



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region  
600-55 York Street  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario  
600-55 rue York  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

March 9, 2021

Sent by email

Chief Mark Hill  
Six Nations of the Grand River  
2498 Chiefswood Road  
P.O. Box 5000  
Ohsweken ON N0A 1M0  
markhill@sixnations.ca

Dear Chief Mark Hill:

**Subject: Designation Request for the Proposed Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant Project under the *Impact Assessment Act***

On February 25, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change received a request to designate the proposed Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA). The designation request from the Coalition for the West Credit River is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

**The Proposed Project**

The Town of Erin is proposing to construct, operate and maintain a new wastewater treatment plant located southeast of the Village of Erin in Wellington County, Ontario. The Project would provide wastewater servicing to the Village of Erin and Hillsburgh. Treated effluent would be discharged to the West Credit River at Winston Churchill Boulevard.

The Project as proposed is not a designated project as described in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The impact assessment process under the IAA only applies to designated projects.

Further information on the Project can be found on the Town of Erin's website at [www.wastewater.erin.ca](http://www.wastewater.erin.ca).

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### **Designation Process**

Under subsection 9(1) of the IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister may do this, if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions, including funding), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of the IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request by May 26, 2021.

The Agency will review information about the Project; any comments from your community, from the public and other Indigenous groups; and technical advice from relevant federal authorities and provincial ministries in order to prepare a recommendation to the Minister on whether the Project should be designated. If the Project were designated by the Minister, the Town of Erin would be prohibited from carrying out the Project and would be required to submit an Initial Project Description, thereby commencing the planning phase of the IAA. During the planning phase, the Agency would determine whether an impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests can be found on the Agency's website at the following link: [www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html). The Agency will provide advice to the Minister in relation to the applicability of the relevant factors listed in this guidance to the Project.

In the coming days, a Registry page for the Project will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at [www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations](http://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations).

### **Provincial Process**

The Town of Erin has completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Schedule C) process for the Project, commencing in 2016, to meet the requirements of Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. On August 29, 2019, the Government of Ontario approved the assessment allowing the Town of Erin to proceed with the Project, subject to any other permits or approvals required. The Final Environmental Study Report and the Government of Ontario's decision are available on the Town of Erin's project website at [www.wastewater.erin.ca/study\\_documents](http://www.wastewater.erin.ca/study_documents).

The Agency understands that in addition to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, further permits and approvals may be required for the Project.

### **Opportunity to Comment**

The Agency understands that the completed Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process included opportunities for participation, and that additional opportunities may occur in relation to various permits and approvals. Should you have additional input to support the Agency's analysis of the designation request, you are invited to provide it to the Agency. Given the 90-day legislated timeline for the Minister to make a decision, please provide any comments you may have by **March 23, 2021**.

**Important Note:** All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process—unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act*—are considered public and may be released. The Agency's Submission Policy<sup>1</sup> determines which submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice.<sup>2</sup>

### **COVID-19 Constraints on Participation**

The Agency recognizes the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges they may present. The Agency will work to adapt where possible to support your community within the legislated 90-day timeline.

### **Next Steps**

The Minister's determination on whether the Project is to be designated, with reasons, will be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site. Should the Project be designated, the Agency will contact you to discuss further steps under the IAA.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>

**Agency Contact**

Further questions or comments regarding the federal designation request process can be directed to Jeff Balsdon, Project Manager by email at Jeffrey.Balsdon@Canada.ca or by telephone at 902-219-4228

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Anjala Puvananathan  
Director, Ontario Region

Enclosure: Designation request letter from the Coalition for the  
West Credit River

c.c.: Lonny Bomberry, Six Nations of the Grand River  
Robbin Wanstone, Six Nations of the Grand River

