

Email from: Charles O'Hara
Director, Resource Recovery Policy Branch
Environmental Policy Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

January 17, 2022

Re: Changes to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Advanced Recycling Facilities

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing to advise you of proposed changes that will make it easier for advanced recycling facilities to obtain their environmental approval when they meet high standards by more closely aligning the environmental assessment process for these projects with those that process and recycle waste.

Advanced recycling and energy recovery technologies can help recover valuable resources from Ontario's waste and keep it out of landfills. They use heat and pressure to break down hard-to-recycle plastics and other waste into materials that can be reused to create new products or replace fossil fuels. That is why Ontario is committed to supporting companies that want to implement advanced recycling technologies and support a greener, cleaner future. We recognize the advanced recycling proposal may be of interest to you, and are seeking your input so that we can best support innovation while maintaining strict environmental oversight. You can view the proposal and a plain language description on the Environmental Registry of Ontario: [Environmental assessment requirements for advanced recycling facilities under the Environmental Assessment Act \(EAA\) | Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

The proposal will be posted until February 28th, 2022 for a 45-day comment period.

As part of the proposal, we are also proposing to update Part B of the Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Waste Management Projects to require that information be included in the Environmental Screening Report for advanced recycling projects.

This proposal is associated with the proposal to move to a [project list approach](#) under the Environmental Assessment Act. The project list approach will better align Ontario with other jurisdictions across Canada, including the federal government, who use project lists to determine the types of projects for which an EA must be completed. Under the project list proposal, most project types that currently require a comprehensive EA will continue to need one.

The ministry will also be hosting an online webinar where we will provide an overview of the new environmental assessment requirements for advanced recycling and field any initial questions. The webinar will occur on February 7th, 2022, where more information can be shared and provide an opportunity for discussion. The meeting will be between 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

using Microsoft Teams. We can also accommodate access by phone/teleconference if preferred.

To register, please email RRPB.Mail@Ontario.ca no later than February 2nd, 2022. Due to capacity limitations, attendance for the webinar will be capped and places will be provided on a first-come basis. Webinar log-in details will be provided to registrants in advance of the session. Please feel free to forward this invitation to others you believe may be interested in receiving more information about the ministry's new environmental assessment requirements for advanced recycling, or who might be interested in attending the webinar to learn more and discuss the proposal.

We look forward to your participation and input on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Charles O'Hara
Director, Resource Recovery Policy Branch
Environmental Policy Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks