

## Glossary of Terms

<b>Alternative</b>	A well-defined and distinct course of action.
<b>Alternatives To the Undertaking</b>	Feasible and reasonable alternative means of solving an identified problem or addressing an opportunity (e.g., solutions to address the problem/opportunity statement).
<b>Alternative Methods of Carrying out the Undertaking</b>	Feasible and reasonable alternatives for implementing the preferred solution to the identified problem or opportunity.
<b>Criteria / Criterion</b>	A set of principles or standards used to compare and judge alternatives. (plural = "criteria", singular = "criterion")
<b>Environment</b>	The Environmental Assessment Act defines environment broadly to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) air, land or water;</li> <li>ii) plant or animal life, including man;</li> <li>iii) social, economic, and cultural conditions influencing the life of man or community;</li> <li>iv) any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by man;</li> <li>v) any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration, or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from the activities of man;</li> <li>vi) any part or combination of the foregoing and the interrelationships between any two or more of them, in or of Ontario.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Assessment</b>	<p>The purpose of environmental assessment (EA) is to ensure that the environmental effects of a project receive due consideration before the proponent and responsible authorities take actions in connection with the project.</p> <p>It is a planning process that predicts, interprets and evaluates environmental effects, and identifies mitigation and environmental protection measures to reduce, eliminate or compensate for the environmental effects associated with a proposed undertaking.</p>
<b>Environmental Assessment Act</b>	<p>Legislation that defines a decision-making process used to promote good environmental planning by assessing the potential effects of certain activities on the environment. The purpose of the EA Act is to provide for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protection;</li> <li>• conservation; and,</li> <li>• wise management</li> </ul> <p>of Ontario's environment.</p>
<b>Environmental Effect</b>	Any change, whether positive or negative, that an undertaking (project) may cause in the environment.
<b>Evaluation</b>	The process that appraises the advantages and disadvantages of alternatives (see <b>evaluation method</b> ).
<b>Evaluation Method</b>	A formal procedure for establishing an order of preference among alternatives.
<b>Factor</b>	A broader category, group or element of the environment used for classifying a given set of criteria.
<b>Geographic Information System (GIS)</b>	A system for creating, storing, analyzing and managing spatial data and associated attributes.
<b>GIS Layer</b>	A spatial dataset containing a common feature type.
<b>Indicator</b>	An aspect of a criterion that characterizes the potential effects on the environment.

## "Long List"

<b>Measure</b>	A basis or standard for comparison. An expression of the potential effects associated with an indicator for a criterion in qualitative and/or quantitative terms.
<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	Action(s) that remove or alleviate to some degree the negative effects associated with the implementation of an alternative.
<b>Net Effect</b>	The remaining negative or positive effect of an alternative after the application of avoidance/mitigation/compensation/enhancement measures.
<b>Net Effects Analysis</b>	The process of determining and documenting the net effects associated with each indicator for each alternative being considered.
<b>Potential Effect</b>	An effect that is deemed possible to result from the implementation of a particular alternative.
<b>Rank</b>	Of a specified order or position in relation to others in a series.
<b>Ranking</b>	To arrange (alternatives) according to their rank.
<b>Reasoned Argument / Trade-off Method</b>	<p>A comparative evaluation method based on net effects / advantages and disadvantages and explained in narrative terms (rationale).</p> <p>The process of examining the net effects and key trade-offs of each alternative in order to provide a clear rationale for the preferred alternative.</p>
<b>Screening</b>	Process of applying screening criteria/criterion to alternatives and eliminating those that do not meet minimum conditions or categorical requirements from further consideration.
<b>Screening Criteria/Criterion</b>	A set of minimum conditions or categorical requirements that an alternative must satisfy in order to be carried forward for further consideration.
<b>"Short List"</b>	The result of applying a screening process to a list of alternatives. The "short list" represents those alternatives that met minimum conditions or requirements and will be carried forward for comparative evaluation.
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	The first step in an application for approval to proceed with a project or undertaking under the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> (EAA) is the submission of a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Assessment (EA). Public and agency consultation is required on the preparation and submission of the ToR to the Ministry of the Environment. Approval is required by the Minister of the Environment. If approved, the ToR provides a framework / work plan for the EA.
<b>Traceability</b>	The characteristic of an evaluation process that enables its implementation to be followed with ease.
<b>Trade-offs</b>	A balancing of attributes, all of which are not attainable at the same time. Giving up of one thing in return for another.
<b>Undertaking</b>	An enterprise or activity, or a proposal, plan or program in respect of a commercial or business enterprise or activity of a person or persons that has potential environmental effects and is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the EA Act.