

Date: July 4, 2022

Re: Cataraqi Conservation Permitting Policy Updates – Explanatory Document

What?

Cataraqi Conservation has initiated a review and update to our regulatory guidelines document: Guidelines for Implementing Ontario Regulation 148/06 (Guidelines).

The update is being undertaken in a manner consistent with the Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2010) and Cataraqi Conservation's Strategic Plan.

As part of this process, we are notifying and seeking input from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period will run from July 4, 2022 to July 29, 2022, during which time staff will collect input from the public and stakeholders. Cataraqi Conservation staff, the Permitting and Planning Ad Hoc Committee and our Full Authority Board will take any input received into consideration as part of the policy update process prior to finalization.

In order to connect with the public and stakeholders in the most efficient and effective way, the consultation process will be electronically based. A webpage (<https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/cataraqi-conservation-permitting-policy-updates>) on the Cataraqi Conservation site has been dedicated for the consultation process. This will be supplemented with social media postings, and direct notifications to stakeholders including our member municipalities and other agencies, organizations, and consultants.

Why?

Cataraqi Conservation implements an integrated, systems approach to watershed management, balancing human, environmental and economic needs and recognizing the relationship between ecosystem functions and human activities.

Cataraqi Conservation is a regulatory authority mandated by the Province to implement Ontario Regulation 148/06: Development Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses, pursuant to Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The purpose of Ontario Regulation 148/06 is to ensure that proposed changes (e.g. development and site alteration) to a property are not affected by natural hazards, such as flooding and erosion, and that the changes do not put people and their and/or other properties at greater risk from these hazards. The purpose is also to protect the hydrologic and ecologic functions of wetlands.

Cataraqui Conservation has a regulatory guideline document entitled “Implementing Ontario Regulation 148/06” that staff use when reviewing Ontario Regulation 148/06 development applications. This document, which can be found here (<https://crca.ca/policies-guidelines/>), is the subject of the current policy update.

Guidelines for Implementing Ontario Regulation 148/06

The Guidelines consist of a comprehensive set of policies that enable staff to issue a permit under the regulation in a consistent manner. While this document was last updated in 2021 to address time-sensitive, policy-specific items, normally a comprehensive review and update is done every five years. The last comprehensive update was in 2017. The document is currently being updated as per the scheduled five-year timeframe to ensure that our input and comments reflect current legislation and best practices.

Updates include (but not limited to):

- General housekeeping amendments to address minor text and formatting changes that were required to correct grammatical or spelling errors, improve clarity and maintain currency
- Changes to in-water work related guidelines including shore, dock and boathouse development
- Policy development in response to Minister’s Zoning Orders
- Applicability of legal non-conforming rights under the *Conservation Authorities Act*
- Response to impacts of climate change on natural hazards
- Updates to development which no longer require permit approval (e.g., certain fence designs, and like-for-like decking replacement on docks)
- Wetland policy updates for development and site alterations within wetlands and within 30 metres of a wetland

Staff also considered the policies of other Conservation Authorities, particularly those in eastern Ontario, when preparing the updated draft.

How can you get involved?

Input on the proposed policy updates is invited from members of the public and stakeholders such as municipalities and other organizations and agencies from July 4, 2022, to July 29, 2022.

Two summary tables are included which reflect the proposed update to the Implementation Guidelines for Ontario Regulation 148/06 available for review and comment at <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/cataraqui-conservation-permitting-policy-updates>

The existing Guidelines document and appendices, in their entirety, are available here <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/policies-guidelines> for reference.

Written comments are invited to be submitted during the comment period by filling out an online form at <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/cataraqui-conservation-permitting-policy-updates> or via email to development@crca.ca

For further information, please see Cataraqui Conservation’s Planning & Permitting webpage at <https://crca.ca/planning-permits/>.