

NOTICE OF MINOR AMENDMENTS

MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) has proposed amendments to the MEA Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) to adjust the road activity cost limits in the project schedule tables, which begin on Page 1-4, and bring consistency to the interpretation and application of the lapse of time limit provisions outlined in Sections A.1.4 and A.4.1.1.

The MEA is proposing to amend the cost limits for road works from \$2.2 million to \$2.7 million and \$8.7 million to \$10.7 million, in order to account for increased construction activity costs. These increases reflect the impact of annual inflation rates for the past two years and have been determined through the application of the Ministry of Transportation's Tender Price Index, which shows increases in construction activity costs of 10.24 % and 12.28% during the 2008 and 2009 calendar years, respectively.

In addition, the MEA is also proposing to amend the lapse of time limit provisions outlined in Section A.4.1.1 in the MEA Class EA to ensure consistency between the application of the provisions to Schedule B and C projects, which it had intended to implement during the last five-year review.

Lastly, the MEA is proposing to amend Section A.1.4 of the Class EA to add clarity to the applicability of the lapse of time limit provisions that were amended from 5 years to 10 years during the MEAs most recent five-year review and how this provision affects projects completed under the 2000 Class EA versus the 2007 Class EA.

On October 15, 2009, the MEA posted a Notice of Proposed Amendment on its web site for 30 days to allow interested persons to comment on the proposed amendments. During this period, no comments were received on the proposed amendments. A second Notice of Proposed Amendment that dealt with the 2009 cost limit adjustments for road works was also posted on the MEAs website on January 20, 2010 for a 30 day period. During this period, no comments were received on the proposed amendments.

The Director has determined that the minor amendments will not result in any significant environmental concerns as the amendments serve to update and clarify the use of the planning process outlined in the MEA Class EA. Pursuant to subsection A.1.5.2. of the MEA Municipal Class EA, the minor amendments have been approved by the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch. A copy of the Notice of Minor Amendment has been placed in the public record file and a copy has been provided to the MEA.

The cost limits included in the Project Schedule Tables, which begin on Page 1-4 are amended to increase the cost limit of 2.2 million dollars to 2.7 million dollars and to increase the cost limit of 8.7 million dollars to 10.7 million dollars. As indicated in the MEA Class EA, the MEA Monitoring Committee will continue to review the cost limits on an annual basis and will submit proposed amendments to the MOE, as may be appropriate.

In addition, Section A.4.1.1, outlined on Page A-67, has been amended as follows:

'Similarly, if the period of time from (i) filing of the Notice of Completion of ESR in the public record or (ii) the MOE's denial of a Part II Order request(s), to the commencement of construction for the project exceeds ten (10) years, the proponent shall review the planning and design process and the current environmental setting to ensure that the project and the mitigating measures are still valid given the current planning context. The ten (10) year review will begin from the date of the Minister's or delegate's decision of any Part II Order requests, or at the end of the public review period following the posting of the Notice of Completion where there is no Part II order request.'

Section A.1.4, outlined on Pages A-13 and A-14, has been amended as follows:

'Any Schedule B or C project, for which a Notice of Completion has been issued under the Class EA, may continue under the 2000 Class EA until the project has been completed, however, the 2007 provisions with regard to lapse of time, shall apply with respect to 10 years after project approval and not the 2000 version's 5 years after submission.'

Copies of the Notice of Minor Amendment can be obtained in the public record file located at:

**The Ministry of the Environment
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
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2 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
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(416) 314-8000 (B)
(416) 314-8452 (F)**

Further information on the Municipal Class EA can be obtained at the Municipal Engineers Association Web Site at www.municipalengineers.on.ca.