

Supporting Document 2

Individual Environmental Assessment Process

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks regulates the environmental standards and requirements for managing hazardous and non-hazardous waste to ensure that human health and the environment are protected. Waste facilities, landfills and waste transportation systems are required to get environmental permission(s) prior to operation. Environmental permissions set out specific operating, monitoring and reporting requirements with which owners and operators must comply. Establishing or expanding a new landfill requires an environmental assessment prior to obtaining an environmental permission to operate.

In Ontario, the Environmental Assessment process, under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, is a comprehensive review of all project activities which could impact communities, air, water, and other aspects of the natural environment. The robust and thorough Environmental Assessment process ensures community and stakeholder expectations are appropriately protected in the undertaking of any project and requires considerable time to complete. Key components of an environmental assessment include consultation with government agencies and the public, consideration and evaluation of alternatives, and the mitigation and management of potential negative environmental effects. Conducting an environmental assessment promotes good environmental planning before decisions are made about proceeding with a proposal.

The Individual Environmental Assessment process consists of the following steps:

1. The proponent drafts the Draft Terms of Reference.
2. The proponent consults with the Ministry and the public on the Draft Terms of Reference.
3. The proponent finalizes the Terms of Reference based on consultation and submits the Terms of Reference to the Ministry.
4. The Terms of Reference are reviewed by both the Provincial Government and public.
5. The Minister of the MECP makes a decision to either reject or approve the Terms of Reference.

- a. If the Terms of Reference is rejected, the proponent must decide to either abandon the project or resubmit the Terms of Reference.
 - b. If the Terms of Reference is approved, the proponent consults during class environmental assessment (Class EA) preparation.
6. Proponent prepares a draft Individual EA.
7. The proponent consults on the draft Individual EA.
8. The proponent finalizes the Individual EA based on consultation and submits the Individual EA to the Ministry.
9. Government and public review the Class EA. In this stage, the Director of the Ministry may issue a Deficiency Statement to the proponent. If the deficiencies are not remedied, the Minister may reject the Class EA.
10. The Ministry issues a Notice of Completion of Ministry Review of Class EA.
11. The public inspects the Ministry Review (final).
12. The Minister has three options:
 - a. Refer all or part of application to the Tribunal;
 - b. Make a decision; or
 - c. Refer to mediation.
13. If the Minister refers to the Environmental Review Tribunal (Hearing), the Minister has 28 days in which they may review the Tribunal decision. The Tribunal has the same decision options as the Minister (approve, approve with conditions, or refuse).
14. If the Minister makes a decision, they will either approve, approve with conditions, or refuse the Class EA. Referred mediation is most likely to occur at this point, but may occur any time after step 6.
15. If the Minister refers to mediation, the Minister shall consider the mediator's report when making a decision to either approve, approve with conditions, or refuse the Class EA.

Timelines

The Ministry publishes targeted timelines for the review of documentation that needs to be provided through the Environmental Assessment Process. The timelines are as follows:

