

# Development approval roundtable: action plan

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## **Action items**

### **Environment and resources**

#### **Stormwater management**

- a. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will establish a Conservation Authorities (CAs) Service Delivery Review Committee by fall 2017.
  1. The committee will, among other things, examine ways to streamline and improve the timelines for the approval of CA permits and the role of CAs in reviewing the local use of regional flood control facilities. This will include looking at opportunities to better integrate CA approvals with municipal approvals, or to undertake simultaneous review, as well as consider options of introducing timeframes for CA approvals.
  2. MNRF will distribute the terms of reference for the CA Service Delivery Review Committee in October 2017 to the members of the roundtable, and will circulate the priorities identified by the committee in late November 2017.

#### **Environmental assessments and modernization of approvals**

- b. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) will report back in fall 2017 on a timeline to address concerns on delays in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process related to Part II Order Requests.
  1. The ministry committed to posting the Part II Order Guidance on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry in fall 2017 as a commitment to the Auditor General.
  2. In response to the EBR review by the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) and Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO), MOECC committed to review requests made regarding the Part II Order process and municipal class EA schedules (risk-based approach for requirements) by December 2018.
  3. MOECC will identify opportunities to deliver on components of the review in the short term, and will report back on the timelines for component deliverables by December 2017.
- c. Municipalities are encouraged to continue to undertake integrated planning to align the EA process with municipal planning and approvals.
- d. MOECC committed to the following actions and will report back on timing to address:
  1. Adding more environmental compliance processes to the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) (e.g. , permits by rule).

2. To ensure a common understanding of low-risk activities, MOECC will distribute the criteria used for determining low-risk activities in October 2017.
3. Reducing the ministry's review time for the transfer of review process, as well as expanding the number of municipalities that are participating and updating the program, subject to municipal consent.
4. Exploring whether the government review team process could be expanded to support applicants for class environmental assessments used in individual environmental assessment, such as municipal, transit and waterpower.
5. Providing guidance documents on Indigenous consultation for environmental assessments.
6. Reducing Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) review timelines, in particular the approvals process for stormwater management works, and developing service standards.

### **Species at risk**

- e. MNRF will support proponent-led assessments of species at risk requirements early in the EA process to facilitate timely approvals.
- f. MNRF will continue to enhance the tools available on species at risk by developing guidance materials on best management practices and habitat identification on an ongoing basis.
- g. MNRF will investigate the use of the "safe harbour" tool, which is enabled under *Endangered Species Act* and encourages property owners to create or enhance species at risk habitat for a set period of time while having legal assurance that they can alter the land use at a later date.
- h. MNRF will continue to identify opportunities for using a risk-based approach to the implementation of the *Endangered Species Act*.