

Drainage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17.

Section 6(1) – Notice that environmental appraisal is required

Upon receipt of a notice from the initiating municipality under subsection 5 (1), a local municipality, conservation authority or the Minister of Natural Resources, as the case may be, may send to the council of the initiating municipality within thirty days a notice that an environmental appraisal of the effects of the drainage works on the area is required, and the cost thereof shall be paid by the party who requested it.

Section 6(2) – Authorization for environmental appraisal

The council of the initiating municipality may obtain an environmental appraisal on its own initiative, the cost of which shall be paid by the municipality from its general funds.

Section 6(3) – Appeal

The party requesting the environmental appraisal or the council of the initiating municipality, as the case may be, within forty days of receiving the account therefor, may appeal to the Tribunal, and the Tribunal may confirm or vary the account as it considers proper.

Section 25(1) – Engineer may assess a block, etc.

The council of the local municipality may direct the engineer to assess as a block, a built-up area designated by the council, and the sum assessed therefor may be levied against all the rateable properties in the designated area proportionately on the basis of the assessed value of the land and buildings.

Section 25(2) – Assessments to be charged against public roads

Where the engineer makes a block assessment under subsection (1), the engineer shall designate the proportion of the assessment to be charged against the public roads in the designated area.

Section 26 – Increased cost, how borne

In addition to all other sums lawfully assessed against the property of a public utility or road authority under this Act, and despite the fact that the public utility or road authority is not otherwise assessable under this Act, the public utility or road authority shall be assessed for and shall pay all the increase of cost of such drainage works caused by the existence of the works of the public utility or road authority.

Section 41(1) – Notice of drainage works

Upon the filing of the engineer's report, the council of the initiating municipality, if it intends to proceed with the drainage works, shall, within thirty days of the filing of the report, cause the clerk of the initiating municipality to send a copy of the report and a notice stating,

- (a) the date of the filing of the report;
- (b) the name or other designation of the drainage works; and
- (c) the date of the council meeting at which the report will be considered,

to,

- (d) the owners, in the initiating municipality, as shown by the last revised assessment roll to be the owners of lands and roads assessed for the drainage works or for which compensation or other allowances have been provided in the report;
- (e) the clerk of every other local municipality in which any land or road that is assessed for the drainage works or for which compensation or other allowances have been provided in the report is situate;
- (f) the secretary-treasurer of each conservation authority that has jurisdiction over any land affected by the report;
- (g) any railway company, public utility or road authority affected by the report, other than by way of assessment;
- (h) the Minister of Natural Resources where land under his or her jurisdiction may be affected by the report; and
- (i) the Director.

Section 42(2) – Clerk to notify persons assessed

The clerk of every other local municipality in which any land or road that is assessed for the drainage works or for which compensation or other allowances have been provided in the report is situate shall send within thirty days of the sending of the last notice under subsection (1) a copy of the report and notice to the owners, as shown by the last revised assessment roll to be the owners of the lands and roads in such municipality assessed for the drainage works, or for which compensation or other allowance has been provided in the report stating,

- (a) the date of the filing of the report;
- (b) the name or other designation of the drainage works; and
- (c) the date of the council meeting of the initiating municipality at which the report will be considered.

Section 41(3) – Copy of report not required

Despite subsections (1) and (2), where a block assessment is made, the notice to the owners of the lands so assessed need not be accompanied by a copy of the report.

Section 41(3.1) – Same

Despite subsections (1) and (2), the council of a local municipality is not required to send a copy of the report to owners of lands and roads assessed for a sum of less than \$100.

Section 42 – Consideration of report

The council of the initiating municipality at the meeting mentioned in section 41 shall consider the report, and, where the drainage works is requested on petition, shall give an opportunity to any person who has signed the petition to withdraw from it by filing a signed withdrawal with the clerk and shall also give those present owning lands within the area requiring drainage who have not signed the petition an opportunity to do so, and should any of the lands or roads owned by the municipality within the area requiring drainage as described in the petition be assessed, the council may by resolution authorize the head of the municipality to sign the petition for the municipality, and such signature counts as that of one person in favour of the petition.

Section 46(1) – Notice of court of revision to be sent to local municipalities and to owners

The council of the initiating municipality shall, within five days after the adoption of the report, send a copy of the provisional by-law, exclusive of the engineer's report, and a notice of the time and place of the first sitting of the court of revision to every other local municipality in which any land or road is assessed for the drainage works or for which allowance or compensation has been provided for in the report.

Section 46(2) – Idem

The council of the initiating municipality and of every local municipality to whom a copy of the provisional by-law is sent under subsection (1) shall, within thirty days after the adoption of the report, send a copy of the provisional by-law, exclusive of the engineer's report, and a notice of the time and place of the sitting of the court of revision to each person or body entitled to notice under section 41 and the notice shall inform each owner that the owner may appeal the owner's assessment to the court of revision by a notice given to the clerk of the initiating municipality not later than ten days prior to the first sitting of the court of revision.

Section 46(3) – Sittings of Court

The first sitting of the court of revision shall be held on a day not earlier than twenty nor later than thirty days from the date of completing the sending of the copies of the provisional by-law under subsection (2).

Section 57 – Referral back to engineer

The council of the initiating municipality, at any time before passing the by-law, if it appears that there are or may be errors in the report of the engineer or that for any other reason the report should be reconsidered, may refer the report back to the engineer for reconsideration, and the engineer shall thereupon reconsider the report and shall further report to the council, which report has the same effect and shall be dealt with in the same manner and the proceedings thereon shall be the same as upon the original report.

Section 58(1) – By-Law may be passed

Where the council of an initiating municipality has adopted a report for the construction of a drainage works after the time for appealing has expired and there are no appeals or after all appeals have been decided, the council may pass the provisional by-law to which the engineer's report was attached, thereby authorizing the construction of the drainage works, and work may be commenced ten days after the by-law is passed if no notice of intention to make application to quash the by-law has been filed with the clerk of the council.

Section 59(1) – Meeting to consider contract price

Where the contract price exceeds 133 per cent of the engineer's estimate of the contract price, the council of the initiating municipality shall call a meeting in the manner prescribed by section 41, and sections 42 and 43 apply with necessary modifications.

Section 65 - Changes in assessment

Section 65(1) - Subsequent subdivision of land

If, after the final revision of an engineer's assessment of land for a drainage works, the land is divided by a change in ownership of any part, the clerk of the local municipality in which the land is situate shall instruct an engineer in writing to apportion the assessment among the parts into which the land was divided, taking into account the part of the land affected by the drainage works. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Agreement on share of assessment

Section 65 (2) – Agreement on share of assessment

If the owners of the subdivided land mutually agree on the share of the drainage assessment that each should pay, they may enter into a written agreement and file it with the clerk of the local municipality and, if the agreement is approved by the council by resolution, no engineer need be instructed under subsection (1). 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(3) – Subsequent connection to drainage works, etc.

If an owner of land that is not assessed for a drainage works subsequently connects the land with the drainage works for the purpose of drainage, or if the nature or extent of the use of a drainage works by land assessed for the drainage works is subsequently altered, the clerk of the local municipality in which the land is situate shall instruct an engineer in writing to inspect the land and assess it for a just proportion of the drainage works, taking into account any compensation paid to the owner of the land in respect of the drainage works. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(4) – Subsequent disconnection from drainage works

If an owner of land that is assessed for a drainage works subsequently disconnects the land from the drainage works, the clerk of the local municipality in which the land is situate shall instruct an engineer in writing to inspect the land and determine the amount by which the assessment of the land should change. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(5) - Restriction on connection or disconnection

No person shall connect to or disconnect from drainage works without the approval of the council of the municipality. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(6) - Notice of instructions

The clerk of the local municipality shall send a copy of the instructions mentioned in subsection (1), (3) or (4) to the owners of the affected lands as soon as reasonably possible. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(7) - Engineer's assessment

An engineer who prepares an assessment pursuant to instructions received under subsection (1), (3) or (4) shall file the assessment with the clerk of the local municipality. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(8) - Notice of assessment

The clerk of the local municipality shall attach the engineer's assessment to the original assessment and send a copy of both to the owners of the affected lands. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(9) - Assessment binding

Subject to subsection (11), the engineer's assessment is binding on the assessed land. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(10) - Costs

The costs of the assessment, including the fees of the engineer, shall be paid by the owners of the lands in the proportion fixed by the engineer or, on appeal, by the Tribunal, and subsection 61 (4) applies to these costs. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(11) - Appeal of assessment

If the engineer's assessment is for an amount greater than \$500, the owner of the land may appeal to the Tribunal within 40 days after the date the clerk sends a copy of the assessment to the owner. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 65(12) - Use of amount collected

Any amount collected under subsection (3) shall be credited to the account of the drainage works and shall be used only for the improvement, maintenance or repair of the whole or any part of the drainage works. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (26).

Section 76(1) - Varying original assessments for maintenance

The Council of any local municipality liable for contribution to a drainage works in connection with which conditions have changed or circumstances have arisen such as to justify a variation of the assessment for maintenance and repair of the drainage works may make an application to the Tribunal, of which notice has been given to the head of every other municipality affected by the drainage works, for permission to procure a report of an engineer to vary the assessment, and, in the event of such permission being given, such council may appoint an engineer for such purpose and may adopt the report but, if all the lands and roads assessed or intended to be assessed lie within the limits of one local municipality, the council of that municipality may procure and adopt such report without such permission.

Section 76(2) – Proceedings on report of engineer

The proceedings upon such report, excepting appeals, shall be the same, as nearly as may be, as upon the report for construction of the drainage works.

Section 76(3) – Appeal from report of engineer

Any council served with a copy of such report may, within 45 days of such service, appeal to

the Tribunal from the finding of the engineer as to the portion of the cost of the drainage works for which the municipality is liable.

Section 76(4) – Appeal from assessment

Any owner of land assessed for maintenance or repair may appeal from the assessment in the report on the grounds and in the manner provided by Section 52 in the case of the construction of the drainage works.

Section 76(5) – Basis of future assessments

An assessment determined under this section shall thereafter, until it is further varied, form the basis of any assessment for maintenance or repair of the drainage works affected thereby.

Section 78(1) – Improving, upon examination and report of engineer

If a drainage works has been constructed under a by-law passed under this Act or any predecessor of this Act, and the council of the municipality that is responsible for maintaining and repairing the drainage works considers it appropriate to undertake one or more of the projects listed in subsection (1.1) for the better use, maintenance or repair of the drainage works or of lands or roads, the municipality may undertake and complete the project in accordance with the report of an engineer appointed by it without the petition required in section 4.

Section 78(1.1) – Projects

The projects referred to in subsections (1) are:

1. Changing the course of the drainage works.
2. Making a new outlet for the whole or any part of the drainage works.
3. Construction a tile drain under the bed of the whole or any part of the drainage works.
4. Constructing, reconstructing or extending embankments, walls, dykes, dams, reservoirs, bridges, pumping stations or other protective works in connection with the drainage works.
5. Otherwise improving, extending to an outlet or altering the drainage works.
6. Covering all or part of the drainage works.
7. Consolidating two or more drainage works.

Section 78(2) – Notice to conservation authority

An engineer shall not be appointed under subsection (1) until thirty days after a notice advising of the proposed drainage works has been sent to the secretary-treasurer of each conservation authority that has jurisdiction over any of the lands that would be affected.

Section 78(3) – Powers and duties of engineer

The engineer has all the powers and shall perform all the duties of an engineer appointed with respect to the construction of a drainage works under this Act.

Section 78(4) – Proceedings

All proceedings, including appeals, under this section shall be the same as on a report for the construction of a drainage works.