

Appendix A: Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Postings Associated with the Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act

Deadline for Comments: May 17, 2025

Title (ERO Proposal #)	Description
<p>Link to Legislative Assembly of Ontario Posting of Bill 5</p> <p><i>Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025</i></p>	<p>The Province introduced the <i>Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025</i> on April 17, 2025 for first reading. If passed, this legislation would cut the red tape and duplicative processes that have held back major infrastructure, mining and resource development projects, including in the Ring of Fire. The legislation proposes streamlining approval processes while maintaining robust environmental standards.</p>
<p><u>Technical Briefing: Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy</u></p>	<p>Link to Technical Briefing provides highlights of the Bill and its related legislative and regulatory proposals.</p>
<p>ERO 025-0391</p> <p><u>Special Economic Zones Act, 2025</u></p>	<p>The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade is proposing a new law called the Special Economic Zones Act, 2025. If it gets approved, the Ontario government will be able to designate special areas that are critical to Ontario's economy and security, where selected projects could move faster as a result of simplified rules, faster approvals, and one-window access to services.</p> <p>Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade</p>
<p>ERO 025-0418</p> <p><u>Proposed Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act, Schedule 7 of the Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025</u></p>	<p>The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is proposing to make legislative amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act to provide new and modified tools to improve enforcement and compliance and allow for exemptions to archaeological requirements where it could potentially advance a provincial priority.</p> <p>Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism</p>
<p>ERO 025-0380</p> <p><u>Proposed interim changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a proposal for the Species Conservation Act, 2025</u></p>	<p>The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is proposing to make immediate amendments to the Endangered Species Act and would later repeal the ESA and enact the new Species Conservation Act, 2025 (SCA), once proclaimed. Collectively, the proposed changes would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - change the way species are listed and regulated under the Act - narrow the definition of "habitat" under the Act - shift nearly all species-related authorizations to a registration-first approach

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish a new Species Conservation Program - strengthen enforcement <p>Under the new approach, instead of waiting for the ministry to approve permits, most proponents will be able to begin an activity immediately after registering. Registered activities will be required to meet associated requirements set out in new regulations.</p> <p>Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks</p>
<p>ERO 025-0389 Removing Environmental Assessment Requirements for the York1 Waste Disposal Site Project</p>	<p>The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is proposing to remove environmental assessment requirements for the York1 waste disposal site project through the proposed Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025. This would include revoking Ontario Regulation 284/24 designating the Chatham-Kent Waste Disposal Site and removing environmental assessment (EA) requirements for York1 Environmental Waste Solutions Ltd.'s proposal to resume landfill operations</p> <p>Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks</p>
<p>ERO 025-0396 Addressing Changes to the Eagle's Nest Mine Project</p>	<p>The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is proposing to remove the comprehensive environmental assessment requirements for the proposed Eagle's Nest mine project in response to changes to the scope of the project through the proposed Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025.</p> <p>Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks</p>
<p>ERO 025-0409 Proposed amendments to the Mining Act 1990, Electricity Act 1998, and Ontario Energy Board Act 1998, to protect Ontario's Economy and Build a More Prosperous Ontario</p>	<p>The Ministry of Energy and Mines is proposing changes to the Mining Act, 1990 to protect the strategic national mineral supply chain and to streamline the permitting process for designated mining projects. Additionally proposed changes to the Electricity Act, 1998 and Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 aim to limit foreign participation in the energy sector.</p> <p>Ministry of Energy and Mines</p>
<p>ERO 025-0416 Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 (Amendments to Rebuilding Ontario Place Act, 2023)</p>	<p>Ministry of Infrastructure is proposing amendments to the Rebuilding Ontario Place Act, 2023 that if passed, will provide an exemption from Part II of the Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993 for proposals for provincial permits and approvals related to the Ontario Place Redevelopment Project.</p>

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	Ministry of Infrastructure