

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

# **Need for Air and Noise ECAs for Sewage Treatment Plants**

Wastewater Practitioners' Group  
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# ECA or EASR

- In general, air and noise emissions are regulated by either:
  - An environmental compliance approval (ECA) or
  - Air Emissions EASR (O. Reg. 1/17)
- Air and noise emissions from sewage treatment plants are not eligible under the Air Emissions EASR. Therefore air and noise emissions from sewage treatment plants are regulated by ECAs.

# Does my STP require an Air and Noise ECA?

- There are some exemptions from ECA approval in O. Reg. 524/98.
  - Section 9 does not apply to:
    - ✓ Fuel burning equipment used to provide comfort heating in a building subject to conditions. (s.1.(1) para 3)
    - ✓ HVAC system (s. 1.(1) para 25)
    - ✓ Standby generators (s.1.(1) para 26)
    - ✓ A lagoon, clarifier or pond used for the detention and treatment of sewage (ss.1.(1) para 14).
- MECP has historically issued air and noise ECAs for the following activities at STPs:
  - ✓ Comfort heating system and standby generators (that do not meet the requirements of exemption)
  - ✓ Dedicated odour control approaches or equipment
  - ✓ Flares of biogas
  - ✓ Energy-from-biogas equipment
  - ✓ Sludge incinerators

**SEEK YOUR OWN LEGAL ADVICE**

# Air and Noise ECA

- Historically, the MECP may have included a standby generator or a piece of odour control equipment in the description of the works in a Wastewater ECA.
  - The inclusion of this equipment does not constitute the review and approval of air and noise emissions by the MECP.
  - An air and noise ECA is still required.
- Please submit a separate air and noise ECA application to the Ministry if an air and noise ECA is deemed required.
- ECA applications are processed on a first come first served basis. Priority status will only be granted at the discretion of the Ministry and if certain criteria are met. Proponents should take into consideration the Ministry's 2018 service standard when planning for their ECA from the Ministry.



**Questions?**