

October 6, 2021

Re: CLI-ECA Application Process

Dear Clients,

As many of you may already be aware, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) recently approved and started the implementation of a new and streamlined Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) application process dedicated to Municipal Sewage Collection Systems and Municipal Stormwater Management Systems within the province.

A Consolidated Linear Infrastructure ECA (CLI-ECA) is a single approval that is intended to replace the numerous pipe-by-pipe sewage works ECAs that have been issued for these systems in the past. The new process may include operational flexibility conditions that pre-authorize future specified alterations in accordance with the conditions in the ECA. As a result, a separate sewage works approval would not be needed and municipalities would be able to undertake construction if specific conditions in the CLI-ECA are met. There are two applications that require submission: one for collection systems and one for stormwater.

As well, a CLI-ECA would not expire. The process includes a requirement that the ECA Holder must submit an application for review of the ECA at regular intervals (e.g., on a cycle of up to five years) to ensure that the description of the system is refreshed at regular intervals and that any terms and conditions associated with operational flexibility remain up to date.

Application Deadlines

You may have already received communications about this new application process from the MECP regarding the deadlines and expectations for each of these applications. Applications are expected to be submitted electronically by the Owner. For those you who haven't yet received, please note that the application due dates are defined by MECP based on systems type and owner. **We are advised that application deadlines for both the Municipal Sewage Collection and the Municipal Stormwater Management Systems are as follows:**

- **Jan 21, 2022 (Toronto Region, communities with combined sewers)**
- **Feb 18, 2022 (larger communities)**
- **March 18, 2022 (smaller communities, most northern and eastern Ontario)**

The MECP will be holding information webinars throughout the fall to discuss CLI, and how they plan to implement the approach. They will also be engaging with municipalities closer to their potential application submission date, to provide information on how to prepare these ECA applications.

Please note that the MECP may be providing some flexibility in the application date. If you feel you may be in a position to need an extension, or have questions for the MECP, please contact enviopermissions@ontario.ca.

Your local OCWA team is also always available to you should you have questions about the new application process or the services that we can provide to support you. Please feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,



Sam Smith

Senior Operations Manager- Ontario Clean Water Agency