

# Hauled Sewage Environmental Permissions

**OASIS Townhall Meeting**

March 2023

# Agenda

1. Hauled Sewage Permissions Refresher
2. Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) Application Process
  - i. Overview of Review Process
  - ii. Application Requirements
  - iii. Common Application Issues
3. Program Updates
4. Survey
5. Walkthrough of ECA Application Form and ACME Package
6. Questions

# Refresher of Hauled Sewage Permissions



The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (ministry) regulates the transportation and disposal of hauled sewage under the *Environmental Protection Act (EPA)*:

- Self-registrations on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR);
- Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECAs) for disposal and storage of hauled sewage, biosolids, and/or processed organic waste.

Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19

# Refresher of Hauled Sewage Permissions

Hauled sewage disposal site ECA applications are no longer issued by District/Area offices.

- The ministry moved to a centralized delivery model where ECAs are issued by the Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division.



# Overview of ECA Application Process

## Before you submit an ECA application:

**Pre-submission Consultation:** A pre-submission consultation with the site's local District/Area Office and/or Client Services and Permissions Branch is strongly recommended for **certain** types of facilities, such as sites that do not meet standard requirements and/or when surface/groundwater monitoring requirements are expected to be in place.



# Overview of ECA Application Process

## When the ministry receives your ECA application:

**Application Screening:** Application is screened for completeness to ensure all necessary supporting documentation for the review has been provided.

- Municipal notification is sent out by the ministry.



### **Technical Review:**

- Local site conditions are considered, including characteristics of the soil, depth to water table, slope of the land and distance to nearby sensitive features (such as surface water features, drinking water wells, and residences).
- Sites with groundwater or surface water implications or other site-specific conditions may undergo a more detailed review.
- Comments and concerns received from the public, including those received on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), are considered. Applicants may be asked to address these comments and concerns.
- A draft ECA is circulated to the applicant for review and feedback.



**Decision:** If a decision is issued to approve the application, the final ECA is provided to the applicant. All decisions are posted to the ERO.

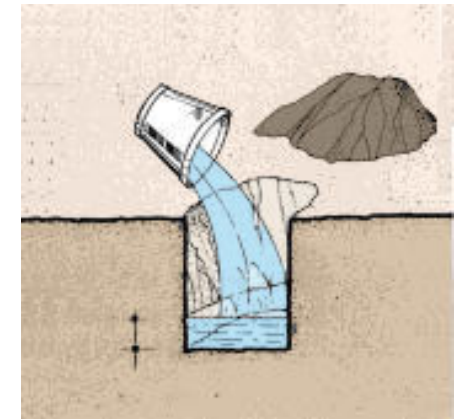
# General ECA Application Requirements



Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks

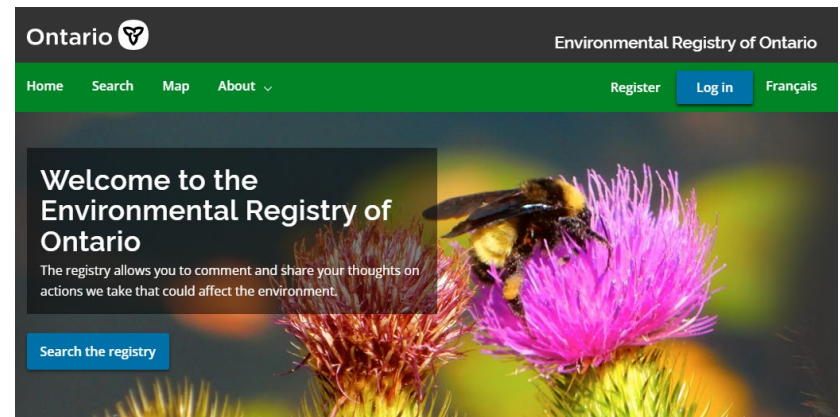
Environmental Compliance Approval  
Application

- A completed **ECA application form**.
  - **Note:** The existing 4-page form and Schedule C forms have been phased out.
- **Site plan** that shows the location of the facility and all relevant features (e.g. surface water features, residences, private and municipal wells, tile inlets etc.).
- Supporting documentation to demonstrate **soil permeability** (T-time) based on a field percolation test or equivalent analysis, such as grain size analysis.



# General ECA Application Requirements

- A copy of the **neighbour notification** and a **list of recipients** of the notification.
  - The notification must include 1) an accurate description of the site's activities and 2) instructions to contact the ministry with any comments at **wasteproposalcomments@ontario.ca**.
- **Note:** the ministry will prepare and post proposal abstracts on the Environmental Registry of Ontario for 45 days for public commenting. This is mandatory and it applies to all facilities, including new sites, amendments, and renewals.
  - During the review process, the ministry will ask the applicant to confirm whether the abstract accurately reflects the site's operations.





# Common Application Issues

T-time without supporting documentation.

Incomplete maps – i.e not showing nearby wells, water features, and tile inlets.

Documentation showing adequate depth to bedrock/groundwater table not submitted.

Surface water setbacks do not meet requirements based on soil permeability and slope of the site.

Residential setbacks distances are not met for individual residences and/or residential areas.

# Summary of Requirements

	Spreading Site	Standard Dewatering Trenches	Non-Standard Dewatering Trenches	Existing Storage Lagoons	New Storage Lagoons
ECA Application Form	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Site Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Soil Permeability Assessment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Documents Showing Minimum Depths to Bedrock and GW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Neighbour Notification	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Financial Assurance		May be applicable	✓	✓	✓
Application Fee					✓
Design and Operations Report		✓	✓	✓	✓
Closure Plan		✓	✓	✓	✓
Pre-submission Consultation with District Office	May be applicable	Encouraged	✓	✓	✓
ERO Posting and Municipal Notification (done by the ministry)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Program Updates

- ECAs now include **cessation dates** instead of expiry dates. At an ECA's cessation date, hauled sewage disposal activities must stop but any applicable storage, monitoring, and closure conditions are ongoing.
  - Cessation dates are typically set at **five years** after the ECA is issued.
- Spreading sites that also include existing storage lagoons will now be issued as **two separate approvals**.
  - The storage ECA will not include an expiry/cessation date that would require renewal applications, but may require ongoing monitoring and/or other requirements and submission of financial assurance re-evaluation every 5 years.
  - For example, a spreading ECA may include a condition that states operators will have one year from the ECA issue date to apply for a separate ECA for the storage system(s) at the site.



# Program Updates

- The most recently updated application form **must** be used to apply for your ECA, even if it's a renewal.
- Incomplete applications will be **returned**. High-quality submissions will eliminate the need for the ministry to return these applications and will shorten the time it takes to issue a decision.
- Operators are recommended to apply for a renewal **at least 6 months** in advance of the existing ECA's expiry/cessation date to ensure continued operations.



# Information and Resources

## **ECA Application Form**

<https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/012-8551>

## **Guide to Applying for an ECA**

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/guide-applying-environmental-compliance-approval/supporting-documentation-and-technical-requirements#section-10>

## **District Office Locator**

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-environment-conservation-and-parks-district-locator>

## **Source Protection Information Atlas**

<https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/SourceWaterProtection/index.html?viewer=SourceWaterProtection.SWPViewer&locale=en-CA>

## **Financial Assurance Information**

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/financial-assurance-environmental-protection>

## **Make an AgMap**

<https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/AgMaps/Index.html?viewer=AgMaps.AgMaps&locale=en-CA>

## **Make a Topographic Map**

[https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/MakeATopographicMap/index.html?viewer=Make\\_A\\_Topographic\\_Map.MATM](https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/MakeATopographicMap/index.html?viewer=Make_A_Topographic_Map.MATM)

# Contact Information

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