

Attachment D: Summary of Province's Proposed 'Criteria for Designations' Regulation

A full version of the Draft Criteria for Designations Regulation under the *Special Economic Zones Act* is available in the ERO posting [here](#).

Draft criteria are provided for three types of designations under the Act which are summarized below.

1. Criteria for designating 'special economic zones'

- SEZ areas will be limited to a single area of the province and, subject to discretion of the government, be no larger than necessary to encompass activities in the zone that are or will be economically significant to the economy of Ontario.

2. Criteria for designating 'trusted proponents'

- The Crown, Crown agencies, municipalities and any for-profit or not-for-profit entity may be designed as a 'trusted proponent'.
- Trusted proponents must be linked to a designated project and private entities must demonstrate a good record of compliance with legal requirements, health and safety protections, environmental protections, and employment standards.

3. Criteria for 'designating projects'

The determination of whether projects will be designated will be at the Minister's discretion as provided in the Act. To be designated, a project must:

- Be located within a Special Economic Zone.
- Provide significant long-term economic benefits to Ontario, including job creation, diversification, tax revenue, supply chains, and innovation.
- Provide benefits to communities inside and outside the zone, including benefits to Indigenous communities and local businesses.
- Demonstrate the likelihood of success, based on strategic, financial, and communication planning; whether health and environmental assessments have been completed to identify impacts; whether risk mitigation strategies have been identified to address impacts; and stakeholder and Indigenous engagement.
- Other factors the Minister considers important.