

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Changes to permission requirements for water taking activities

On July 1, 2025, additional construction site dewatering activities will be subject to registration on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) and foundation drainage systems used primarily for residential purposes will be exempt from requiring a Permit to Take Water (PTTW).

How are requirements changing?

Water takings that meet the following criteria may be subject to registration:

- **construction site dewatering activities** that take more than 50,000 litres of ground water, storm water or a combination of both per day on any day

Note: there is no longer an upper volumetric threshold determining what construction site dewatering activities can register. Surface water takings are still excluded from registering in the EASR.

Water takings that meet the following criteria are exempt from requiring a PTTW:

- **residential foundation drainage systems** where takings are less than 379,000 litres of water per day.

For more details, visit [O. Reg. 63/16](#), [O. Reg. 387/04](#) or the [decision notice](#). The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (ministry) is working on updating guidance related to the water taking EASR registrations.

How does this impact me?

Existing registrants

If you registered your construction site dewatering activity before July 1, 2025, your water taking EASR will continue to be valid. You will not be subject to the new requirements under the updated regulation.

Please note that if any information submitted at the time of registration changes, you must update this information within 30 days of becoming aware that the information is no longer current or accurate.

Permit to Take Water applicants

If you have submitted a PTTW application to the ministry before July 1, 2025, for an activity that will be subject to the registration under the updated regulation, you may decide to continue with your PTTW application or withdraw your application and register your activity on or after July 1, 2025. Applications for activities that are subject to registration that are received after July 1, 2025, will be returned.

Any fees that you have submitted with your application will be returned to you if you decide to withdraw or your application is returned.

Permit to Take Water holders for exempt activities

If you have a PTTW for foundation drainage systems used primarily for residential purposes that are exempt under the updated regulation, then you may request revocation of your PTTW as of July 1, 2025. If you have submitted an application for this type of activity, you can withdraw your application, and your application fee will be returned.

How can I register for an EASR?

To register an EASR, you will need to sign-in through your My Ontario Account to [access environment 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 on EASRs, visit the ministry's [EASR homepage](#).

If you have further 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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