



November 21, 2024

Reema Kureishy
Environmental Policy Branch
40 St Clair Avenue West, 10th Floor
Toronto, ON, M4V 1M2

Submitted electronically

RE: ERO019-9196 – Enabling greater beneficial reuse of excess soil

The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) is pleased to offer its support to Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association (OSWCA) submission on this regulatory proposal.

OSWCA's submission reflects important commentary and recommendations that we would ask the Ministry to carefully consider as it continues working to improving the reuse of excess construction soil.

RCCAO has been involved with the Ministry and other stakeholder organizations, such as OSWCA, in promoting the environmentally responsible and beneficial reuse of excess soils in Ontario for over a decade. While we want to commend the government on its work and advancement of this file and implementing a regulatory regime to improve the removal, disposal and reuse of excess soils, there are still important items that remain outstanding and require further action.

Particularly, the complexity of the regulation and the inexperience of many owners in managing their excess materials necessitate the Ministry to clarify its intention of the regulation and provide unambiguous guidance regarding implementation. Specifically, the Ministry ought to provide standardized municipal requirements to ensure all municipalities are provided with a clear, uniform path to achievement.

The historic practice of downloading, combined with the introduction of complex and ambiguous regulation, has created confusion, inconsistency, and varying interpretations of the new rules around the management of excess materials across the province. Ultimately, this has resulted in the rapidly escalating costs of construction without any significant improvement to the process the regulation sought to remedy. Unfortunately, when owners continue the practice of downloading these responsibilities and do not capitalize on the incentives to reuse their soil, the purpose of the regulation to promote the reuse of soils, reduce the amount of soil movement and disincentive the reliance on virgin aggregate is lost.



RCCAO appreciates having the opportunity to provide input and support for our stakeholder partner as part of this consultation process. We will continue our engagement on this file and look forward to providing further input as the Ministry works on this important infrastructure industry issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nadia Todorova', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nadia Todorova
Executive Director