

## INFORMATION BULLETIN:

### Amendments to the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Class Environmental Assessment Process September 2008

On September 11, 2008, minor amendments to the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MEI) Class Environmental Assessment Process were approved by the Ministry of the Environment. The new amended version of the MEI Class EA can be downloaded from the ORC external website at the following webpage:

[http://www.ontariorealty.ca/What\\_We\\_Do/Environment\\_Heritage.htm](http://www.ontariorealty.ca/What_We_Do/Environment_Heritage.htm)

#### In this bulletin, find out:

- What are Environmental Assessments?
- What are the changes to the Class EA?
- When were changes made to the Class EA and when do they come into effect?
- What to do if you have further questions?

#### What are Environmental Assessments?

The realty and property management activities performed on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MEI), not related to electricity projects, are subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Environmental assessments promote good environmental planning by assessing the potential effects of infrastructure projects before the project-related activity commences. The term "environment" includes the natural, cultural heritage and socio-economic environments.

The EA process serves several important purposes by:

- Gathering information from a wide variety of sources, including the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government, stakeholders and the public;
- Identifying potential problems prior to construction or any physical activity;
- Promoting good environmental planning practices;
- Improving community acceptance; and,
- Better protecting the environment.

A Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process has been established for the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) under the former Management Board Secretariat (MBS) that was last approved in April 2004. Class EAs provide a systematic and self-regulating approach to conducting environmental assessments for specific project types or classes of activities and are based on the potential for environmental effects.

#### What are the changes to the Class EA?

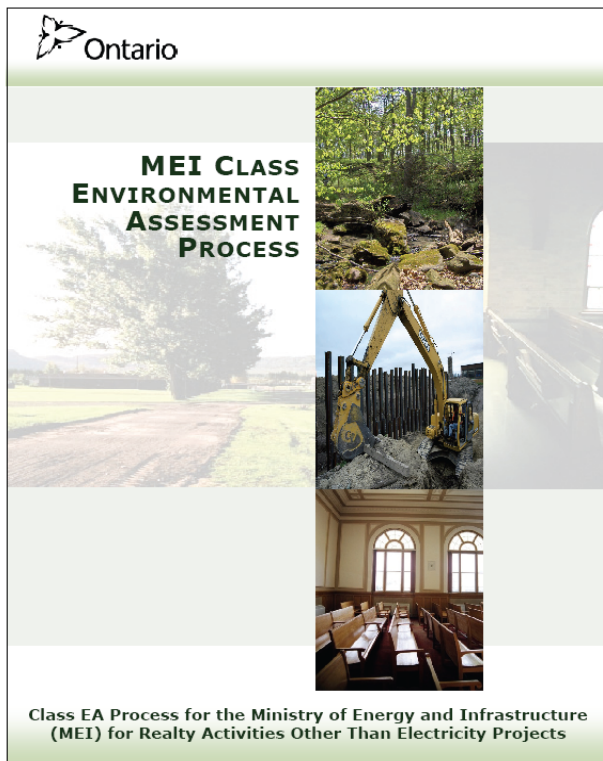
MEI has been working closely with ORC and its other agency, Infrastructure Ontario (IO) to identify and make improvements to the existing Class EA. These changes will help to improve overall efficiency in carrying out Class EA projects for low risk activities while still providing sufficient protection for activities that have a greater potential to cause environmental effects.

#### There are five (5) main changes made to the Class EA:

1. Change the proponent of the Class EA from MBS to MEI to reflect the change in the successor ministry responsible for public works. This includes a new description of MEI and its agencies authorized to act on its behalf (*i.e.*, ORC and IO).

The new title is, "***Class Environmental Assessment Process for the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure for Realty Activities Other Than Electricity Projects***".

2. Removed the requirement for documentation of Category A undertakings.



(new cover of MEI Class EA document)

3. Clarify the naming and/or definition of 16 undertakings of activities, and three (3) facility subgroups under the Class EA and rectify inconsistencies (presented further below).
4. Remove 11 non-physical, administrative and routine Category A undertakings from the MEI Class EA (presented further below).
5. Correct typographical error in Figure 2.2 Category Listing Matrix (*Category A, instead of Category B, for Easements on Transmission Corridor Lands for Secondary*

**When were the changes made to the Class EA and when do they come into effect?**

The changes to the Class EA were submitted by MEI to the Ministry of the Environment as “minor amendments” in May 2008 and were approved and made effective on **September 11, 2008**.

**What are the changes to the naming and/or definitions for the undertakings and facility subgroups?**

Previous Undertaking Wording	New Undertaking Wording
1. Leasing & Renewals (no change in use)	Leasing and Licensing from (no change in use) <i>(new definition for Licensing)</i>
2. Leasing & Renewals (with change in use)	Leasing and Licensing from (change in use) <i>(new definition for Licensing)</i>
3. Letting & Renewals (no change in use)	Letting and Licensing to (no change in use) <i>(new definition for Licensing)</i>
4. Letting & Renewals (with change in use)	Letting and Licensing to (change in use) <i>(new definition for Licensing)</i>
5. Contaminant Search & Decommissioning Estimates	Contaminant Search
6. Purchase	Acquisition <i>(definition change)</i>
7. Lease Purchase	<i>(definition change only)</i>
8. Grants	Disposition <i>(definition change; “grants” moved into “disposition”)</i>
9. Sale or Disposal	
10. Sale or Disposal with ESA to Conservation Body	Disposition with ESA to Conservation Body
11. Sale or Disposal with ESA to non-Conservation Body	Disposition with ESA to non-Conservation Body
12. Demolition	Demolition <i>(definition change only)</i>

13. Additions	Building Additions <i>(definition change)</i>
14. Construction of New Facility	<i>(definition change only – includes new definition of “building”)</i>
15. Building Maintenance (Interior & Exterior)	Building Maintenance and Repair (Interior & Exterior)
16. Building Repair (Interior & Exterior)	<i>(combined into single undertaking)</i>

Previous Facility Sub-Group Wording	New Facility Sub-Group Wording
1. Project D.A.R.E Facilities	<i>(Remove as a separate sub-group)</i>
2. MBS Cultural Heritage Properties	MEI Cultural Heritage Properties
3. MBS Heritage Support Properties	MEI Heritage Support Properties

*(To see the details of the new definitions indicated above, please refer to the amended version of the MEI Class EA document.)*

**Which undertakings have been removed from the MEI Class EA?**

The following list of eleven (11) non-physical, administrative undertakings have been removed from the Class EA and do not require any further environmental assessment:

Undertakings Removed From MEI Class EA
1. Appraisals
2. Consultant Agreements
3. Decommissioning Estimates
4. Lease Administration
5. Legal Services
6. Market & Realty Services
7. Mortgages
8. Optioning (Real Property, Easements & ROWs)
9. Real Estate Profile Reporting
10. Surveys
11. Title Search

**What do I do if I have further questions?**

Training sessions and additional technical bulletins are being planned for internal staff and for external service providers, however, if you have questions that need to be addressed immediately, please contact:

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