



February 10, 2022

Anne Bell  
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Anne Bell:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2021, on behalf of 63 environmental, farm, and community organizations, regarding the Bradford Bypass Project (the Project) proposed by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (the Proponent). In your letter, you supported a reconsideration of the former Minister's response that designation of the Project for impact assessment pursuant to subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) is unwarranted.

The IAA and its regulations establish the legal framework for federal impact assessments. Federal impact assessment is a key element of a larger regulatory system for addressing project effects. It works in a complementary fashion alongside other regulatory processes at the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal levels.

In May 2021, the former Minister of Environment and Climate Change responded with reasons to a request to designate the Project, and determined that it was unwarranted. His response was based on information provided by the province and Indigenous groups; the scientific advice provided by federal expert departments; and the federal, provincial, and municipal regulatory mechanisms in place to manage potential adverse environmental effects in areas of federal jurisdiction as defined in the IAA.

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*Ontario Regulation 697/21* sets the exemption and the conditions for the assessment process going forward. I understand that the Proponent will be required to undergo a streamlined provincial assessment process for the Project, informed by consultation with Indigenous communities and interested members of the public, that includes an early works assessment process and preparation of an environmental conditions report and an environmental impact assessment report. I also understand that the Proponent will be required to follow all other relevant legislative requirements, standards, and practices for the Project.

Since there has been no material changes to the Project, there is no basis to revisit the former Minister's determination.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Anjala Puvananathan, Regional Director, Ontario Region, by email at [designationontario@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:designationontario@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (he/him/il/lui)