

Provide your Feedback - Amendments to the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations

Thank you for your interest in the proposed amendments to the Regulations.

Please provide your views and comments for each proposal in the area provided. Feel free to provide additional information or data related to the proposed actions to support or clarify your comments and perspectives. Your input is valuable - all comments and perspectives will be considered during the development of the proposed Regulations.

Please submit this form by March 5, 2022. If you have any additional questions or would like to submit additional information, feel free to contact us at eu-ww@ec.gc.ca.

Please note we will be collecting your basic personal information. Your responses will be made public but no individuals or organizations will be identified in any way.

*Required

*Name: _____

*Email: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

*Please pick the option that best represents the source of your comments:

Indigenous community

Indigenous organization

Municipality

Environmental non-profit organization

Association

Engineering firm / consulting firm

Academic Institution

Member of public

Other : _____

Don't know/prefer not to say

Transitional Authorization

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is proposing to provide eligible owners/operators of wastewater systems another opportunity to receive a transitional authorization to the end of 2030 or 2040. The rules for qualifying for this extension, and the deadline to upgrade or build a new wastewater treatment facility would remain the same.

Please share any comments or perspectives on this proposal.

ECCC is proposing a flexible approach to the transitional authorization application process, using an open application period (with no deadline to apply) and allowing the use of historical monitoring data that has already been provided under the Regulations. Owners/operators would use a consecutive 12-month period of their first available monitoring data ever reported. This approach closely mirrors the intent of the original application process and some applicants would use the same monitoring period as the initial application process (2012 – 2014). It also provides an open window for systems not currently reporting an opportunity to identify and apply for a transitional authorization in the future.

Please share any comments or perspectives on this proposal.

If you are interested in applying for a Transitional Authorization, what monitoring data do you have available to apply? Are you currently submitting data in Effluent Regulatory Reporting Information System (ERRIS)? Are you currently submitting data to another regulatory body (provincial or otherwise?)

ECCC is proposing to allow flexibility for owners/operators to demonstrate that ammonia is not a risk factor through either a limited number of tests for ammonia, the use of historical data submitted federally/provincially or from indirect factors that may indicate ammonia is not an issue (never failed acute lethality, naturally low pH, etc.)?

Please share any comments or perspectives on this proposal.

How might the proposed re-opening of the transitional authorization provisions impact you? What considerations should be taken into account to address impacts to you, your community, your environment?

Please provide any additional comments or perspectives on the proposed transitional authorization amendments.

Temporary Bypass Authorizations

ECCC is proposing to expand and enhance temporary bypass authorization (TBA) provisions in the Regulations that would apply to unavoidable planned releases of undertreated wastewater for both final (located at the tail end of the treatment plant) and non-final (i.e. overflow points in the collection system) discharge point applications. A tiered approach is proposed that would set authorization conditions based on the level of potential environmental impact of the release. The tiered approach

could use a system of points to determine the level of the risk and determine the requirements for a temporary bypass authorization. A number of criteria could be taken into consideration including flow rate of bypass (which takes into account the duration and volume of the discharge), level of treatment, and sensitivity of the receiving environment.

Please share any comments or perspectives on the proposal to expand the existing temporary bypass authorizations in the Regulations to include planned releases of wastewater from sewer systems.

Please share any comments or perspectives on the proposal to create new provisions (tiered approach) for TBA applications.

Please share any comments or perspectives on requirements for a Level 1 release.

Please share any comments or perspectives on requirements for a Level 2 release.

Please share any comments or perspectives on requirements for a Level 3 release.

Please share any comments or perspectives on this proposal and the information that may be requested under the proposed scheme.

How might the proposed new temporary bypass provisions impact you? What considerations should be taken into account to address impacts to you, your community, your environment?

Please provide any additional comments or perspectives on the proposed temporary bypass authorizations.

Key Administrative Improvements

ECCC is also proposing to address various operational/administrative challenges that have arisen during the course of administering the Regulations.

ECCC is proposing to reduce number of outfalls to allow owners/operators to consolidate 2+ systems as one “future” system as long as those outfalls will become a single wastewater treatment plant. ECCC is also considering clarifying and simplify administrative provisions, including leveling monitoring and reporting provisions for small systems holding a Transitional Authorization.

Please share any comments or perspectives on the proposal to consolidate 2+ outfalls as “one future system”.

Please provide your view on ECCC’s proposal to harmonize the monitoring and reporting requirements for small systems with a transitional authorization to submit an annual report regardless of whether they have a continuous or intermittent system.

Please share any comments or perspectives on these proposals. You are welcome to share additional suggestions for administrative improvements.

General

Please provide any additional comments or perspectives on the proposed amendments.