

REGION OF PEEL

PUBLIC WORKS DESIGN, SPECIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES MANUAL

Environmental Assessment Process

REVISED July 2009

1. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 1) An Environmental Assessment is a decision-making process used to promote good environmental planning by assessing the potential effects and benefits of certain activities on the environment. In the Region of Peel, this process is defined and finds its authority in the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA). The purpose of the EAA is to provide for the protection, conservation, and wise management of the environment. To achieve this, the EAA ensures that environmental problems or opportunities and alternatives are considered and their effects are planned for before development or building takes place.

Environment as defined in the EA Act:

1. air, land or water,
 2. plant and animal life, including human life
 3. the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or a community
 4. any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humans
 5. any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from human activities, or
 6. any part or combination of the foregoing and the inter-relationships between any or more of them in or of Ontario.
- 2) In order to comply within EAA requirements all Region of Peel projects are subject to screening through the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process.
 - 3) The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment outlines a procedure whereby municipalities shall comply with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act. The most recent version of the Municipal Class EA was approved by the Ministry of the Environment in June 2000. A copy of the Municipal Class EA document can be ordered from the Ontario Good Roads Association.

For additional information, please contact the Region's Development Services Section.