

Ministry now reviewing the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process

To MEA members

Following the Auditor General's report late last year on environmental assessments, the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO), in partnership with the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) submitted an application on February 3rd, 2017 to Ms. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario concerning Municipal Class Environmental Assessments (MCEAs), pursuant to section 61 of the Environmental Bill of Rights.

Like you, we are concerned with the lengthy delays involved in MCEAs which, on average, take more than two years to complete. In many cases, these delays are holding-up important infrastructure investments which help us to build better communities, create employment opportunities and enhance our transportation networks. We are particularly concerned with the delays to resolve Part II Order "Bump-Up" requests, which can slow the review process down ever further.

We are proud to note that our application was supported by 13 organizations representing Ontario's broader construction - infrastructure sector and the municipal sector. The entire application can be viewed, by visiting our website. Below are the links.

RCCAO - MEA EBR Submission:

[Environmental Commissioner of Ontario letter](#) - Feb. 09, 2017

[Cover Letter to The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario](#) - Feb. 03, 2017

[RCCAO and MEA Signed Application and Appendices](#) - Jan. 31, 2017

[Schedule 'A', 'B', 'U'](#) - Jan. 31, 2017

Media Clippings:

[Changes could be coming for municipal class EAs](#), Daily Commercial News (May 2017)

[RCCAO and MEA making headway for potential assessment reform](#), Daily Commercial News (March 2017)

[RCCAO and MEA's 2017 Environmental Bill of Rights Application](#), ReNew Canada (Feb. 22 2017)

[Stakeholders call for EA reform following AG report](#), Daily Commercial News (Dec. 2016)

Ms. Dianne Saxe forwarded the application to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in mid-February, and the Ministry has advised both RCCAO and MEA that a comprehensive review will be underway soon, and that it is scheduled to be completed by December 2018. We are hopeful that this review will lead to meaningful changes to the environmental assessment process in Ontario.

Please feel free to share this information with elected officials and your colleagues. Your questions, comments and ideas are always welcome.

Thank you for your consideration.



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