



Hamilton

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Environmental Impact Statement and Summary of Environmentally Significant Areas Impact Evaluation Group Comments

PURPOSE:

This document explains the guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and Summary of Environmentally Significant Areas Impact Evaluation Group (ESAIEG) comments, which may be required for the submission of an application under the *Planning Act*. All EIS's and comment summaries shall follow the guidelines referenced in this document. Failure to adhere to the guidelines may result in a report being considered unsatisfactory and a submitted application being deemed incomplete.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of a complete application when development or site alteration within or adjacent to a Core Area may negatively impact its natural features and ecological functions. Adjacent lands includes lands within 120 metres of a proposed development. An EIS studies the habitat within and adjacent to a Core Area and assesses potential impacts that a proposed development may have on the feature and its functions. As part of this study, recommendations are made to avoid or minimize these impacts.

An Environmental Impact Statement will:

- Inventory and describe the existing Core Areas and the ecological functions of the site in the context of the surrounding landscape.
- Assess potential impacts that the proposed development may have on Core Areas and their functions.
- Provide recommendations on natural area boundaries, mitigation measures and design measures to accommodate or enhance existing natural features and their functions.

PREPARED BY:

An EIS must be prepared by a qualified expert in fields relevant to the natural environment, including an ecologist, biologist, hydrogeologist, arborist/forester, or geologist, depending on the area of expertise required. In some cases, expertise in storm water management, geology, aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, hydrogeology, or fluvial geomorphology will be required.

Environmental Impact Statement and Summary of Environmentally Significant Areas
Impact Evaluation Group Comments – Development Application Guidelines

CONTENTS:

EIS:

An EIS shall be prepared in accordance with the City of Hamilton's approved Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines.

The contents of an EIS will be scoped on a site-by-site basis. The applicant's qualified expert must prepare a Terms of Reference outlining the contents and scope of the EIS to the satisfaction of the City and any applicable Conservation Authority. **Natural Heritage staff in the Planning and Economic Development Department must approve a Terms of Reference for an EIS prior to the initiation of the study.**

Summary of ESAIEG Comments:

The Environmentally Significant Areas Impact Evaluation Group (ESAIEG) is a voluntary technical group established to advise the Planning and Economic Development Department on the impacts of development within or adjacent to Core Areas. Their mandate is to review Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and provide advice to Planning Division staff on whether the technical information provided is adequate to address impacts, whether the proposal should proceed, and if so, what mitigation measures are needed.

Where ESAIEG review of an EIS is needed, a summary of key feedback from City staff and ESAIEG will be issued by City staff following the ESAIEG meeting. This summary and a summary of any subsequent changes made to the proposal to address the comments is required as part of the submission of a complete application.

OTHER INFORMATION:

City of Hamilton Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines

<https://www.hamilton.ca/build-invest-grow/planning-development/planning-policies-guidelines/environmental-impact-statements>

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Natural Heritage staff, Planning and Economic Development Department.
Environmentally Significant Areas Impact Evaluation Group (ESAIEG).
Conservation Authority.

Environmental Impact Statement and Summary of Environmentally Significant Areas
Impact Evaluation Group Comments – Development Application Guidelines

CONTACT:

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Hamilton Conservation Authority: <https://conservationhamilton.ca/>

Conservation Halton: <https://www.conservationhalton.ca/>

Grand River Conservation Authority: <https://www.grandriver.ca/en/index.aspx>

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority: <https://npca.ca/>

DRAFT