

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Changes to permission requirements for storm water management works

As of September 1, 2025, certain **new** storm water management works will be required to register in the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR). In addition, certain sites with Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECA) in place may be required to transition to the EASR if they are proposing certain changes to their operation.

How are requirements changing?

Registering in Environmental Activity and Sector Registry

Storm water management works that meet the following criteria are required to register in the EASR instead of applying for an ECA:

- The works are not owned by a municipality and will not be transferred or assumed by a municipality
- All processing, repair or maintenance of goods and materials is conducted indoors
- No discharge of process water, cooling water, wash water or sanitary sewage is collected or received by the storm water management works

However, storm water management works that service the following sites **cannot** be registered in the EASR and will continue to require an ECA:

- waste disposal and abandoned motor vehicle sites as defined in [Environmental Protection Act](#)
 - snow disposal sites and road salt storage facilities
 - bulk liquid fuel sites as defined in [O. Reg. 217/01](#) under Technical Standards and Safety Act
 - renewable energy generation facilities, golf courses and greenhouses
 - shipyards and associated maintenance areas
 - Aerodromes as defined in [Aeronautics Act](#) (Canada)
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- facilities with outdoor surfaces made with aggregate that includes basic oxygen furnace slag
- sites with outdoor repair and maintenance of motorized vehicles, equipment and heavy machinery
- Manufacturing with NAICS codes 31 - 33, mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction with NAICS codes 21, and electrical power generation, transmission and distribution with NAICS codes 2211
- natural gas distribution with NAICS code 2212 and recyclable metal wholesalers with NAICS code 418110

The following are excluded from registering in the EASR and from applying for an ECA:

- storm water management works that are identified as a significant drinking water threat and the relevant source protection plan, prepared under the Clean Water Act, includes a policy that prohibits the establishment of **new** storm water management works where the works are proposed to be located.

Learn more by reviewing [Ontario Regulation 137/25](#) and our [decision notice](#) on the Environment Registry of Ontario.

Exemptions

The following activities are now exempt from needing an environmental permission:

- Low impact development (LID) works on a lot or parcel of land that is used primarily for a residential purpose and contains residential buildings only - no longer require an environmental permission including when a sanitary sewage system is located on the same property.
- drainage works that are owned by Metrolinx or another transit authority that collect and drain storm water from passenger rail tracks no longer require an environmental permission.

For more information about when an environmental permission is not required, see [Ontario Regulation 525/98](#) under the Ontario Water Resources Act.

How does this impact me?

Applicants for an Environmental Compliance Approval

If you have submitted an application for an ECA for storm water management works to the ministry before September 1, 2025, for an activity that will be subject to registration in the EASR, you have a choice whether to continue with your ECA application or withdraw your application and register your activity in the EASR after September 1, 2025.

Any fees that you have submitted with your application will be returned to you if you decide to withdraw. There is no fee for registering in the EASR.

Existing Environmental Compliance Approval holders

If you have an ECA that authorizes your storm water management works, your ECA terms and conditions will continue to apply. If you need an administrative amendment such as a name change or mailing address change you may apply for an amendment to your ECA. If you choose to register your storm water management works in the EASR you must meet the criteria to register and follow the requirements in [Ontario Regulation 137/25](#), this includes uploading a storm water management report that has been prepared by a licensed engineering practitioner in the EASR.

New Storm Water Management Works that Meet the Criteria to Register

On September 1, 2025, you must follow [Ontario Regulation 137/25](#) and self-register your works in the EASR. See [Environmental Activity and Sector Registry](#) for more information.

How can I register in the EASR?

To register your storm water management works in EASR you will need to sign-in through your My Ontario Account to [access environmental permissions online services](#).

Learn more about [How to set up and manage an account to access environmental permissions online services](#).

Where can I get more information?

For more information, review the new regulation [Ontario Regulation 137/25](#) included with the [decision notice](#) on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. For more information about EASRs, visit the ministry's [Environmental Activity and Sector Registry](#) homepage.

If you have additional questions, contact the Client Services and Permissions Branch:

- by phone at 416-314-8001 (toll-free: 1-800-461-6290), Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - by e-mail at enviropemissions@ontario.ca
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