

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 24, 2019
TO: Council
FROM: Kevin De Leebeeck, P.Eng. Director of Operations
SUBJECT: **PUBLIC WORKS SALT STORAGE FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The purpose of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act is to provide for:

... the betterment of the people of the whole or any part of Ontario by providing for the protection, conservation and wise management in Ontario of the environment.

“Environment” is applied in the broad sense and includes the natural, social, cultural, built and economic environments.

The EA Act identifies two types of environmental assessment planning and approval process:

- Individual Environmental Assessments for those projects which a Terms of Reference and an individual environmental assessment are carried out and submitted to the Minister of the Environment for review and approval.
- Class Environmental Assessments for those projects which are approved subject to compliance with an approved class environmental assessment process with respect to a class of undertakings. Provided the approved process is followed, a proponent has complied with the EA Act.

In 1987, the first Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process (EAs), prepared by the Municipal Engineers Associations (MEA) on behalf of Ontario municipalities was approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment (EA) Act. The Municipal Class EA applies to municipal infrastructure projects including roads, water and wastewater (sanitary and storm) projects. Since projects undertaken by municipalities can vary in their environmental impact, such projects are classified in the Class EA in terms of schedules:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generally includes normal or emergency operational and maintenance activities • the environmental effects of these activities are usually minimal and, therefore, these projects are pre-approved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule A+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These projects are pre-approved, however the public is to be advised prior to project implementation. The manner in which the public is advised is to be determined by the proponent.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generally includes improvements and minor expansions to existing facilities • there is the potential for some adverse environmental impacts and therefore the proponent is required to proceed through a screening process including consultation with those who may be affected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generally includes the construction of new facilities and major expansions to existing facilities • these projects proceed through the environmental assessment planning process outlined in the Class EA

The Class EA process provides the framework for environmental assessment planning of municipal infrastructure projects to fulfil the requirements of the EA Act. It is neither an all-inclusive “checklist” nor a detailed “how to” manual. It establishes the principles and certain minimum mandatory requirements and provides the flexibility to allow different proponents to meet the needs of specific projects while ensuring that the requirements of the EA Act are met.

Furthermore given the contemplated scope of work, Site Plan Control will also be required pursuant to the Planning Act and the Towns Site Control By-law 3513. Coordinating the Site Plan Control and EA process allows both requirements to be met more effectively within 2019 allowing for the necessary approvals to be secured with actual construction anticipated in 2020/2021.