



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022

Time: 6:00 pm

Location and Details: via Zoom Web-Conferencing

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A. Election of Chair	
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9. Actions	
A. Appointment of ERCA Auditor, Financial Institution, Solicitor and Insurance Company for 2022	
i. Auditor	
ii. Financial Institution	

iii. Solicitor

iv. Insurance

B. Approval for ERCA Borrowing Resolution

C. Correspondence

- i. Email from Susan Ecclestone, Director, Species at Risk Branch, MECP regarding Endangered Species Act Regulatory Decision – Species Conservation Charges and Conditional *Exemption Regulations* dated December 10, 2021 **14-16**
- ii. Email from Annamaria Cross, Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization, MECP regarding Environmental Assessment Modernization Decisions: Updating EA Requirements for Transmission Lines and Clarifying the Authority to Amend a Class EA dated December 14, 2021 **17-19**

10. 2021 ERCA Annual Report

11. ERCA Staff Service Awards

12. ERCA Conservation Awards Presentation

13. Other Business

A. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2022 starting at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom web conferencing.

14. Adjournment



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Byrne", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Upcoming Events

- February 17, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting
- April 14, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm

Location and Details: via Zoom Web Conferencing

Attendance

Members Present:

Tania Jobin (Chair)	Mark Carrick
Kieran McKenzie (Vice-Chair)	Sue Desjarlais
Marolyn Morrison	Trevor Jones
Peter Courtney	Larry Verbeke
Morley Bowman	Joe Bachetti
Larry Patterson	Jeewen Gill
Tracey Bailey	Jim Morrison
Len Janisse	Ed Sleiman

Absent: Laura Lucier
Regrets: Dayne Malloch
Chris Vander Doelen

Staff Present

Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Nicole Kupnicki, Corporate Services, Human Resources Manager/EA
Shelley McMullen, Interim CFO/Director Corporate Services
Kevin Money, Director Conservation Services
Danielle Stuebing, Director Community and Outreach Services
James Bryant, Director Watershed Management Services
Ryan Rossman, Director Information Technology Services

Others

1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the December 9, 2021 meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors.

I will call the meeting to order and confirm that all members attending from the in-camera meeting of the ERCA Board preceding this meeting are still with us this evening. Thank you all.

2. Land Acknowledgement

I'd like to begin by acknowledging that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie Peoples.

We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island - North America who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Resolution 103/21 Moved by Morley Bowman
Seconded by Tracey Bailey

THAT the Agenda for the December 9, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved. **Carried**

5. **Hearings**

None

6. **Adoption of Minutes**

A. **ERCA Board of Directors**

Resolution 104/21 Moved by Len Janisse
Seconded by Ed Sleiman

THAT the Minutes of the Thursday, November 18, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

B. **ERCA Finance & Audit Advisory Board**

Resolution 105/21 Moved by Morley Bowman
Seconded by Trevor Jones

THAT the minutes for the November 30, 2021 meeting of the Executive Committee and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

7. **Business Arising from the Previous Minutes**

None

8. **Announcements**

The shoreline rehabilitation and habitat restoration project at Peche Island continues as the contractor begins the second phase, which is the erosion protection works on the Island's head, adjacent to Lake St. Clair.

Major restoration works on the eastern wetland habitat cell at Hillman Marsh are complete and the contractor is currently working on the western habitat cell until mid-December. These

works are anticipated to be completed by the end of January 2022. This investment by Ducks Unlimited Canada will total well over half a million dollars, and will ensure Hillman Marsh is more resilient to higher lake levels and erosion.

As well, restoration staff are currently planning spring planting projects. If you have lands within your municipality that are appropriate for tree planting, please contact Kevin Money so that arrangements can be made.

We were pleased this past weekend to partner with Y.Q.G Made to host a Holiday Makers Market at the John R. Park Homestead, welcoming new audiences and guests to our wonderful Museum by the lake.

Staff continue to work remotely and deliver the best possible customer service amidst the various pressures of COVID-19 and development trends throughout the region. A reminder for residents across Windsor and Essex County that wind events over the great lakes can increase flood risk and accelerate shoreline erosion through the winter months until there is substantial ice formation. People should continue to monitor Conservation Authority flood advisories and to be aware of local weather conditions and forecasts.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I'd like to extend my sincerest appreciation to all the staff and many volunteers for your extraordinary dedication to conserving the environment of our region. There's no question that times have continued to be challenging this past year, and you have all demonstrated tenacity and resilience. I am very grateful and thank you.

I'd also like to extend my sincerest appreciation to all of my colleagues on the Board for your support and commitment, and wish you all a very happy holiday season.

9. Delegations

None

10. Presentations

None

11. Reports for Approval

A. BD 32/21 Framework for the Transition Plan

Resolution 106/21 Moved by Peter Courtney

Seconded by Mark Carrick

THAT ERCA's Transition Plan be approved and circulated as required by O. Reg. 687/21; and further

THAT Administration continue to work with the municipal stakeholders throughout the Transition Period. **Carried**

B. BD 33/21 Draft 2022 ERCA Fee Schedule

Resolution 107/21 Moved by Trevor Jones

Seconded by Jim Morrison

THAT the proposed ERCA 2022 Fee Schedule, as described herein, be approved; and further,

THAT Administration post notice of the Fee Schedule in ERCA's Administrative offices, on ERCA's website and other social media, and be distributed to member municipalities.

Carried

12. Reports for Information

A. BD 34/21 Watershed Management Services Activities Report for November 2021

Resolution 108/21 Moved by Larry Verbeke

Seconded by Kieran McKenzie

THAT the review of Regulations and Planning Applications, as presented in Report BD34/21 be received for Members' information. **Carried**

B. Environmental Registry Reports

- i. Conservation Ontario's comments on "Proposed Additional Delegation of Planning Decisions" (ERO#019-4419)

Resolution 109/21 Moved by Ed Sleiman

Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT Conservation Ontario comments on "Proposed Additional Delegation of Planning Decisions" (ERO#019-4419) be received for information. **Carried**

C. Correspondence

None

13. Committee of the Whole

A. Confidential matters related to Property and Legal

B. Endorse Actions of the Committee of the Whole

Resolution 110/21 Moved by Morley Bowman

Seconded by Larry Patterson

THAT the actions of the Committee of the Whole be endorsed. **Carried**

New Business

- i. BD35.21 City of Windsor Auditor General Request

Resolution 111/21 Moved by Mark Carrick
Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT the correspondence from the City of Windsor, Auditor General be received for information; and further,

THAT Administration be directed to respond that the previous position of the Board regarding this issue remains unchanged and ERCA will not be opting in as a participating agency. **Carried**

14. Other Business

A. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors is the Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 starting at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom web conferencing

15. Adjournment

Resolution 112/21 Moved by Jeewen Gill
Seconded by Morley Bowman

That the December 9, 2021 Meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adjourned. **Carried**



Tania Jobin
Chair



Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Time: 3:30 pm

Location and Details: via Zoom Web Conferencing

Attendance

Members Present:	Tania Jobin (Chair) Len Janisse Kieran McKenzie, Chair (Vice-Chair)	Larry Verbeke Joe Bachetti
Absent:	None	
Regrets:	None	
Staff Present	Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Kupnicki, Corporate Services, Human Resources Manager/EA Shelley McMullen, Interim CFO/Director Corporate Services Kevin Money, Director Conservation Services Danielle Stuebing, Director Communications and Outreach Services Dan Jenner, Regulations Coordinator Ashley Gyori, Regulations Analyst Sydney Clackett, Regulations Analyst	
Others	Lisa and Greg Bresolin John-Paul Aleo	

1. Call to Order

Good afternoon and welcome to the December 14, 2021 meeting of the ERCA Executive Committee. We will start by taking a roll call of all Board Members to confirm attendance.

Thank you all.

2. Land Acknowledgement

I'd like to begin by acknowledging that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie Peoples.

We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island - North America who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Resolution EC 49/21 Moved by Joe Bachetti
Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT the agenda for the December 14, 2021 Meeting of the ERCA Executive Committee be approved. **Carried**

5. **Hearings**

A. **Convene the Hearing Board**

Resolution EC 50/21 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT the Executive Committee sit as the Hearing Board in respect of an application(s) under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. **Carried**

We are now going to conduct hearings under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* in respect of four (4) applications.

- Lisa and Greg Bresolin are requesting relief from access (ingress and egress) policy requirements to construct a new foundation and undertake renovations at 251 Lakeside Drive, Town of Amherstburg
- Yehya Atwan is requesting relief from access (ingress and egress) policy requirements to construct a dwelling on a vacant lot on Claremont Lane, Town of Amherstburg
- Baker Investments Limited is requesting relief from access (ingress and egress) policy requirements to construct an apartment building at 8380-8474 Wyandotte Street East, City of Windsor
- Salem Younan is requesting relief from access (ingress and egress) policy requirements to construct a dwelling at 564 Florence Ave, City of Windsor

We, as the Hearing Board, are unaware of the matters being brought forward and we are only now receiving and reviewing the information provided by staff this afternoon.

The Authority has adopted regulations under section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* which requires the permission of the Authority for development within an area regulated by the Authority in order to ensure no adverse affect on (the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or pollution or conservation of land) or to permit alteration to a shoreline or watercourse or interference with a wetland.

The Staff has reviewed this proposed work and a copy of the staff report has been given to the applicant.

The *Conservation Authorities Act* (Section 28 [12]) provides that:

"Permission required under a regulation made under clause (1) (b) or 8) shall not be refused or granted subject to conditions unless the person requesting permission has been given the opportunity to require a hearing before the authority or, if the authority so directs, before the authority's executive committee."

In holding these hearings, the Authority Board is to determine whether or not a permit is to be issued. In doing so, we can only consider the application in the form that is before us, the staff report, such evidence as may be given and the submissions to be made on behalf of each applicant.

The proceedings will be conducted according to the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act*. Under Section 5 of the *Canada Evidence Act*, a witness may refuse to answer any question on the ground that the answer may tend to criminate the person, or may tend to establish his/her liability to a civil proceeding at the instance of the Crown or of any person.

The procedure in general shall be informal. However, this is a quasi-judicial process, and provides for evidence to be given in response to members' question. Therefore, staff and applicants will be asked to swear an oath or provide an affirmation to speak the truth.

In accordance with section 28 of the *Act*, an applicant who has been refused permission or who objects to conditions imposed on a permission may, within 30 days of receiving the reasons, appeal in writing, to the Minister who may refuse the permission, or grant permission with or without conditions. Through Order in Council, the responsibility for hearing the appeal has been transferred to the Ontario Lands Tribunal.

If the applicant has any questions to ask of the Hearing Board or of the Authority representative, they must be directed to the Chair of the board.

Staff will first introduce the applicant, his/her owner, and others wishing to speak, and then present the staff position. The applicant and/or their agent may then speak and make any comments on the staff position if they so desire. I would also remind everyone that the Hearing Board is open to the public. However, as stated earlier, this is a Hearing that is a quasi-judicial process and accordingly the general public may observe, but are not third-party to the matters before us today and cannot participate. We, as the Hearing Board, will question, if necessary, both the staff and the applicant/agent.

Before I ask Dan Jenner, Regulations Coordinator to introduce the applications, I would ask that he swear an oath or provide an affirmation to speak the truth.

Dan Jenner, Regulations Coordinator Watershed Management Services took an affirmation.

Dan Jenner introduced the applications and context for the application. The Chair asked applicant (or agents for applicant) to swear oath or provide affirmation to speak the truth (as above).

i. Lisa and Greg Bresolin

Resolution EC 51/21 Moved by Len Janisse
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT the application from Lisa and Greg Bresolin to request relief from access (ingress and egress) policy requirements to construct a new foundation and undertake renovations at 251 Lakeside Drive, Town of Amherstburg be approved.

Carried

ii. Yehya Atwan

Resolution EC 52/21 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT the application from Yehya Atwan to request relief from access (ingress and egress) policy requirements to construct a dwelling on a vacant lot on Claremont Lane, Town of Amherstburg be approved. **Carried**

iii. Baker Investments Limited

Resolution EC 53/21 Moved by Len Janisse
Seconded by Kieran McKenzie

THAT the application from Baker Investments Limited to request relief from access (ingress and egress) policy requirements to construct an apartment building at 8380-8474 Wyandotte Street East, City of Windsor be approved. **Carried**

iv. Salem Younan

Resolution EC 54/21 Moved by Joe Bachetti
Seconded by Kieran McKenzie

THAT the application from Salem Younan to request relief from access (ingress and egress) policy requirements to construct a dwelling at 564 Florence Ave, City of Windsor be approved. **Carried**

B. Hearing Board to Reconvene as the Executive Committee

Resolution EC 55/21 Moved by Joe Bachetti
Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT the Hearing Board reconvene as the Executive Committee. **Carried**

6. Tenders

A. EC 07/21 Historic Kingsville Train Station Building Repairs

Resolution EC 56/21 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT Zandstra Carpentry and Design be awarded a sole source contract to repair the Kingsville Train Station's roof and windows, as described in the proposal, in the amount of \$25,414 +HST. **Carried**

B. EC 08/21 Continuation of specialty services, as sole-sourced contracts specific to engineering services and fish species-at-risk monitoring/consulting, for the Peche Island Habitat Creation and Erosion Protection Project

Resolution EC 57/21 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT Leadley Environmental be approved as a sole-sourced contract , in order to continue with the provision of consulting and fish monitoring services, as required by DFO permits, and as described in their updated quote; and further,

THAT Landmark Engineering be approved as a sole-sourced contract in order to continue with the provision of consulting engineering services, as described in their updated quote. **Carried**

C. EC 09/21 Replacement of Fleet Vehicles

Resolution EC 58/21 Moved by Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by Len Janisse

THAT the purchase of a 3500 series Pickup Truck be awarded to Provincial Chrysler; and further,

That the purchase of a Ford F150 Hybrid Pickup Truck be awarded to Joe Meloche Ford. **Carried**

7. Reports for Approval

None

8. Committee of the Whole

None

9. New Business

None

10. Other Business

A. Next Meeting

The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 starting at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom web conferencing.

11. Adjournment

Resolution EC 59/21 Moved by Joe Bachetti
Seconded by Len Janisse

That the December 14, 2021 Meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Executive Committee be adjourned. **Carried**



Tania Jobin
Chair



Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

From: [ESAReg \(MECP\)](#)

To: [ESAReg \(MECP\)](#)

Subject: Endangered Species Act Regulatory Decision – Species Conservation Charges and Conditional *Exemption Regulations*

Date: December 10, 2021 6:20:52 PM

**Ministry of the
Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de
l'Environnement, de la
Protection de la nature et des
Parcs**



Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to let you know about three regulations recently made under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA) to enable the Species at Risk Conservation Fund (Fund) and expand certain existing conditional exemptions. These regulations are part of our continued effort to make our species at risk program more effective, while increasing certainty and streamlining authorizations for businesses, municipalities and individuals.

Species Conservation Charges Regulation

Ontario Regulation 829/21 (Species Conservation Charges) has been made under the ESA designating conservation fund species, prescribing associated species conservation charge formulae, and prescribing administrative requirements related to charge payment timing and refunds.

When the regulation comes into effect on April 29, 2022, proponents will have the option to pay a species conservation charge to the Fund, administered by the Species Conservation Action Agency, for six designated conservation fund species listed below when they seek permits and agreements related to these species or register for conditional exemptions for the first four species listed:

- Barn Swallow (bird),
- Bobolink (bird),
- Butternut (tree),
- Eastern Meadowlark (bird),
- Eastern Whip-poor-will (bird), and
- populations of Blanding's Turtle within the Ontario Shield ecozone.

The Species Conservation Action Agency will have the expertise to invest in strategic, large-scale, and coordinated actions that will support more positive outcomes for select species at risk. The Agency will support the protection and recovery of species at risk by making sure that funds are invested strategically, with the long-term interests of species at risk in mind.

Conditional Exemption Regulations

Ontario Regulation 830/21 (Exemptions – Barn Swallow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and Butternut) has been made under the ESA to house the conditional exemptions for Barn Swallow, Bobolink/Eastern Meadowlark, and Butternut that previously existed under O. Reg. 242/08. These four species have been designated as conservation fund species and are therefore eligible for payments of a species conservation charge to the Species at Risk Conservation Fund. The option to pay a species conservation charge for these species under these conditional exemptions will be enabled under this regulation beginning on April 29, 2022.

This new regulation also expands the conditional exemption for Butternut and refines the conditional exemptions for Barn Swallow and Bobolink/Eastern Meadowlark. In addition, this regulation provides rules that clarify registration requirements by identifying the steps a proponent would take if they were required to or wanted to amend or cancel a notice of registration under certain circumstances. These changes came into effect on December 9, 2021.

Ontario Regulation 242/08 (General) has also been amended by Ontario Regulation 831/21 (General) to expand the availability of conditional exemptions for certain activities with common and routine mitigation actions. These changes further streamline ESA authorizations for proponents, while maintaining standards for the protection and recovery of species and allow projects that maintain standards for or benefit species at risk to get underway faster.

The amendments also expand and add new existing conditional exemptions for activities that have common and well understood approaches for minimizing adverse effects and achieving benefits for species at risk, for activities that assist in the protection or recovery of a species at risk (e.g., incubating turtle eggs) or involve the operation of a dam.

Further, the amendments clarify registration requirements by identifying the steps a proponent would take if they were required to or wanted to amend or cancel a notice of registration under certain circumstances.

The regulation that amends O. Reg. 242/08 came into effect on December 9, 2021. Please note that the expanded conditional exemption for activities related to the Species at Risk Stewardship Program will come into force on April 1, 2022.

We also note at this time that we have made regulations that move definitions of habitat under O. Reg. 242/08 made under the ESA to a Minister's regulation. This is an administrative change and there have been no changes to the prescribed definitions of habitat. The regulations, O. Reg. 832/21 (Habitat) and O. Reg. 833/21 (General), were filed on December 9, 2021.

To view the decision notice, please visit posting #019-2636 on the [Environmental Registry](#).

Online Information Sessions

We invite you to attend an online information session during which ministry staff will present an overview of the regulations and provide an opportunity for questions.

Sessions will be held on the following dates:

Session 1 – Thursday, December 16, 2021 from 10 am to 12 pm

Session 2 – Tuesday, January 11, 2022 from 2 pm to 4 pm

If you wish to attend an online information session, please register by emailing ESAREg@Ontario.ca with the subject line “ESA Regulation Information Session” and indicate your preferred session date. You will receive a reply to your email with the session start/end times and information on how to join.

If you have any questions about the new regulations please send them via email to ESAREg@ontario.ca. Thank you for your interest in the protection and recovery of species at risk in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Susan Ecclestone
Director, Species at Risk Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

From: [EA Modernization \(MECP\)](#)
To: [EA Modernization \(MECP\)](#)
Cc: [EA Modernization \(MECP\)](#); [Cross, Annamaria \(MECP\)](#)
Subject: Environmental Assessment Modernization Decisions: Updating EA Requirements for Transmission Lines and Clarifying the Authority to Amend a Class EA
Date: December 14, 2021 5:58:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Decision Notification Clarifying the Authority to Amend a Class Environmental Assessment.pdf](#)
[Decision Notification - Updating Environmental Assessment Requirements for Transmission Lines.pdf](#)

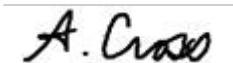
Hello,

Please find attached notification letters about two decisions that are part of our environmental assessment modernization initiatives:

- 1) Updating Environmental Assessment Requirements for Transmission Lines
The new regulation (Ontario Regulation 852/21) that amends the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities, comes into effect on January 1, 2022. The amendments update the environmental assessment requirements for critical transmission infrastructure, while maintaining strong environmental protections.
- 2) Clarifying the Authority to Amend a Class Environmental Assessment
A minor amendment was made to the *Environmental Assessment Act* to make it clearer that the Act's authority includes changing the types of projects that can follow a class environmental assessment process.

Please do not hesitate to contact the ministry at EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Annamaria Cross
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization
Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Greetings,

On October 7, 2021, the ministry wrote to you to about a minor amendment that was being proposed to the *Environmental Assessment Act* to support the ministry's environmental assessment modernization initiative. I am writing to you today to let you know the change has been approved and took effect on December 2, 2021.

The *Environmental Assessment Act* already included the authority to amend a class environmental assessment by Minister's amendment or by regulation. The change to the Act makes it clearer that the authority includes changing the types of projects that can follow a class environmental assessment process. All comments and feedback received were considered in making a decision on this proposal.

We are committed to seeking input from Indigenous communities, the public and other stakeholders before making a change to a class environmental assessment to allow additional project types to begin following that process. In the event the authority is used to change the types of projects that are subject to a class environmental assessment process, that proposed change would be consulted on.

Projects that follow a class environmental assessment process will still require:

- consultation with Indigenous communities, the public and other stakeholders;
- assessment of environmental impacts;
- development of mitigation measures; and
- documentation of the findings in a report.

Details of the decision are available on the Environmental Registry of Ontario here <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-4189>.

We will be in touch as we continue to modernize environmental assessment in Ontario.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca with any questions you may have at any time.

Sincerely,

Annamaria Cross
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Hello,

I am writing to provide you information on the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' ongoing efforts to modernize Ontario's environmental assessment program. On July 5, 2021, the ministry posted a proposal to update the environmental assessment requirements for establishing electricity transmission line projects. I am writing to you today to let you know that these changes have been approved.

The changes to the environmental assessment requirements for critical transmission infrastructure to support expanded access to lower carbon energy sources from Ontario's electricity grid, promote regional economic development and shorten-times for building critical infrastructure projects across the province.

The amendments to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities will come into effect on January 1, 2022. They will allow more projects to follow the streamlined class environmental assessment process instead of needing to complete an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment. It will update thresholds for individual/comprehensive environmental assessments for transmission line projects that align with the designation threshold under federal environmental assessment laws for new international electrical transmission lines. Accordingly, the planning, design and constructing of the following types of transmission line projects will be subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities:

- Transmission lines that are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of 115 kV or more but less than 345 kV, and are more than 2 km in length.
- Transmission lines that are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of 345 kV or more but less than 500 kV, and are more than 2 km but less than 75 km in length.

Transmission lines 75 km or more in length and 345 kV or greater in voltage are required to complete an individual environmental assessment.

Details of the decision are available on the Environmental Registry of Ontario here: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3937>.

More information our other efforts to modernize the environmental assessment program can also be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/modernizing-ontarios-environmental-assessment-program>.

We are committed to keeping you apprised about the environmental assessment modernization and working with you to build a strong environmental assessment program for Ontario. We value your perspectives on the environmental assessment program.

Sincerely,

Annamaria Cross
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks