

Solar Energy and Renewable Energy Approvals (REA)

Marcia Wallace

Environmental Programs Division, Ministry of the Environment

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Protecting our environment.



Ontario

Context

- The *Green Energy and Green Economy Act* received Royal Assent on May 14, 2009.
 - Renewable Energy Approval Regulation (O. Reg. 359/09) in force as of September 24, 2009
- Developing renewable energy sources and fostering a conservation oriented culture are cornerstones of Ontario's balanced plan to provide clean, reliable and affordable energy.
- The Renewable Energy Approval (REA) is a coordinated provincial environmental approval process for renewable energy generation projects.



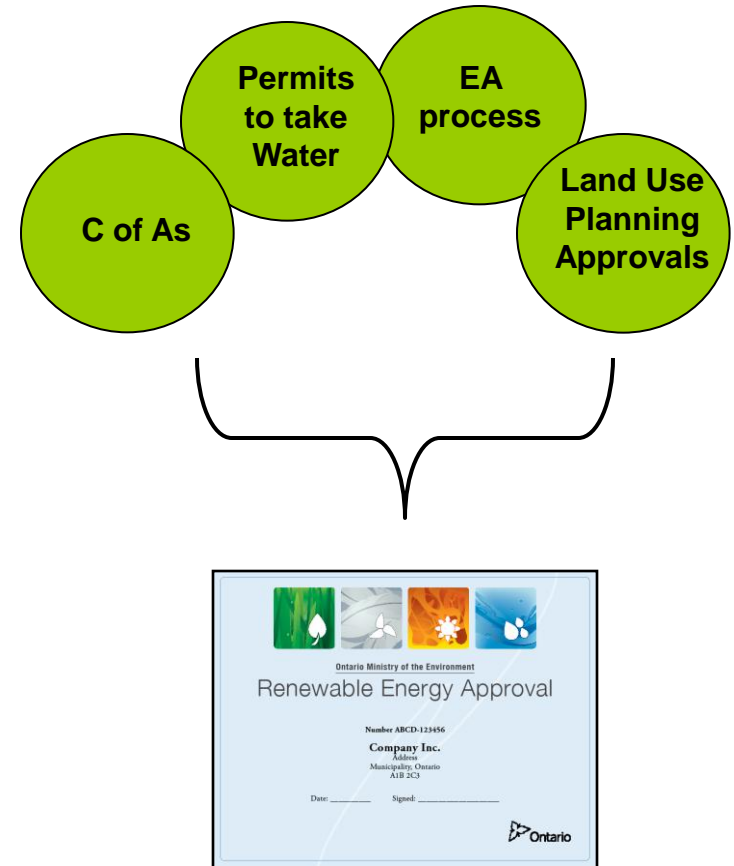
Why Ontario introduced these changes

- Developing renewable energy sources and fostering a conservation oriented culture are cornerstones of Ontario's balanced plan to provide clean, reliable and affordable energy.
 - The new process will get renewable energy projects up and running faster in Ontario.
 - More renewable energy generation will diversify Ontario's energy supply mix and support the Province's commitment to phase-out coal-fired generation by 2014.
 - Investment in renewable energy will also help the Province meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets.






Renewable Energy Approval (REA)

- The Ministry of the Environment's REA will be a single, new approval that integrates the environmental and health and safety matters traditionally dealt with through the following requirements:
 - existing land use planning (municipal government level)
 - environmental assessment (EA)
 - environmental approvals (Certificates of Approval)
 - water takings (Permit to take Water)

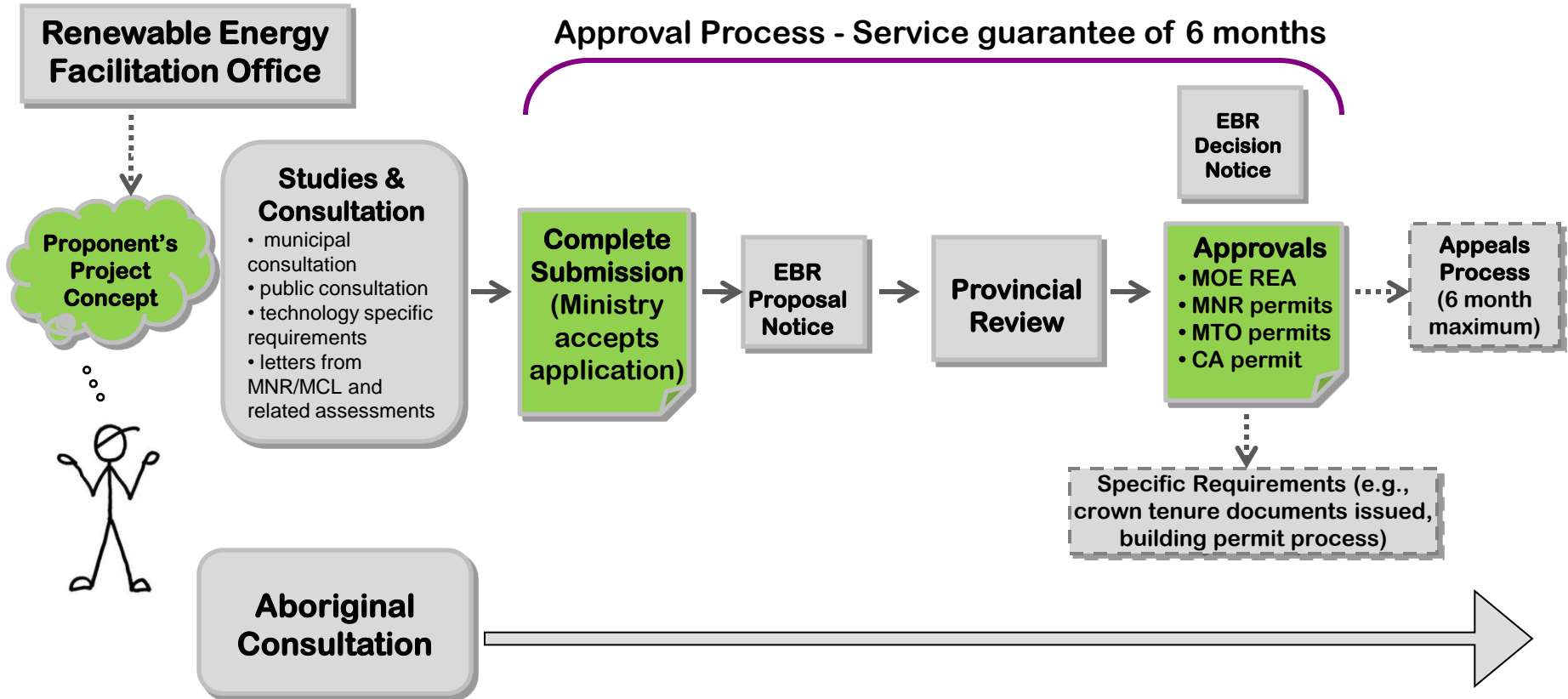


What solar facilities require an REA?

The REA only applies to solar facilities that generate electricity.

<u>REA Class</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>REA?</u>
Class 1	Solar PV – anywhere, $\leq 10\text{kW}$	
Class 2	Solar PV – roof or wall mounted, $> 10\text{kW}$	
Class 3	Solar PV – ground-mounted, $> 10\text{kW}$	

Renewable Energy Approval Process



Class 3 Solar Reports

- All reports are outlined in the regulation. (O. Reg. 359/09 under the *Environmental Protection Act*).
- A complete Class 3 Solar submission includes five core reports and a noise study report.
- Depending on the location of your project, a number of other assessments may be required.
- Technical guidance is forthcoming.

• Project Description Report	
• Construction Plan	
• Consultation Report <i>(Municipalities, community & aboriginal consultation)</i>	
• Design and Operations Report	
• Decommissioning Plan	
• Noise Study Report	
• Cultural Heritage Summary	
• Natural Heritage Summary	
• Water Bodies Summary	
• Provincial Policy Plans Summary	

For more information...

- **MEI's Renewable Energy Facilitation Office (REFO)** has general information on all aspects of bringing a renewable energy project to life.
 - www.ontario.ca/greenenergyprojects.
 - 1-877-440-REFO (7336)
 - REFO@ontario.ca
- **MOE website** has general information and detailed application requirements.
 - Fact sheets describing technology specific requirements, the consultation process, and a jurisdictional comparison.
 - Renewable Energy Approval Guide (forthcoming)
 - Guide to Aboriginal Consultation & Technical Guidance (forthcoming)
 - Proponents with projects considering application for approval can contact the MOE, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (eaabgen.moe@ontario.ca)

