

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON JUNE 23, 2020
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P. ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (DEFERRED MATTERS ITEM)

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following actions be taken:

- a) This report regarding Implementation of Environmental Assessment Recommendations (Deferred Matters Item) **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
- b) This item **BE REMOVED** from the Civic Works Committee Deferred Matters list (Environmental Assessment – Item #3, as of April 6, 2020 on the CWC Deferred Matters list).

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Planning and Environment Committee – July 16, 2018 – Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Compliance (Deferred Matters Item)

2019-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

This report supports the Strategic Plan in the following areas:

- Building a Sustainable City:
 - Build infrastructure to support future development and protect the environment.
 - Protect and enhance waterways, wetlands, and natural areas.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

This purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on how environmental and natural heritage related Environmental Assessment recommendations are addressed during the design and construction of infrastructure projects.

Context

On July 25, 2018, Council resolved the following:

“The Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services & City Engineer BE REQUESTED to report on the outstanding items that are not addressed during the Environmental Assessment response to be followed up through the detailed design phase in its report to the Civic Works Committee.”

The request was made during a delegation by the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC) at the July 16, 2018 meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting. During the delegation it was asked how the City ensures the recommendations provided in environmental assessments are implemented. The following report provides a response to this request.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Assessments

Environmental Assessments (EAs) are a requirement of the Province's *Environmental Assessment Act* and follow a process that evaluates the environmental impacts of an infrastructure project. A few examples of typical projects include road widenings, wastewater treatment expansions, and stormwater management projects. The environmental assessment process begins by developing an inventory of the current environmental conditions and then establishes a set of project alternatives with the goal of selecting a preferred alternative with the smallest environmental impact. The impacts to the natural, social, cultural, built, and economic environments are considered during the process. In cases where there is a significant impact as the result of a project, the Environmental Assessment report may recommend mitigation or compensation for those impacts.

Various supporting studies are completed either as part of the EA or are recommended to take place during the detailed design phase. These could include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental Impact Study (EIS),
- Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report,
- Air Quality Report, and
- Archaeological studies.

These studies may have specific recommendations for design requirements, environmental monitoring, and compensation that must be considered during a project's detailed design and construction.

Implementation of Recommendations

The implementation of the EA recommendations are undertaken as part of the design or the construction of the selected infrastructure project. It is the responsibility of the Environmental and Engineering Services Department's Project Manager to ensure that all of the Environmental Assessment recommendations are addressed. The selected project manager is most commonly an engineer that works within the associated service area. Environmental Assessment recommendations most commonly provide criteria to inform the detailed design process; however in many instances, the Environmental Assessment may recommend more detailed environmental study work such as an Environmental Impact Study. An Environmental Impact Study can be completed either during the Environmental Assessment process or can be required as part of the Environmental Assessment's recommendation. When recommended by an Environmental Assessment process the Environmental Impact Study is carried out closer to the time of construction to ensure the information obtained is as current as possible. An Environmental Impact Study's recommendations for monitoring, mitigation, and compensation will often form the basis of regulatory permits. The conditions of these permits must be met in order to construct the project and to align with the applicable regulations.

Reporting

In order to provide ongoing information on environmental assessments, a status table is posted on the City's website:

<https://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/EAs/Documents/EA-Table.pdf>

This table highlights the status of ongoing and recently completed environmental assessments and highlights the applicable next steps and whether an environmental impact study has been completed. This table is updated by project managers in the various engineering services areas quarterly. Due to the recent interest by EEPAC in the natural heritage related aspects of these projects, the next version of this table will be modified to include additional columns to more clearly highlight natural environment related recommendations.

CONCLUSIONS

An Environmental Assessment is the process of determining what environmental impacts, if any, there will be during a project and how to minimize the impacts. Implementing the recommendations of an Environmental Assessment is the responsibility of the engineering services project managers. Due to the recent interest by EEPAC in the natural heritage related aspects of environmental assessment recommendations, the Environmental Assessment status table on the City's website will be updated to more clearly highlight natural environment related environmental assessment recommendations.

SUBMITTED BY:	REVIEWED & CONCURRED BY:
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c.c. Paul Yeoman, Gregg Barrett