

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Streamlining Permissions for Storm Water Management Works through the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry

Source to Stream Conference

March 31, 2026

Purpose

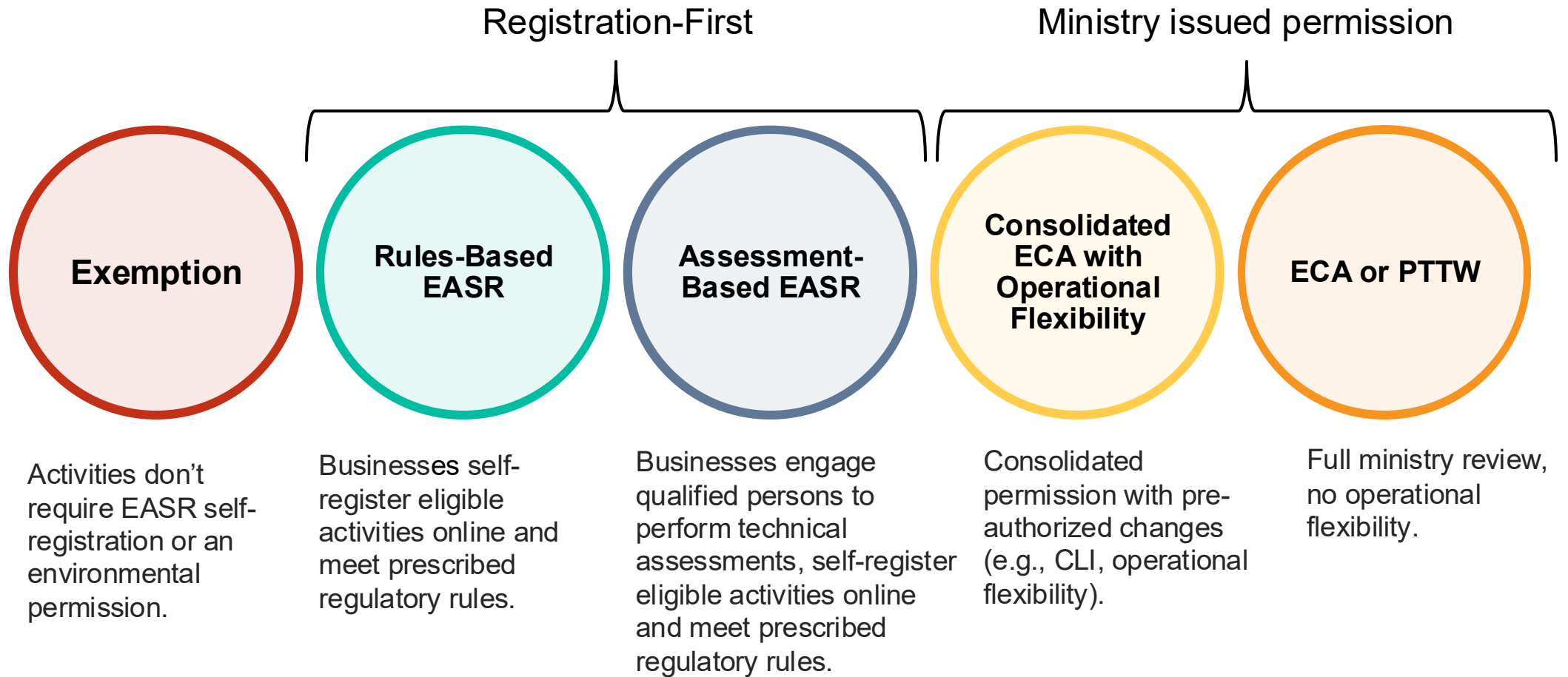
Provide a summary of changes made to streamline environmental permissions for storm water management works in Ontario.

Context

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP):

- ▶ Introduced a new regulation ([O. Reg. 137/25](#)) under the *Environmental Protection Act* to require proponents to register certain storm water management works online instead of requiring a ministry reviewed permission, while following a prescribed set of environmentally protective requirements.
- ▶ The [decision](#) was posted on the Environmental Registry on July 22, 2025.
- ▶ The regulation came into effect on September 1, 2025.

Ontario's Environmental Permissions Framework



*EASR: Environmental Activity and Sector Registry
*ECA: Environmental Compliance Approval
*PTTW: Permit To Take Water
*CLI: Consolidated Linear Infrastructure

Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)

- The registration-first approach allows proponents to self-register certain well understood activities online and start operations immediately.
- Proponents must follow rules prescribed in sector-specific regulations (e.g., design requirements, environmental outcomes, operation and maintenance, spills response etc.) and need to retain qualified persons to complete certain technical assessments (for assessed EASRs).
- Implemented through an online registration portal for each EASR.
- **Over 13,900 registrations** to date.

Ontario ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY AND SECTOR REGISTRY Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks HELP

Activity

Select an Activity

- Air Emissions
- Automotive Refinishing Facility
- End-of-Life Vehicle Waste Disposal Sites
- Printing Facility
- Small Scale Brewery Facility
- Solar Facility
- Waste Transportation System
- Storm Water Management Works
- Water Taking Activities

Automotive Refinishing
[O. Reg. 347/12](#)

Commercial Printing
[O. Reg. 349/12](#)

Non-Hazardous Waste Transportation Systems
[O. Reg. 351/12](#)

Small Ground-Mounted Solar
[O. Reg. 350/12](#)

End-of-Life Vehicles Waste Disposal Site
[O. Reg. 85/16](#)

Water Takings for Highway and Transit Projects, Construction Site Dewatering, and Pumping Tests
[O. Reg. 63/16](#)

Air Emissions
[O. Reg. 1/17](#)

Small Scale Breweries
[O. Reg. 102/23](#)

SWM EASR: Subject to Registration

The SWM EASR regulation prescribes the following activities for self-registration:

The use, operation, establishment, alteration, extension or replacement of any new or existing stormwater management works, provided that:

- the stormwater management works must not be owned or assumed by a municipality or certain municipal entities managing sewage utilities.
- the processing, repair or maintenance of goods and materials at the property, if any, are conducted indoors.
- no discharge of process water, cooling water, wash water or sanitary sewage can be received by the works.

Note: There is a list of ineligible sites (in the coming slides) that continue to require an ECA, even if they meet the above-mentioned criteria.

Eligible Sites: Examples				
Residential Uses	Apartments	Townhomes	Group homes	
	Boarding houses	Houses	Residential clubs	
Commercial Uses	Banks	Libraries	Department stores	Motels
	Offices	Markets	Shops	Exhibition halls
	Television studios	Hair salons	Beauty parlors	
	Stadiums	Restaurants	Movie theatres	Stores
	Museums	Hotels	Lodging houses	
	Institutional Uses	Places of worship	Daycare facilities	Hospitals
		Schools	Universities	Colleges
Rehabilitation centers		Infirmarys	Nursing homes	
Police stations		Assisted living facilities	Prisons	
Light Industrial Uses		Cardlock facility	Auto service stations	Warehouses
	Workshops	Self-storage facilities	Gas stations	

SWM EASR: Ineligible Sites

- A waste disposal site as defined in Part V of the Act.
- An abandoned motor vehicle site as defined in Part VII of the Act.
- A snow disposal facility or site for the storage of snow where the predominant use of the site is for the retention, control, storage or disposal of snow.
- A bulk plant as defined in *Ontario Regulation 217/01* (Liquid Fuels) made under the *Technical Standards and Safety Act*.
- A road salt storage facility; golf course; airport; renewable energy generation facility; greenhouse
- A shipyard and any associated maintenance facility
- An outdoor surface consisting of aggregate that includes basic oxygen furnace slag.
- A site at which any of the following activities take place:
 - Outdoor repair and maintenance of motorized vehicles, equipment, and heavy machinery
 - Activities described under NAICS codes: 31 to 33 (Manufacturing), 21 (Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction), 2211 (Electric power generation, transmission and distribution), 2212 (Natural gas distribution), 418110 (Recyclable metal merchant wholesalers).
- Stormwater management works that are identified as a significant drinking water threat, and the relevant source protection plan prohibits the establishment of the works.



Maintaining Environmental Protection

- Proponents are required to comply with the new regulation, which establishes rules to maintain environmental protection. Among other things, the regulation requires:
 - a licensed engineering practitioner (LEP) prepare a storm water management works (SWM) report
 - that the storm water management works report include information and requirements for the design of the works, operation and maintenance of the works, monitoring requirements (where recommended), considerations of source protection and erosion and sediment control measures.
 - proponents of these works to implement requirements set out in the SWM report.
- Source water protection considerations
 - The regulation includes requirements to mitigate risks from SWM works that are or would be a significant drinking water threat
 - The SWM report must include source protection considerations such as design and operation of the works must be intended to meet the objective that the activity ceases to be or never becomes a significant drinking water threat.

SWM EASR: General Requirements

Title	Requirement
Landowner Consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain consent from the owner of the site or sewage works, if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the works are not located on land that is not owned by the owner. ✓ the works are discharging to land or sewage works that is not owned by the owner.
Site Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP must conduct a site assessment of the catchment area of the works to obtain information such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the works are prescribed for registration in EASR ✓ description of activities taking place in catchment area and associated contaminants ✓ description of quality and quantity of storm water ✓ assessment of precipitation and drainage patterns, site contours and hydrological conditions of the catchment area ✓ assessment to determine if works is a significant drinking water threat (SDWT) including an identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ applicable source protection area ✓ wellhead protection area ✓ surface water intake zone
Special Policy Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the requirements as required by other regulations. Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ a development permit must be obtained (if required) for works located in an area of development control within the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area.
SDWT Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP must include a description of how the design, operations and maintenance, and erosion and sediment control plan mitigates the risk for works assessed to be a significant drinking water threat (SDWT). • Provide written notice to source protection authority before operations begin for works that are SDWT.

SWM EASR: SWM Report Requirements

Title	Requirement
Design Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The LEP must provide all the design details associated with the works, including design criteria, design calculations, storage and treatment capacity, manufacturer’s specifications, treatment technology, etc.• For works discharging to the natural environment, or works that are a significant drinking water threat, the design must achieve “enhanced protection”, i.e., 80% long term removal of suspended solids.• The LEP must provide details of any design considerations related to works that are a significant drinking water threat, that are in special policy areas (Lake Simcoe, Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, Greenbelt), that receive stormwater from sites with outdoor storage, that discharge to the natural environment, etc.
Engineering Drawings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The LEP must provide a set of engineering drawings that include all the relevant design information and details.• The LEP must also provide a set of as-built drawings upon completion of construction of the works to the Owner, that is to be retained for the lifetime of the works.
Monitoring Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The LEP must complete an assessment to determine whether monitoring is necessary for the discharge from the stormwater management works. This determination could be based on site specific considerations such as the receiving environment, municipal or special policy area requirements, protecting sources of drinking water, etc.• If monitoring is necessary, the LEP must propose a monitoring plan indicating the parameters to be monitored, their effluent objectives, monitoring/sampling locations, corrective actions if objectives are exceeded, etc.

SWM EASR: SWM Report Requirements

Title	Requirement
Operations and Maintenance Manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LEP must provide a description of the inspection, maintenance and repair procedures and the frequency of when these activities must be completed.• LEP must provide contingency plans and procedures to be implemented during abnormal situations such as, emergency shutdown of the works, spills, equipment breakdowns or emergency situations.• As a minimum, the works must be inspected at least once per year and as soon as practicable after each significant storm event (>25 mm of rain at a location in any 24-hour period).
Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LEP must provide details of any erosion and sediment control measures that must be implemented during any construction activities at the site to prevent sediment run-off.• The plan must include a description of the measures, along with any inspection and maintenance procedures including frequency (minimum of every 2 weeks as soon as practicable following each significant storm event).
Upload Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SWM Report must be signed, dated and sealed by a LEP, prior to self-registration.• SWM Report must be uploaded as part of the registration process.• SWM Report must be available to anyone constructing, operating, altering, extending or replacing the SWM works.

SWM EASR: Post Registration

Title	Requirement
Operation of Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all the procedures set out by the LEP in the SWM report. • Ensure that the effluent is free from floating and settleable solids and does not contain any oil or other substance that will create a visible film, sheen, foam or discoloration on the receiving waters.
Spill Contingency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and implement a spill contingency plan (SCP) for site when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ there is outdoor storage or handling of soil, raw materials, intermediate and finished products or byproducts ✓ the works are assessed to be a SDWT • SCP must contain procedures to prevent or reduce the risk of a spill and procedures to prevent, eliminate or ameliorate any adverse effects resulting from a spill. • Maintain an inventory of spill response and clean-up equipment and provide training to staff on an annual basis.
Records and Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and retain all records for minimum 5 years, including records related to inspections, maintenance and repairs, monitoring, complaints and abnormal situations. • LEP must provide a set of as-built drawings within 6 months of the completion of construction of the works to the owner, that is to be retained for the lifetime of the works. • Notify the MECP District Office of any effluent objective exceedances (when monitoring is required) and notify the MECP Spills Action Centre when a spill occurs. • Retain the following records for the lifetime of the works (as applicable): landowner's consent, other permits and authorizations, manufacturers specification sheets and copies of agreements, as-built drawings of the works and spills contingency plan.

Compliance

- The ministry is implementing an auditing process for verifying information submitted in the registry, which will support the ministry's compliance efforts.
- In addition, the ministry will continue to enforce compliance through inspections, incidents, complaints and spills.
 - Compliance and enforcement tools range from education & outreach to requests for investigation and potential prosecution.
 - Non-compliance will be addressed in accordance with the ministry's updated [Compliance Policy](#).

Other tools available to enforce compliance

- Section 20 Notice under O. Reg. 137/25 – Storm Water Management Works (Director's notice)
 - A Director can issue a notice when the Director has a reasonable grounds to believe that the discharge has caused or may cause an adverse effect.
 - Require a LEP to prepare a monitoring plan and/or specified records be created or kept in respect of monitoring.
- Section 20.23 Order under the *Environmental Protection Act* (EPA)
 - A Director can suspend or remove a registration in respect of an activity for a works that is engaging in the activity that is violating the EPA, *Ontario Water Resources Act*, or the regulations made under either of those Acts.

Additional Resources

➤ Regulation

- ✓ [O. Reg. 137/25: REGISTRATIONS UNDER PART II.2 OF THE ACT - STORM WATER MANAGEMENT WORKS](#)

➤ Guidance

- ✓ [Environmental Activity and Sector Registry | ontario.ca](#)
- ✓ [Storm water management works guidance for the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry](#)
- ✓ [Preparing a storm water management report](#)
- ✓ [Significant drinking water threat assessment](#)

➤ Contact

- ✓ Client Services and Permissions Branch
Phone: 416-314-8001 (Toll-free: 1-800-461-6290), Mon to Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
E-mail: enviopermissions@ontario.ca

Thank you!

