

MEA Clarification

June 2024

Current Version of the MCEA Manual and MEA's Users Guide

MEA prepared and released a User Guide in September 2023 that works with the 2023 MCEA Manual. However, in February 2024, MECP approved an amendment to the March 3, 2023 MCEA and the 2023 User Guide is no longer current.

MECP felt that the amendments to the MCEA were essential to align it properly with the EAA amendments and associated regulatory changes and related actions which came into force on February 22, 2024. The following are the examples of complementary amendments made to the MCEA:

- Clarifying that the municipal expressway projects are subject to the Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities and Municipal Expressways.
- Adding references to new regulations and removing references to regulations that are revoked, including:
 - O. Reg. 101/07 (Waste Management Projects), O. Reg. 116/01 (Electricity Projects), Regulation 334 (General) and O. Reg. 345/93 (Designation and Exemption - Private Sector Developers)
 - Certain provisions of the O. Reg. 345/93 are carried forward in O. Reg. 53/24 General and Transitional Matters Regulation.
- Addressing regulatory changes to municipal transit projects including:
 - Updating definitions and designations to better align with the new Comprehensive EA Project Regulation (O. Reg 50/24) including removing municipal transit projects which are exempt.
- Aligning the content of the MCEA with other provisions of the EAA that came into force in recent years, as well as other legislation. For example:
 - Removing references to A and A+ projects as those project schedules no longer exist and A and A+ projects became exempt projects.

The February 2024 amendments to the MCEA will not like impact most municipal projects. A track change version of the recent amendments to the Municipal Class EA (MCEA) is available [HERE](#).

MEA understands that MECP still intends to revoke the MCEA and introduce a MPAP regulation. The current (2024) MCEA will remain in effect until such time as a new regulation is made. The current posting ([New regulation to focus municipal environmental assessment requirements | Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)) is only a proposal at this stage and proponents must continue to follow the MCEA in order to meet their EA Act requirements.