



Welcome to the 65th MEA Conference



Reg Russwurm
November 14, 2025



MCEA / Municipal Project Assessment Process Update

- Change is in the air! **But When?**
- Feb 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. Screening Tool for Assessment of Municipal Projects (STAMP)
4. Next Steps

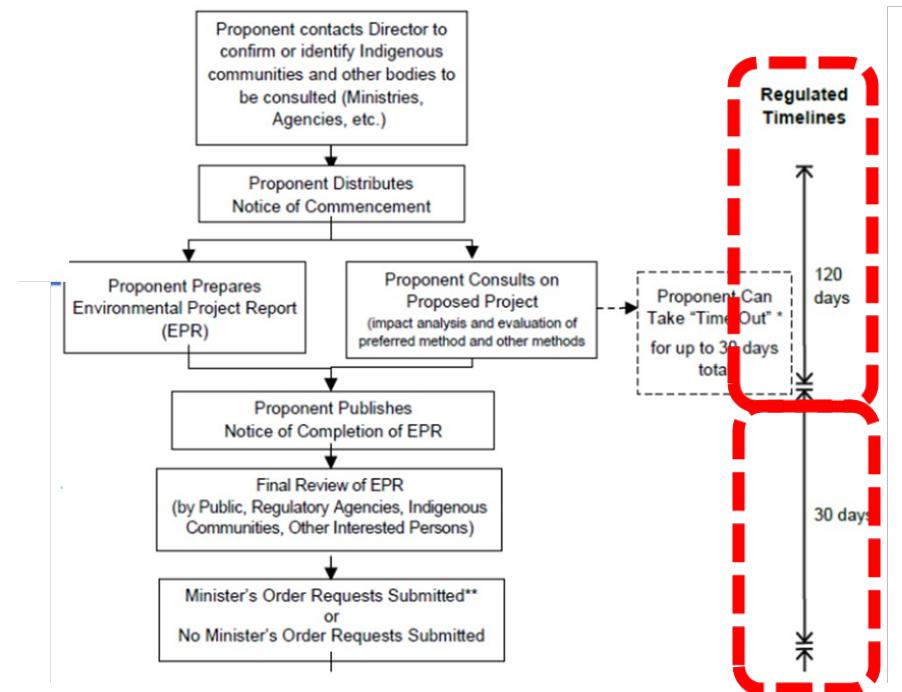


MECP Announcement Feb /24

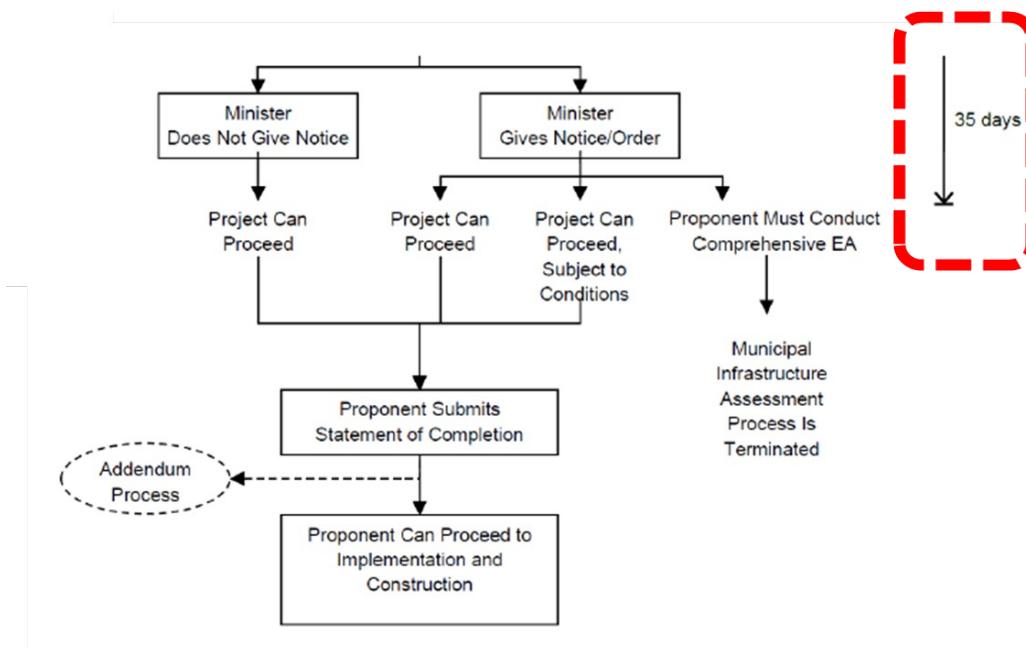
- Streamlining the EA regulation for municipal infrastructure for higher-risk projects
- Revoke the MCEA and O. Reg. 345/93
- Replace with Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP)
- MPAP modelled on TPAP
- MPAP must be completed to obtain EA approval for 17 project types made up major water, sewage,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



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Municipal Infrastructure Projects



MCEA





So... what's the MEA doing?

- Pre Feb 2024 – Proposed to MCEA an expert group to develop process – No Response
- Feb 2024 – MEA prepared response to ERO posting – generally in favour of proposal
- June 2024 – MEA formed multi-stakeholder Working Group to:
 - Provide guidance for project evaluation
 - Replace the MCEA with a simpler process
 - 2025 – Working Group developed principles for best practices document - STAMP





MEA – 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
- York Region - Karen Whitney
- York Region - John Kazilis
- Hamilton - Ahmad Sarwar
- Hamilton - Megan Salvucci
- Toronto - Cassidy Ritz
- Toronto - Laura Borowiec

Associations

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

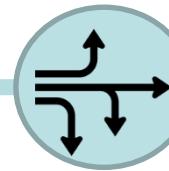


General Decision Model

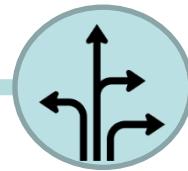
Identify
the problem



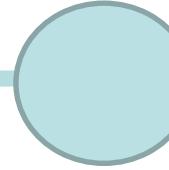
Examine Alternate
Solutions



Examine Alternative
Methods



Assess Impacts /
Develop Mitigations
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Select Preferred



Consult
Throughout



After revoking the MCEA...

Hwy > 75 km

Comprehensive EA

Expressway

MTO's Class EA

TPAP Projects

STAMP

TPAP

MPAP Projects



Other Municipal or
Developer Projects

STAMP

Completion Provisions by Proponent

Conceptual
Design



MEA Guidance - STAMP

For projects not TPAP or MPAP - guide municipalities to:

- Accept and build upon any existing planning work
- Eliminate any duplication with Planning Act approvals
- Address and document mitigation measures
- Standardize practices for proponents and consultants for consistency



MEA Guidance - STAMP

Like OPS:

- Municipalities encouraged to follow STAMP but not Mandatory
- Municipalities can:
 - Formally adopt STAMP
 - Informally start using STAMP
 - Follow STAMP for individual projects



MEA Guidance - STAMP

Like OPS:

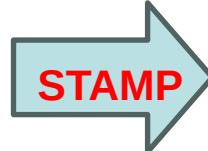
- Municipalities able to customize STAMP to match local circumstances:
 - Notice provisions
 - Indigenous relations
 - Completion provisions



Municipal Infrastructure Projects



Project
Specifics



Why?
What?
Where?
How?

Complexity?



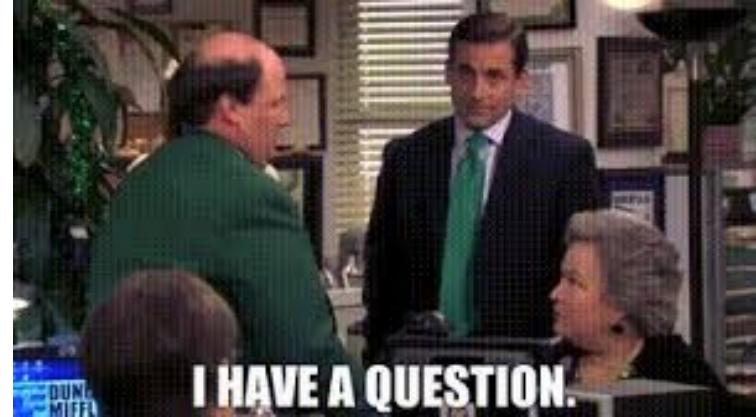
Consultation &
Project Delivery



Screening Question – Why?

Why is the project proposed?

- Needed for growth?
- Replace deteriorated infrastructure?
- Address new standards?
- Combination of above?





Screening Complexity – Why?

Knowing Why consider Complexity

- Is 'Why' easily explained and obvious - no alternative?
- Is 'Why' not obvious but no reasonable alternatives?
- Is 'Why' complex – consider alternatives?
- Is the 'Do Nothing' option realistic?

Repeat for Where? What? How?





Consultation Plan

- Knowing **Why, Where, What** and **How**, overlay **Complexity** develop **Recommended Consultation Plan**
- Level of consultation necessary based on merits of project:
 - Low - Combine explanation with other consultation
 - Medium - Present explanation to stakeholders then proceed with project
 - High - Present alternatives to stakeholders, review feedback before proceeding with project





Consultation and Documentation

Proponent developed and driven

- For complex projects: **STAMP = MCEA**
- For simple projects: **STAMP < MCEA**





Completion Processes

- MPAP/ TPAP projects will require Environmental Project Report (EPR) and new 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

MEA will:

- Advance STAMP to logical point before regulation change to be prepared
- Participate in MECP's additional consultation if held
- Finalize STAMP once regulation enacted
- Roll out training





Questions?



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



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