

RCCAO recommendations on proposed EA project list

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VAUGHAN, ONT. — The proposed Comprehensive Environmental Assessment Project List was released by the Ontario government recently and the **Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO)** has provided comments and recommendations to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

RCCAO has been actively advocating for improvements to various Ontario EA processes for more than a decade and one of its primary focus areas is reform of the Municipal Class EA (MCEA) system, including specific changes to reduce the delays and costs often associated with the delivery of local infrastructure projects.

According to an RCCAO release, the position of the alliance is that various stakeholders and local residents should have a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on projects that might have environmental, social and economic impacts, provided that the consultation does not trigger disproportional delays or costs.

“RCCAO also supports the proposal to use a list of project descriptions as the threshold for the level of environmental assessment, provided that the existing streamlined classes, such as MCEA projects, are sufficiently broad to avoid any regulatory gaps,” states the release.

“Overall, RCCAO recommends that the proposed project list contain additional details to allow proponents to determine whether the addition of capacity, such as a road or cycle lanes to an existing roadway or an additional track to a railway or transit line, would have the same distance threshold as de novo projects.”

In October, RCCAO also provided a submission on new regulations for the MCEA process.