

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the spring of 2014 Proponent Municipalities, Technical Agencies and other Key Stakeholders identified in the Monitoring Program were asked to complete an electronic survey. The Ministry of the Environment was also asked to provide a summary of the Notices of Completions and Part II Order requests which they had received.

Part I of the Annual Monitoring Report provides an introduction and background to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA). Part 2 describes the annual monitoring program. Parts 1 and 2 have been updated but are substantially the same as previous years.

Part 3 of the Annual Monitoring Report outlines the significant issues currently associated with the MCEA including:

Noteworthy Comments from Proponent Municipalities were:

- Notices of Completion are not always being sent to EAAB;
- sometimes difficulty selecting project schedule;
- 90% noted trend of increasing effort;
- 90% interested in examining ways to control increased effort;
- some concern that agencies do not respond in a timely manner;
- schedules which include both transit and road projects;
- sometimes MOE staff is not correct in their interpretation of project schedules;
- challenge for MOE staff to provide clear and solid advice as they are so far removed;
- standby power in new building - Schedule A or existing building - Schedule A+ seem to be reversed;
- the public can hijack a project by broadcasting misleading information;
- approvals are often too slow;

Noteworthy Comments from Technical Agencies and Key Stakeholders

- MCEA is 25 years old and has a number of amendments but now needs to be re-written;
- MOE should reassess how to integrate all environmental programs to create a seamless system to ensure the environmental effects are identified and mitigated before projects proceed;
- MTO would like to discuss active transportation further with MEA;
- heritage issues are not always properly addressed - lengthy comment;
- first nations consultation guidance should be improved;
- public and agencies are not notified of amendments and training modules;
- MEA should partner with Ministries to promote better FN consultation and the Species at Risk;
- RCCAO comments also attached

During 2013 and 2014, various groups (Peel, RCCAO, BILD, Consultants) approached MEA complaining that the scope of preparing a MCEA had, over the years, expanded and they are seeking changes that would reduce the time/cost of preparing a MCEA for a Schedule B or C project.

MEA, together with other stakeholders, is considering the development of an MCEA Companion Guide that would provide useful tips for proponents and illustrate minimum requirements with examples. This Guide would provide practical advice on satisfying the minimum requirements for Schedule A+, B and C projects with real life examples.

Brant County and Town of Erin are planning projects following a streamlined model where the final MCEA approval will provide flexibility so the project could be constructed as a AFP/P3 project. MEA will be reporting on the success of this pilot project.

In 2011, MEA learned of a new MOE legal interpretation that Part II Order Requests would be considered on pre-approved projects (Schedule A and A+). This is a significant change to 25 years of practice and MEA considers correcting this loophole to be a high priority. MOE has explained that a new regulation to exempt projects with a low environmental impact (Schedule A and A+) from Part II Order Requests is being planned. MEA has written to the Minister and is asking other stakeholders to join in lobbying for prompt adoption of this regulation.

MEA continues to recommend that decisions related to Part III Order Requests be delegated to the director so that decisions can be rendered in a timely manner. MEA has written to the Minister and is asking other stakeholders to join in lobbying for delegation.

MEA continues to seek a return to when Integrated Projects did not face double jeopardy and were subject to the OMB but not a Part II Order Request.

Details of a recently submitted amendment to the MCEA are included. A further major amendment is planned after MOE enacts the new regulation to exempt Schedule A and A+ projects from Part II Order Requests.