

Ontario Environmental Assessment Process



The 427 Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment is subject to both provincial and federal environmental assessment (EA) legislation. In order to maximize the benefits of applying both Acts, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency have developed a co-ordinated planning, consultation, documentation and approval process.

In Ontario, the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* (OEAA) governs the requirements of the EA process. The purpose of the OEAA is to promote good environmental planning through the protection, conservation and wise management of Ontario's environment. The intent is to predict the environmental effects of proposed initiatives before they are carried out. To achieve this, the OEAA ensures that environmental problems or opportunities associated with the project are considered along with alternatives, and their effects are investigated and mitigated through the planning process, before construction/implementation takes place.

In addition to the OEAA, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) ensures that the environmental effects of projects are carefully reviewed by appropriate federal authorities. A separate fact sheet summarizes the CEAA process. For more information on the CEAA, please visit: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/010/index_e.htm

WHAT PROJECTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE OEAA?

The OEAA applies to most public sector and some private sector undertakings. Public sector projects may include public roads and highways, transit facilities, waste management facilities, sewage and water works, electrical generation and transmission facilities, and flood protection works.

THE ONTARIO EA PROCESS

The following key activities comprise the Ontario EA process:

- An EA Terms of Reference (ToR) report is prepared outlining the framework for the EA study. The ToR is submitted to the Ontario Minister of Environment for approval.
- Once approval is obtained, the EA study can commence.
- The EA study will establish:
 - A description of the undertaking;
 - The purpose of the undertaking;
 - Alternatives to the undertaking and their advantages and disadvantages;
 - Alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking and their advantages and disadvantages;
 - A description of the environment that will be, or may be, directly or indirectly affected by the undertaking;
 - The expected impacts to the environment as a result of the undertaking;
 - The actions necessary to prevent, change, mitigate or remedy any of the impacts upon the environment;
 - The results of consultation regarding the undertaking; and
 - Public input on decision-making.
- Once the EA study is completed, an EA Report is prepared and submitted to the Minister of the Environment for review.
- During the Minister's review, all participants are given the opportunity to review the EA Report and comment on the process, the documentation and the recommendations.
- The Minister of the Environment will consider all the information provided and undertake a Government Review of the EA.
- The Government Review is published and all participants are given the opportunity to provide comments.
- The Minister of the Environment must consider the EA, the Government Review, and all comments submitted before deciding to:
 - (a) Approve the EA;

(b) Approve the EA with Conditions; or

(c) Deny Approval.

- The Minister of the Environment may also refer the EA to an Environmental Review Tribunal for a hearing.

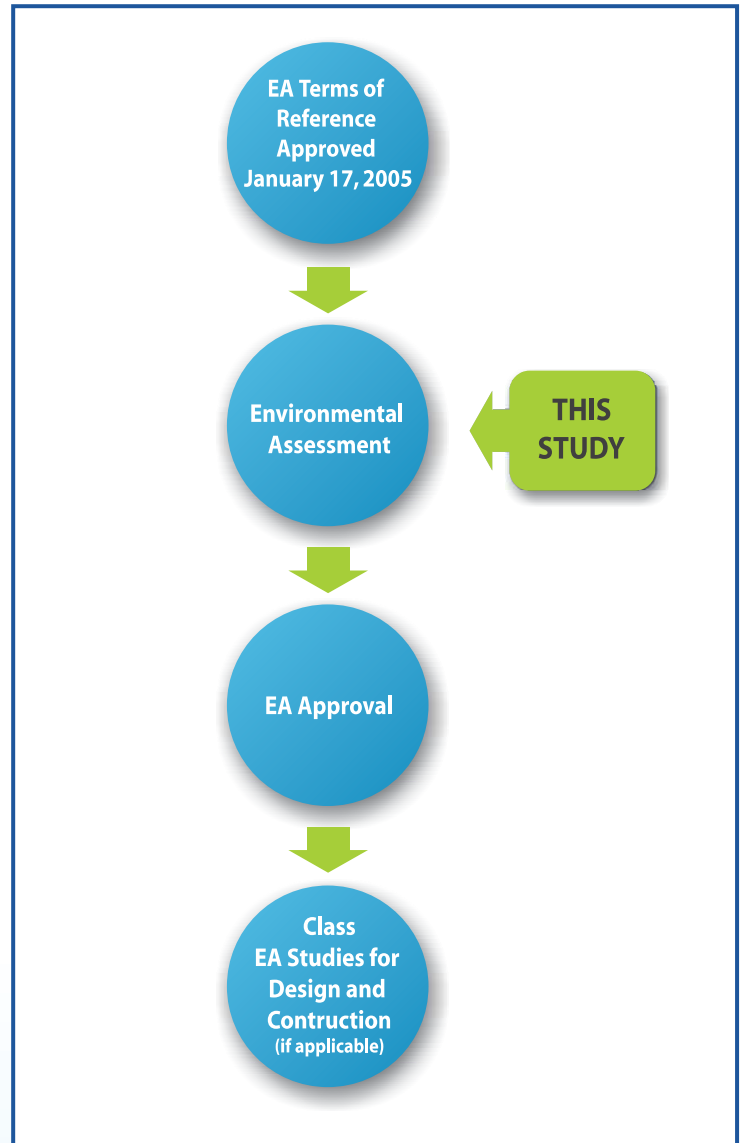
More information on the Ontario Environmental Assessment process can be found on line at: www.ene.gov.on.ca

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

A key component of the EA process is public consultation. It enables potentially significant issues to be identified early in the decision-making process. Any individual who is interested in the EA, or may be affected by such a proposal, is encouraged to become involved in the process as early as possible.

Any person may comment on the 427 Transportation Corridor EA by contacting the project team.

SCHEMATIC OF THE EA PROCESS FOR THE 427 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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