#### **A1-10 Incidental Works is Inclusive.**

Some have suggested that Roadside ditches, culverts and other such incidental stormwater works is not inclusive of all works required for a typical simple road project like paving a gravel surface or adding pave shoulders. Any technical issues with stormwater works would be addressed by the requirement for permission from MECP and/or the Conservation Authority. The MCEA is a self-assessment process. To challenge the proponent's selection of project schedule there must be clear evidence the proponent has made a mistake. The above clause would need to be amended to clearly state which incidental stormwater works were included (and excluded) before a proponent should be expected to subject routine road projects an excessive MCEA process.

#### **A1-11 Recreation Projects Not in MCEA**

Some have suggested that recreation facilities such as a dock, marina, beach or boat launch are included in this clause. However, these recreation facilities are not similar to the identified shore line works. The MCEA is a self-assessment process. To challenge the proponent's selection of project schedule there must be clear evidence the proponent has made a mistake. The above clause would need to be amended to clearly state that certain recreation facilities were included before a proponent should be expected to subject recreation projects to the MCEA process

See **MEA Clarification, June 2023, Administration and Amending the MCEA** included in A1-6.

### **A1-12 MCEA Projects that Cross a Municipal Boundary**

The preamble to Appendix 1 of the 2017 MCEA included:

*Schedule A activities are Pre-approved. The proponent may proceed without following the procedures set out in any other part of this Class EA. Projects which take place partly outside the proponents municipal boundary shall be planned at least under Schedule B, other than normal or emergency operational activities which shall be Schedule A.*

However, the new 2023 MCEA does not include an equivalent clause and, now that Schedule A and A+ projects are exempt rather than pre-approved, they cannot be elevated to Schedule B or C.