

Species at Risk Branch

Direction des espèces en péril

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357-2020-3357

March 10, 2021

Ms. Louisette Lanteigne
Email: water.lulu@yahoo.ca

Dear Ms. Lanteigne:

Thank you for your email to Minister Yurek regarding concerns related to the River Road Extension, King Street to Manitou Drive, located in the City of Kitchener. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister.

Protecting and recovering species at risk and their habitat is a key part of conserving Ontario's biodiversity and the Province, with the help of Ontarians, is committed to protecting species at risk and their habitats and promoting the recovery of species at risk.

The *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA) prohibits activities such as killing, harming, harassing and capturing threatened or endangered species and damaging or destroying these species' habitats.

Land development, such as the River Road Extension in Kitchener, often involves activities that have the potential to adversely impact species at risk and/or their habitat where they are present. It is the responsibility of the person(s) carrying out the activities to ensure that their activities do not contravene the ESA. If proponents can take into account species at risk and their habitat so that there will not be any adverse impacts, it may be possible to carry out the activity in such a way that the impacts to the species and/or habitat can be avoided. Where this is not possible, an authorization under the ESA is required to allow the activities to proceed.

The ministry is committed to providing guidance when engaged by proponents, developers and other affected stakeholders, to explore the necessary requirements for the completion of the proposed activities while protecting species at risk and their habitat.

The ministry is aware of the history related to species at risk and the River Road Extension project. The Species at Risk Branch has reached out to the Region of Waterloo regarding this matter.

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On June 16, 2016, the former Minister made a decision on the Part II Order requests received by the ministry. As part of the Minister's decision, two conditions were imposed on the Region of Waterloo for the River Road Extension Class Environmental Assessment (EA) with the purpose of protecting local groundwater, surface water, and natural heritage features from potential road salt impacts. The former Minister's decision instructed the Region of Waterloo to ensure that the Orders and requirements of the Class EA are satisfied. The Environmental Assessment Branch will reach out to the Region of Waterloo to follow up on the status of the conditions. You can contact Stephen Deneault, Project Evaluator, Environmental Assessment Branch, at Stephen.Deneault@ontario.ca, or the [Region of Waterloo](#) directly, if you have any questions about compliance with the conditions.

Please note that the Region of Waterloo is the lead for municipal tree removals, traffic density data and salt mitigation strategies. Further, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is the lead provincial agency for natural heritage considerations.

We appreciate your concern for the natural environment and species at risk. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Nicole Tuyten, Permissions Coordinator, Species at Risk Branch, at Nicoletuyten2@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Paul Heeney
Manager, Permissions and Compliance Section
Species at Risk Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: The Honorable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
Mr. Mike Schreiner, MPP, Guelph
Ms. Andrea Horwath, MPP, Hamilton Centre
Ms. Catherine Fife, MPP, Waterloo
Ms. Laura Mae Lindo, MPP, Kitchener Centre
His Worship Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor, City of Kitchener
Stephen Deneault, Project Evaluator, Environmental Assessment Branch
Nicole Tuyten, Permissions Coordinator, Species at Risk Branch