



MCEA / Municipal Project Assessment Process Update

2024 MEA Conference

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Reg Russwurm, P.Eng., Reg is a professional engineer with extensive leadership experience in municipal engineering and infrastructure planning and operations committed to building sustainable communities. He gained his technical training at the University of Waterloo and followed up with a Master in Business Administration at Wilfred Laurier University. He is a Past-President of both the Municipal Engineers Association and the Ontario Water Works Association. His day job is as the Manager of Design and Construction in Engineering and Transportation Services at the City of Guelph.

Change is in the air!

- Feb 16 2024 - Province issued ERO 19-7891 that proposed to:
 - Revoke the Municipal Class EA (MCEA)
 - Replace with Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP)
- Quick hit changes
 - Many projects now subject to MCEA will be Exempt
 - Maximum 120 days from Notice of Commencement to Notice of Completion
 - Only water focused projects subject; roads and bridges Exempt



Outline

1. MECP's Proposal
2. New Municipal Project Assessment Process
3. Municipal Standards / Best Practice Document
4. MEA Support

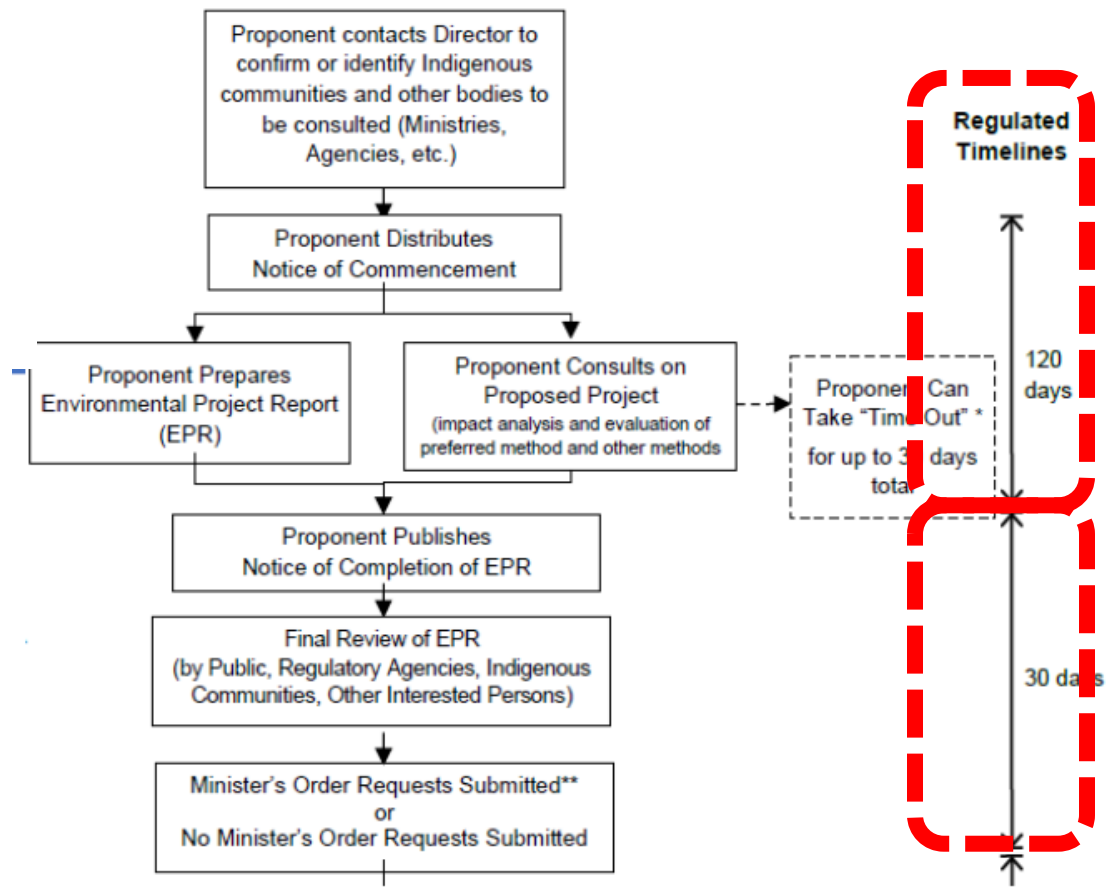


MECP Announcement Feb /24

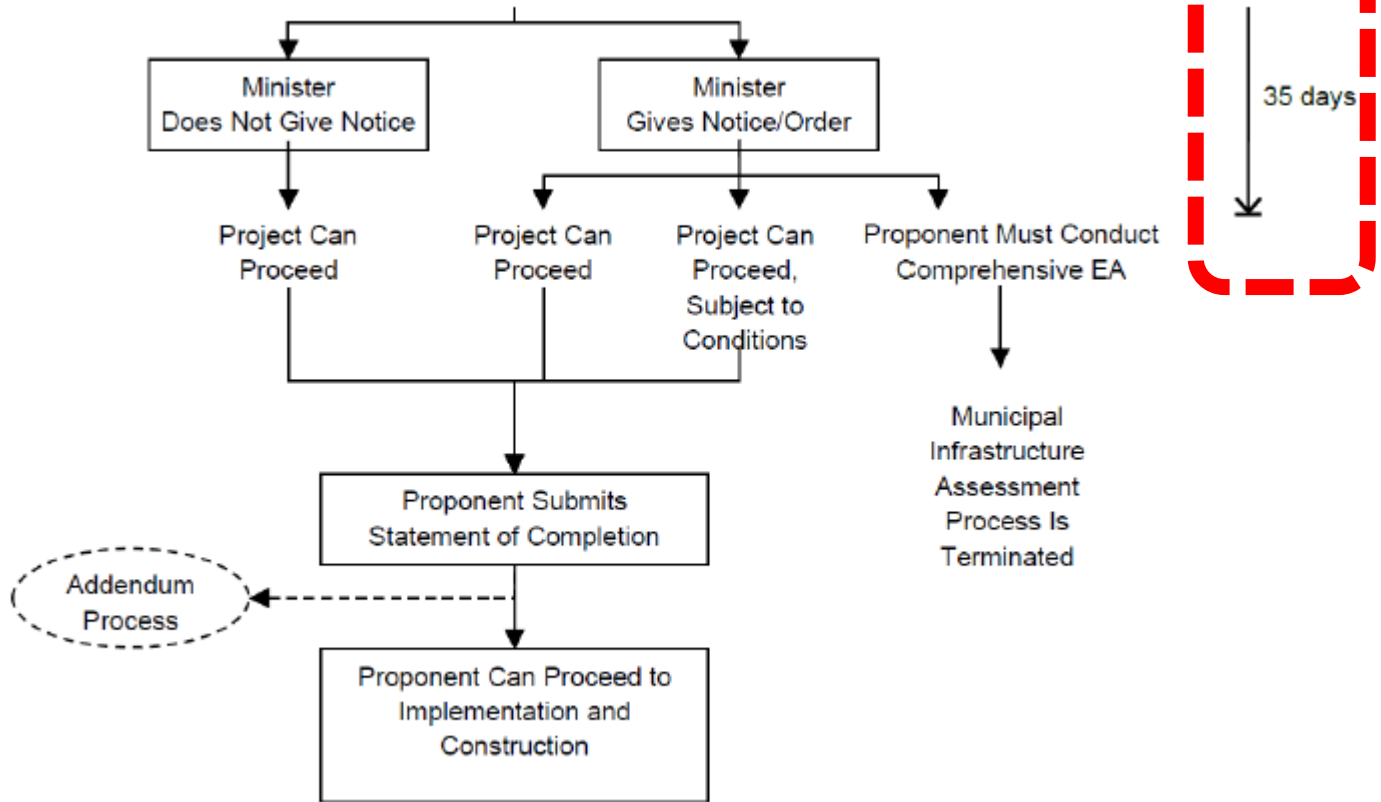
- Streamlining the EA regulation for municipal infrastructure for higher-risk projects
- **Revoke the MCEA and O. Reg. 345/93**
- Replace with **Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP)**
- MPAP modelled on TPAP
- MPAP must be completed to obtain EA approval for 17 project types made up major water, sewage, and shoreline/in-water infrastructure projects.



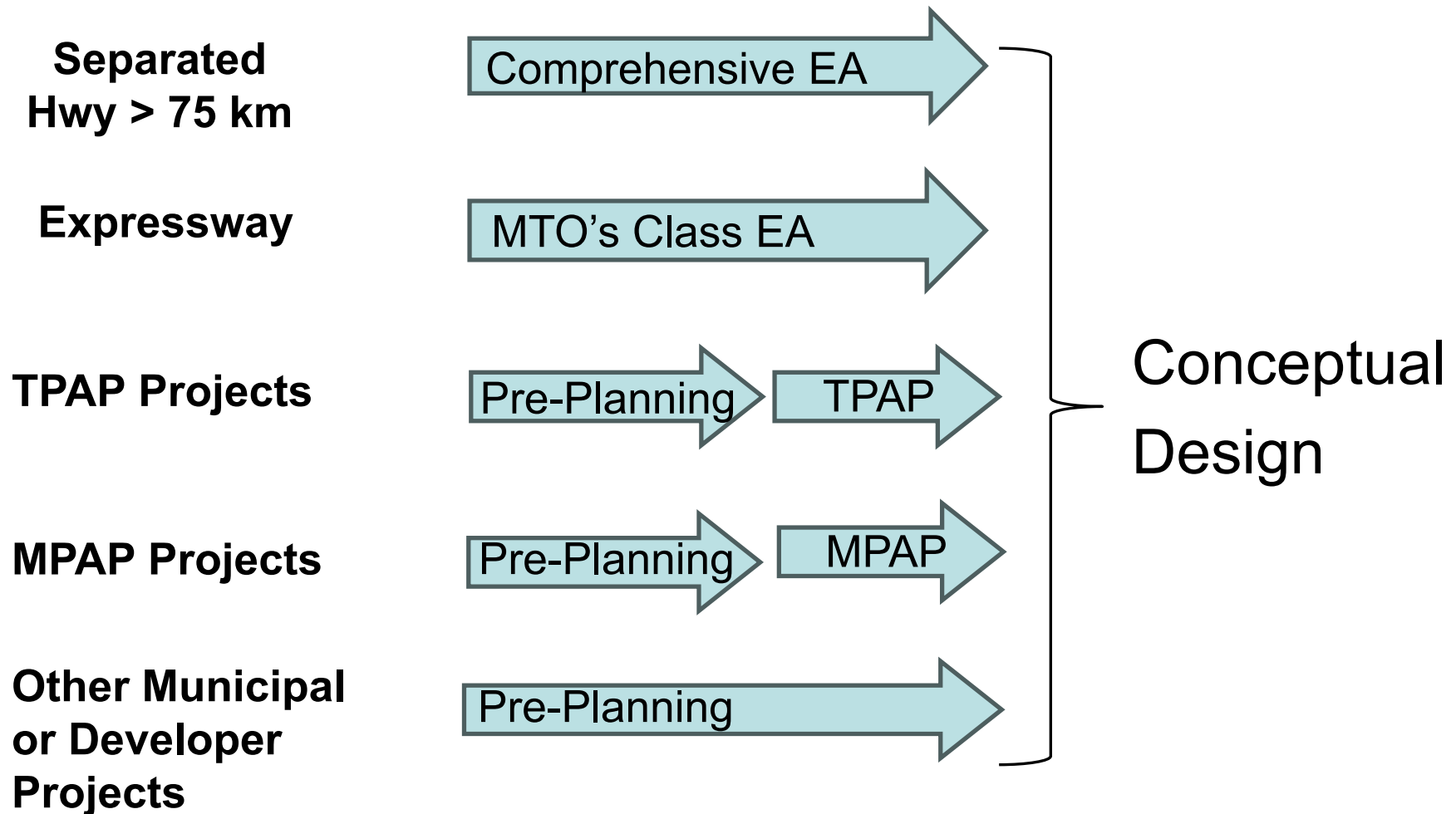
Proposed MPAP



Proposed MPAP



Proposed Project Process



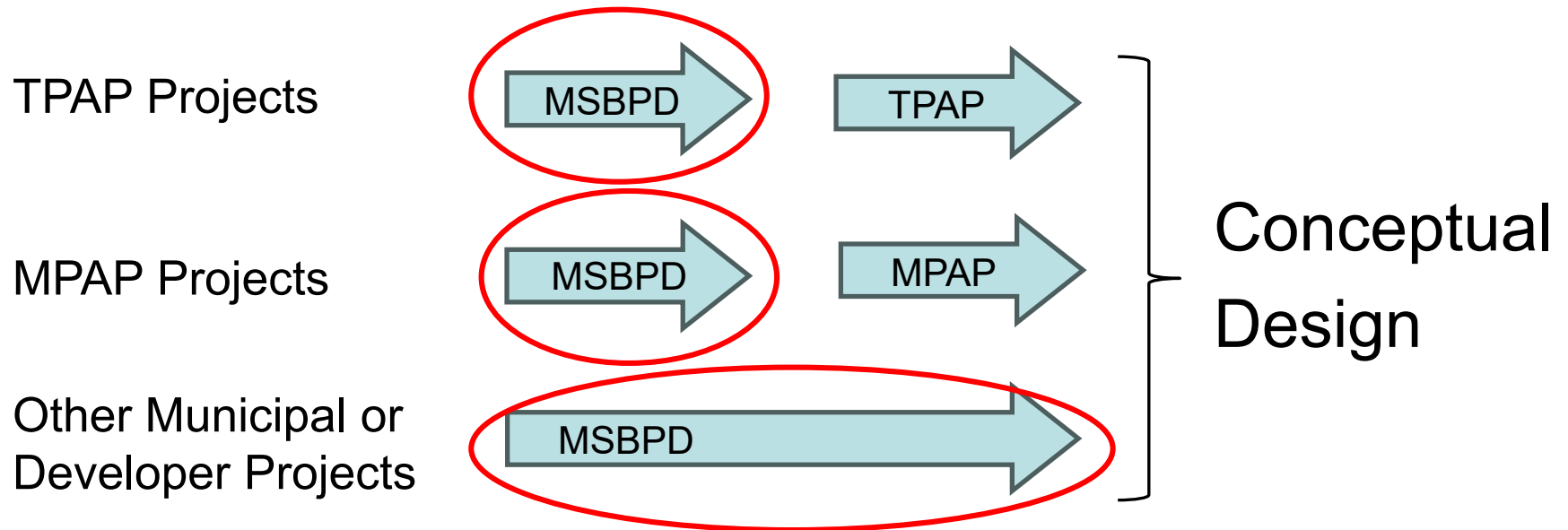
So... what's the MEA doing?

- Pre Feb 2024 – MEA knew of Ministry intention and proposed an expert group to develop process – No Response
- Feb 2024 – MEA prepared comments to ERO posting – generally in favour
- June 2024 – MEA formed multi-stakeholder Working Group to consider replacement process
 - Provide guidance for project evaluation
 - Replace the MCEA with a simpler process
- Fall 2024 – report on progress of multi-stakeholder working group

Pre-Planning Guidance

- MEA is preparing a Municipal Standard or Best Practices Document (MSBPD)*

* interim name



MEA – MSBPD Working Group

MEA Committee

- Paul Knowles (Chair)
- Dan Cozzi
- Dave Thompson
- Reg Russwurm
- Uwe Mader
- Ashley Rammeloo
- Dan Foog

Consultant

- Steve Taylor
- Brandon Fox
- David Shen

Conservation Ontario

- Nicholas Fischer

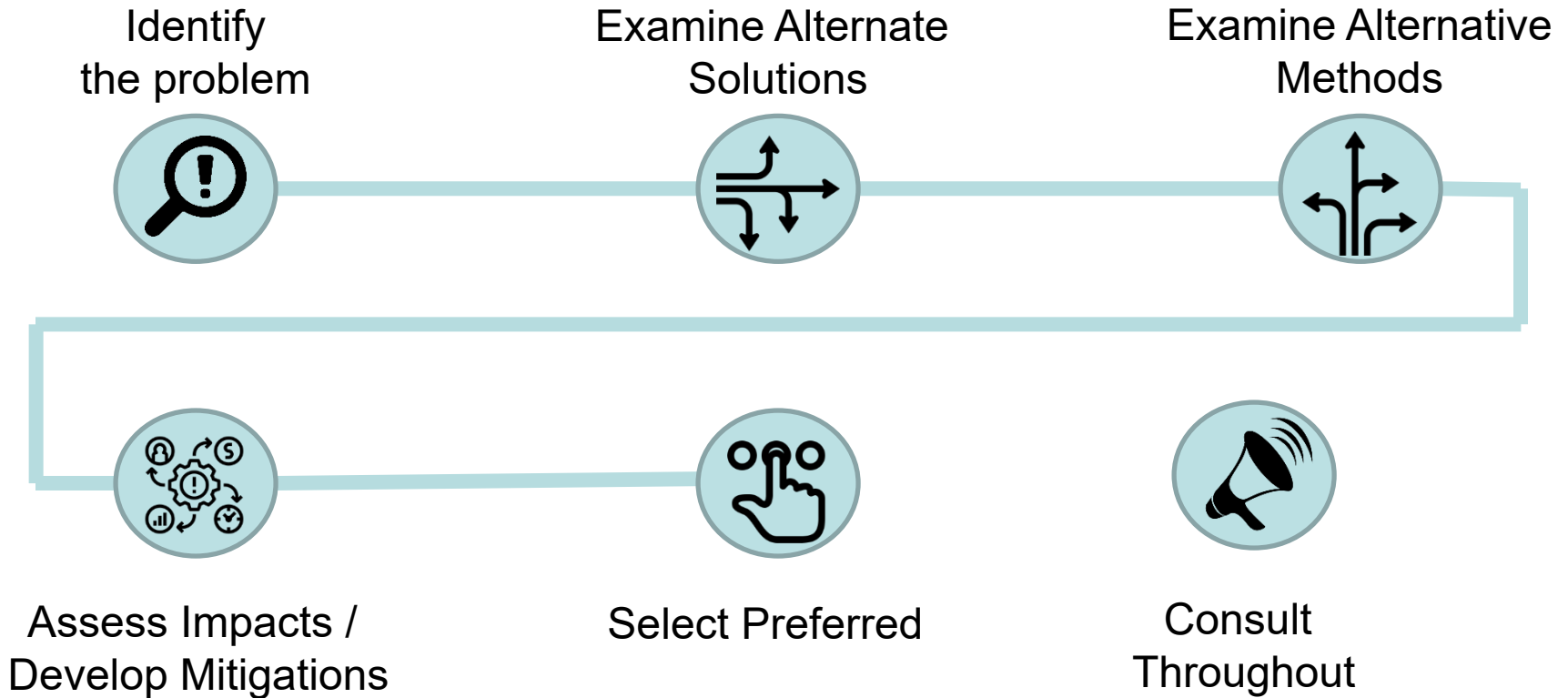
Municipal

- Ottawa - Jennifer Armstrong
- London - Mary Alikakos
- York Region - David Mhango
- Karen Whitney
- John Kazilis
- Hamilton - Ahmad Sarwar
- Megan Salvucci
- Toronto - Cassidy Ritz
- Laura Borowiec

Associations

- AMO - Kenny Li Cheong Man
- Good Roads - Amin Mneina
- OWWA - Lee Anne Jones
- M J Merritt
- OHBA - Jason Burggraaf

General Decision Model

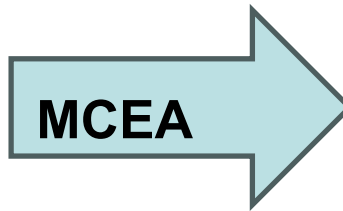


Working Group's Progress

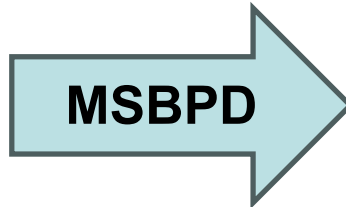
- Categories of Assessment
- Assessment Process
- Pre-Planning Activities for MPAP and TPAP
- Integration with Planning Act
- Completion Process

Categories of Assessment

Municipal
Project
Classification



Schedule
A, A+, B, C



Categories
i, ii, iii, iv, v



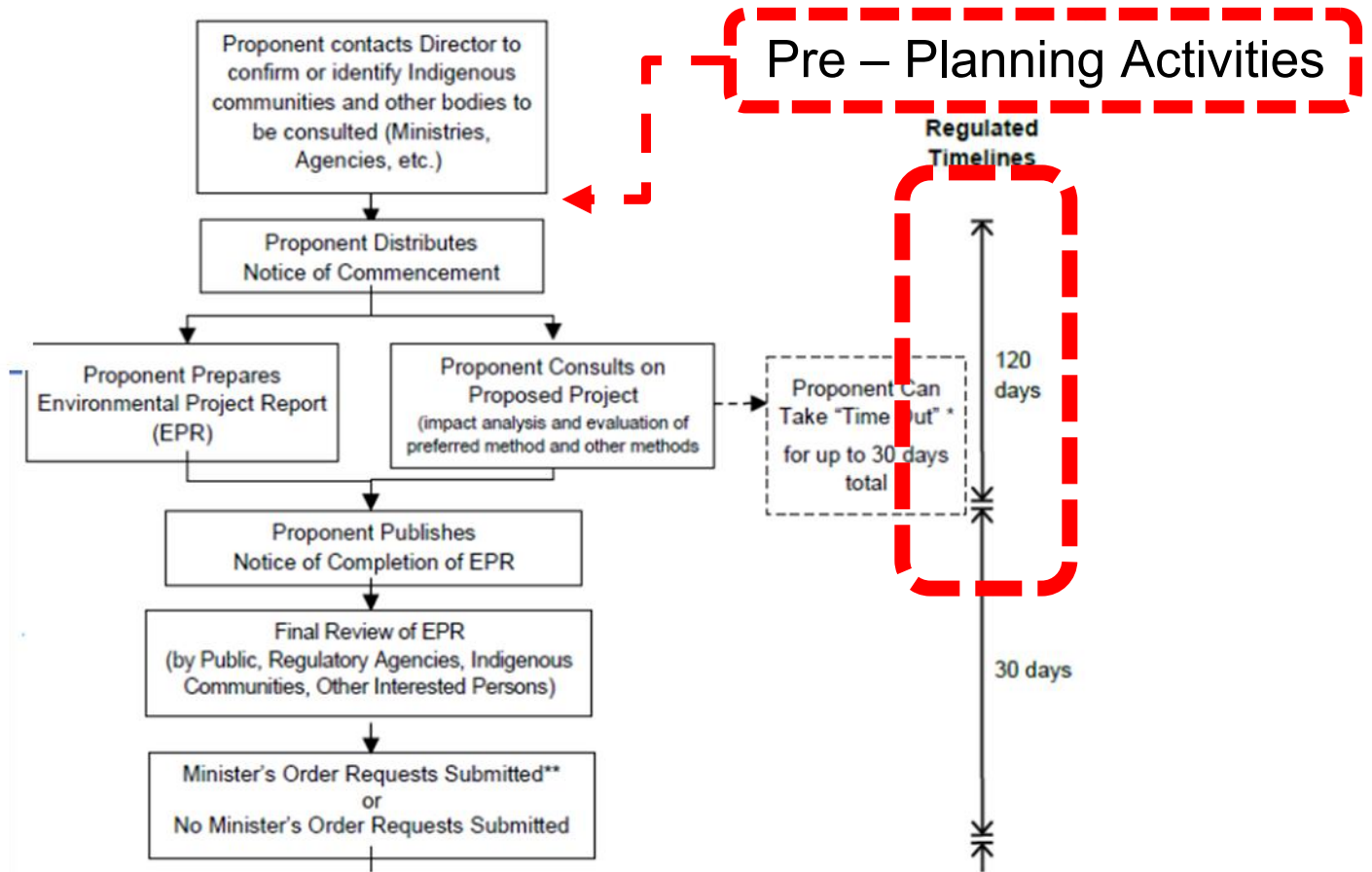
Categories of Assessment

- Use a flowchart to guide proponents through a series of questions
- Potentially five possible paths through the process
 - Likely not necessary to name these paths / categories formally

Assessment Process

- MSBPD Project Assessment Process needs to:
 - be more streamlined than the MCEA and eliminate duplication
 - appropriately engage stakeholders and include some controls and accountability
 - Leave much discretion and flexibility to the proponent to select the assessment process to follow that meets project and community needs
 - be comprehensible to non-practitioners

Pre-Planning





Integration with Planning Act

- Recent amendments to Planning Act reduce requirements for public input
- No public meeting for subdivisions
- Municipalities have varying local requirements
- MSBPD should set out minimum requirements – avoid duplication
- Planning Act process MAY cover minimum requirements (analyze specific project)

Completion Process

- MPAP/ TPAP projects require Environmental Project Report (EPR) and Statement of Completion at conclusion
- Non-MPAP/TPAP projects should include a completion process that:
 - Specifies info to be included (i.e. contact)
 - Describes selected project & next steps
 - Reports back to stakeholders if alternatives were presented
 - Documents decision making and solution
 - Flexible and customizable by proponents



Next Steps

- Advance MSBPD to logical point
- Finalise once regulation enacted
- If regulation is delayed much longer
 - May restart MCEA training?
 - Approach Province with proposal to simplify MCEA process based on efforts of Working Group?
- Develop training and resources



<https://municipalengineers.on.ca/resources/ask-an-expert.html>



