

Suzie Fournier

From: Suzie Fournier
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Suzie Fournier
Subject: FW: Posting on the Environmental Registry: Proposed amendments to regulations made under the Environmental Protection Act and Ontario Water Resources Act to make modifications to Environmental Activity and Sector Registry requirements and exemptions for l

From: Scovino, Izabel (MECP) [<mailto:Izabel.Scovino@ontario.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 7:52 PM
To: Scovino, Izabel (MECP) <Izabel.Scovino@ontario.ca>
Cc: Labarge, Christina (MECP) <Christina.Labarge@ontario.ca>; Obaid, Juwairia (MECP) <Juwairia.Obaid@ontario.ca>
Subject: Posting on the Environmental Registry: Proposed amendments to regulations made under the Environmental Protection Act and Ontario Water Resources Act to make modifications to Environmental Activity and Sector Registry requirements and exemptions for low r

Good Evening:

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted a notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) about our proposal to amend regulations made under the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act*. The proposed changes would streamline permissions for low risk, short-term water taking activities through exemptions and by modifying Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) requirements.

The proposal notice will be available for public comment for 45 days, closing on November 20, 2020. The posting can be accessed on the Environmental Registry of Ontario through [ERO posting 019-2525](#).

Our proposed changes and their benefits

We are proposing to move low-risk, short-term water taking activities, such as pumping tests, to a more flexible approval process that saves municipalities and developers time and money, while ensuring Ontario's water resources continue to be safeguarded in accordance with the province's strict environmental standards.

These changes align with our Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan commitment to enhance how we manage water takings to ensure we have sustainable water resources for generations to come.

Some of the changes we are proposing include:

- Introducing low risk pumping tests with well understood impacts as a new prescribed activity for registration on the EASR.
- Removing certain EASR restrictions related to construction site dewatering and road construction activities that do not further environmental outcomes and create undue burden for businesses and individuals.
- Introducing well development as a new exemption activity.

- Removing current restrictions on diversion exemptions.

Our regulatory proposal also expands the current EASR criteria so that additional types of projects (e.g. linear projects under construction dewatering and transit projects under road construction) can be self-registered on the Water Taking EASR.

How you can provide input

As part of the consultation process, the ministry is seeking your feedback on the above proposal as well as a discussion paper on the proposed amendments.

Both are available on the [ERO posting 019-2525](#) where you may also submit your comments.

We will consider all feedback received before any final decisions on the proposal are made.

We look forward to your suggestions and comments on this proposal notice. If you have any questions feel free to contact Juwairia Obaid, Senior Program Advisor at 416-561-9523 or Juwairia.Obaid@Ontario.ca.

Thank you,

Izabel Scovino

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