

Ministry
of the
Environment

2 St. Clair Ave. West
Toronto ON M4V 1L5

Ministère
de
l'Environnement

2, avenue St. Clair Ouest
Toronto ON M4V 1L5



ENV1283MC-2007-3878

November 13, 2007

Sheila Birrell, Town Clerk
Clerk's Department
The Corporation of the Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham ON L3R 9W3

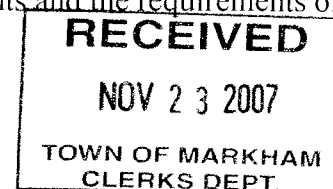
Dear Ms. Birrell:

Thank you for your October 24, 2007 letter to Ms. Laurel Broten, the former Minister of the Environment. As you may know, the Honourable John Gerretsen was appointed as the Minister of the Environment on October 30, 2007. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the ministry.

Your letter outlines that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham is requesting that the Minister of the Environment assist in expediting the environmental assessment (EA) process for the Transportation Improvements in the Markham Bypass Corridor South of Highway 407 Environmental Assessment (EA).

I would like to inform you that the ministry's Government Review (Review) of the EA is subject to regulated timelines. Under section 7(2) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) the ministry is required to publish its Review of the EA seven weeks after the formal submission of the EA document. Although the EA was formally submitted on December 23, 2005, the publication of the ministry's Review has been postponed at the request of the Regional Municipality of York (Region). Pursuant to the authority given to the Minister under subsection 7(3) of the EAA, the Minister has extended the deadline to January 31, 2008.

Accordingly, this ministry will complete its Review of the above-noted EA no later than January 31, 2008. Upon completion of the Review, and in accordance with subsection 7.1 (2) of the EAA, a Notice of Completion of Ministry Review will be issued and the Review will be made available for public and agency comment for a period of five weeks. After the comment period, the Minister will proceed to make a decision taking all comments and the requirements of the EAA into consideration.



...2

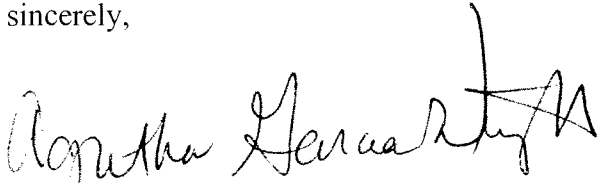


Ms. Sheila Birrell

Page 2.

Should you have further questions please contact Mr. Gavin Battarino, of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, at 416-314-8214 or by email at gavin.battarino@ontario.ca.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Agatha Garcia-Wright', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Agatha Garcia-Wright
A/Director

Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch

c: Bryan Tuckey, Commissioner of Planning and Development Services
Bruce Macgregor, Commissioner of Transportation and Works
Paul May, Director, Infrastructure Planning
Paul Jankowski, General Manager, Records
Brian Ogden, Ministry of Transportation
Steve Mota, Program Manager, Transportation Engineering