



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region
600-55 York Street
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario
600-55 rue York
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

March 8, 2021

Sent by email

Invitation for Input

Deborah Martin-Downs, Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Debbie Ramsay, Niagara Escarpment Commission

Dear Colleague:

Subject: Designation Request for the Proposed Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant Project under the *Impact Assessment Act*

On February 25, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change received a request to designate the proposed Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA). The designation request from the Coalition for the West Credit River is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

The Proposed Project

The Town of Erin (the proponent) is proposing to construct, operate and maintain a new wastewater treatment plant located southeast of the Village of Erin in Wellington County, Ontario. The Project would provide wastewater servicing to the Village of Erin and Hillsburgh. Treated effluent would be discharged to the West Credit River at Winston Churchill Boulevard.

The Project as proposed is not a designated project as described in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The impact assessment process under the IAA only applies to designated projects.

Further information on the Project can be found on the Town of Erin's website at www.wastewater.erin.ca.

Provincial Process

The Town of Erin has completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for the Project to meet the requirements of Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. In June 2018, the Government of Ontario received three Part II Order

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requests asking that the Town of Erin be required to prepare an individual environmental assessment. On August 29, 2019, the Government of Ontario decided that an individual environmental assessment is not required and allowed the Town of Erin to proceed with the Project, subject to any other permits or approvals required. The Final Environmental Study Report and the Government of Ontario's approval with reasons are available on the Town of Erin's project website at www.wastewater.erin.ca/study_documents.

Designation Request

Under subsection 9(1) of the IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister may do this, if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions, including funding), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of the IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request by May 26, 2021.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) will review information about the Project, any concerns expressed by the public and Indigenous groups, expert advice from federal authorities and input from provincial ministries, municipalities and other authorities to prepare a recommendation to the Minister on whether to designate the Project. If the Project were designated by the Minister, the Town of Erin would be prohibited from carrying out the Project and would be required to submit an Initial Project Description, thereby commencing the planning phase of the IAA. During the planning phase, the Agency would determine whether an impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

Invitation for Input

The Agency notes that the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process completed by the Town of Erin included consultation with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. However, to further support the Agency's analysis of the designation request, we wish to invite the views and input from representatives of your organizations.

In particular, the Agency would like to confirm whether any permits, approvals or other decisions administered by your organization apply to the Project.

- If applicable, would any of those involve consultation with the public and Indigenous groups?
- If applicable, what environmental, social, economic or health issues would those requirements address?
- Would the mechanism set conditions and, if so, what relevant issues would those conditions address?
- Are there norms that the proponent would be reasonably expected to follow to manage effects (such as standard design features and mitigation, and existing guidance documents)?

In general, please confirm whether the Town of Erin has addressed the interests and issues of importance to your organization. The Agency will be pleased to receive any other comments. Given the legislated timeline for the Minister to make a decision, your response is requested by **Monday, March 22, 2021**

Responses to the request should be emailed to Jeff Balsdon, Project Manager, at Jeffrey.Balsdon@Canada.ca. Jeff can also be reached at 902-219-4228.

In the coming days, a Registry page for the Project will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations

Important Note: All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process—unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act*—are considered public and may be released. The Agency's Submission Policy¹ determines which submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice.²

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¹ <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

² <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>

If you have any questions regarding the designation process or the response sheet, please do not hesitate to contact Jeff by telephone or email.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Anjala Puvananathan
Director, Ontario Region

Enclosure: Designation request letter from the Coalition for the West Credit River

c.c.: Tyler Slaght, Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Lisa Grbinicek, Niagara Escarpment Commission
Sara Eddy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ian Thornton, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry