



Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Technical Support Reviews within the
Environmental Assessment and Permissions
Processes

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Outline

- ❖ Definitions
- ❖ Permissions requirements
 - Permit to Take Water
 - Environmental Compliance Approval
- ❖ Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Technical Support Review (surface water)
- ❖ Benefits of greater level of detail at the EA stage
 - Example
- ❖ Summary

Definitions

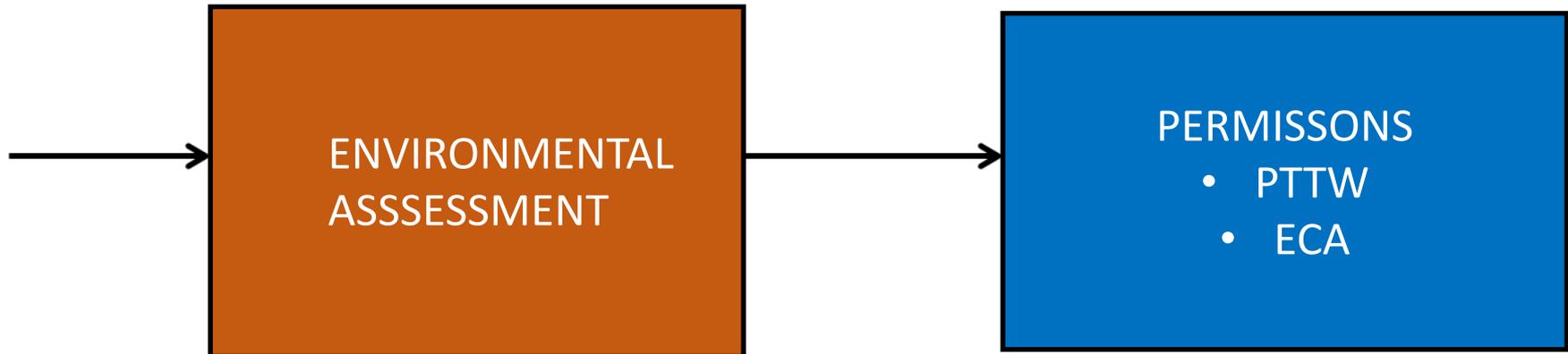
❖ **Projects (individual EAs):**

- Municipal waste
- Municipal sewage
- Industrial sewage (e.g. mining or aggregate pits)
- Water power

❖ **Permissions:**

- Permit to Take Water (PTTW)
- Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)
 - Municipal or industrial sewage
 - Waste management sites
 - Activities that discharge contaminants into the environment

Portion of the project approval process within the MECP



Permit to Take Water

❖ Legislation

- **Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA)**

- Water Taking and Transfer Regulation (O.Reg. 387/04)

1. Issues relating to the **need to protect the natural function of the ecosystem**, including:

- A. the natural variability of water flow or water levels,
- B. minimum stream flow, and
- C. habitat that depends on water flow or water levels,

2. Issues relating to water availability...

....plus other

Protection of Natural Function of the Ecosystem- PTTW

Surface Water technical review considers natural ecosystem function by assessing:

❖ **Impacts**

- Baseline conditions
- Details of operation (timing, water taking rate, location)
- Analysis (e.g. predictive modelling)

❖ **Monitoring**

- Parameters, locations, frequency, duration

❖ **Mitigation**

❖ **Triggers and Contingency Plan**

- Controllable parameters that impact natural function
- Acceptable range of parameter values
- Effective and practical measures to prevent impacts once triggers reached

Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)

❖ Legislation, Policies and Guidelines

- **Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA)**

- Sewage works

- **Ontario Environmental Protection Act (EPA)**

- Outlines the ministry's the authority
- Waste management systems
- Waste disposal sites
- O. Reg. 560/94: Effluent Monitoring And Effluent Limits-
Mining Sector

- **Water Management Policies, Guidelines, Provincial
Water Quality Objectives**

Protection of Natural Function of the Ecosystem - ECA

Surface Water technical review considers natural ecosystem function by assessing :

❖ **Impacts**

- Baseline conditions
- Details of operation (discharge rate, water quality, location, timing)
- Analysis (predictive modelling)

❖ **Monitoring**

- Parameters, locations, frequency, duration

❖ **Mitigation**

❖ **Triggers and Contingency Plan**

- Controllable parameters that impact natural function
- Acceptable range of parameter values
- Effective and practical measures to prevent impacts once triggers reached

Environmental Assessment (EA)

❖ Legislation

- **Environmental Assessment Act**

Section 6.1 (2): the environmental assessment must consist of:

(c) A description of,

- (i) The environment that will be affected or that might reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly,
- (ii) The effects that will be caused or that might reasonably be expected to be caused to the environment, and
- (iii) The actions necessary or that may reasonably be expected to be necessary to prevent, change, mitigate or remedy the effects upon or the effects that might reasonably be expected upon the environment,...

Level of detail at EA stage

❖ Ministry's guidance document:

“Preparing and reviewing environmental assessments in Ontario”

Level of detail of required information:

- Depends on number of factors such as
 - Number of approvals required
 - Nature and complexity of undertaking
 - The potential for environmental effects
- Should “fulfil the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act”
- Should “assure interested persons that the proposed undertaking is technically feasible and achieves environmental protection”

Benefits of a more detailed EA

- ❖ Better understanding of impacts and proposed mitigation measures
- ❖ More timely and effective consultation process with interested parties
- ❖ Tends to reduce processing time of permissions applications
- ❖ More informed project planning and development decisions
- ❖ Potentially reduced projects costs and delays

Example Benefits of EAs with significant detail

- Sewage Treatment Plant expansion and upgrades



- Allows for more effective consultation and decision making.
- Can consult on collective approach of multiple facilities in a river system, outside of approval process for a single facility.
- Lower likelihood of unaddressed concerns from interested parties.
- Lower likelihood of delays at approvals stage.

Summary

- ❖ Technical reviewers look at the same project components and environmental issues during the EA review as in the reviews of permissions applications.
- ❖ There are benefits to providing a significant level of detail at the EA stage of project development.