



ENV1283MC-2006-4042

October 3, 2006

Mr. Denis Kelly  
Regional Clerk  
The Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

REGION OF YORK  
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. -

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Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your September 22, 2006 letter to the Minister of the Environment about the Highway 427 Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment. I am pleased to reply on behalf of the Minister.

The Minister of the Environment approved the Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) Terms of Reference (ToR) on November 1, 2005 for the Highway 427 Transportation Corridor Study. The *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) requires that an environmental assessment (EA) study be carried out that includes: extensive public and agency consultation; thorough assessment of the benefits and costs of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project; assessment of the environmental effects of the project; and proposed mitigation measures to minimize any adverse effects of the project. Once the EA is formally submitted by MTO, ministry staff will begin its review and evaluation of the EA.

*Ontario Regulation 616/98* under the EAA ("Deadlines Regulation") sets out the legislated review period for both public and agency consultation including the timeframe the Minister has to make a decision on the EA submitted. Under the deadlines regulation, the review of the EA, including public review periods is a minimum of 30 weeks. Prior to formal submission of the EA, this ministry has no influence on how quickly MTO completes the studies in support of its EA and prepares the EA report.

This ministry encourages the Regional Municipality of York to work closely with MTO and its consultants as the EA progresses to ensure the Region's interests are represented and any issues that may arise are addressed. Mr. Dean Kemper, Senior Project Engineer at MTO is managing this project and can be reached at 416-235-4664, or through email at [dean.kemper@ontario.ca](mailto:dean.kemper@ontario.ca).

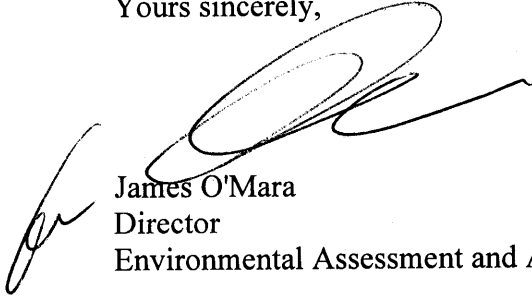
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Should you have further questions about the EA review and approvals process please contact Charlene Cressman, of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, at 416-314-8311 or by email at [charlene.cressman@ontario.ca](mailto:charlene.cressman@ontario.ca).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James O'Mara', is written over the printed name and title.

James O'Mara  
Director  
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch

c: Mr. Dean Kemper, P.Eng, Ministry of Transportation