

From: [Permissions Modernization \(MECP\)](#)
To: [Permissions Modernization \(MECP\)](#)
Cc: [Malcolmson, Heather \(MECP\)](#); [Obaid, Juwairia \(MECP\)](#)
Subject: Streamlining environmental permissions for construction site dewatering activities and residential foundation drainage systems
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 4:30:36 PM

Good afternoon,

Ontario is streamlining environmental permissions by creating smarter and more efficient environmental permissions processes that reduce unnecessary burden for businesses while protecting human health and the natural environment.

We have proceeded with amendments to Ontario Regulation 63/16 to move additional construction site dewatering activities to a registration-first approach by removing the volumetric restriction such that proponents would be required to self-register construction dewatering activities online on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) regardless of the volume of water taking, allowing them to start operations immediately without requiring a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) or an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA).

The regulation continues to require environmentally protective measures such as monitoring plans, erosion and sediment control, and treatment measures that have been included in the reports to safeguard that the taking of water and subsequent discharge do not cause adverse effects.

Ontario Regulation 387/04 has been amended to exempt foundation drainage systems used primarily for residential purposes, for takings of up to 379,000 litres of water per day, from requiring approval or self-registration.

These amendments will streamline permissions for housing and infrastructure projects, enabling them to begin faster while reducing regulatory burden on businesses, developers, and municipalities. Reducing regulatory burden for housing and infrastructure projects also reduces regulatory process duplications, supports efforts to create much needed housing supply in Ontario, boosts the province's economy and supports job creation. Registered activities are required to comply with requirements set out in sector specific regulations to maintain environmental protection.

Both amendments will come into effect July 1, 2025.

More information about these changes is available on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#). If you are interested in attending a Fall training session, you may provide your contact details by visiting the Microsoft form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/N2xy3WhwJt>.

Until the regulation comes into effect, if you require a PTTW, we encourage you to apply for your permit through the environmental [permissions](#) on-line services. Please note that as of September 1, 2025, the ministry will require that all PTTW applications be submitted through this online application process.

If you require assistance setting up your online account, registering on the EASR, or applying for a permit, you can reach out to:

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division
Client Services and Permissions Branch

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Thank you,

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