

## 2025 Annual Report on Section 28 Timelines

On April 1, 2024, the *Conservation Authorities Act* was amended, bringing into force new legislative and regulatory requirements associated with permitting. These include posting an annual report outlining statistics on permits and the level of compliance with the requirements of *Ontario Regulation 41/24*.

Prior to this becoming a requirement, a report on timelines had been posted annually as a best management practice for several years prior.

Permits for development activities are issued under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Section 28 of the Act establishes prohibited activities that shall not be undertaken by individuals in the area of jurisdiction of an Authority. These prohibitions include:

- Activities to straighten, change, divert or interfere in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse or to change or interfere in any way with a wetland; and,
- Development activities in areas that are within the Authority's area of jurisdiction including hazardous lands, wetlands, river and stream valleys, areas adjacent to watercourses.

Section 28.1 of the Act enables CAs to issue a permit for a person to engage in an activity that is otherwise prohibited. CAs may issue a permit if, in the opinion of the Authority:

- The activity is not likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock;
- The activity is not likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property; and,
- Any other requirements that may be prescribed by the regulations are met.

Timelines associated with permit reviews are specified in section 7 of O. Reg. 41/24 and under section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. These outline two timelines:

- Staff have 21 days upon receipt of an application to deem it "complete"
  - If staff have not deemed an application complete within 21 days, then the applicant can request an administrative review.
- Once an application is deemed complete, staff have required timelines between 30 and 90 days to make a decision (depending on the size of the project, see below)
  - If a decision is not made within 90 days, applicant may appeal directly to the Ontario Land Tribunal

\*Timelines are presented in calendar days, excluding statutory holidays.

Timelines are distinguished between Major and Minor applications. Conservation Sudbury's fee schedule includes four application categories and for the purpose of completing the required timeline reporting we have merged these categories:

- Small and Standard are considered "Minor" projects for the purposes of reporting
- Large and Major are considered "Major" projects for the purpose of reporting

In 2025, 77 Section 28 permits were issued. Of these, 75 were issued within the decision timeline. Further details are included in the table below.

<b>Conservation Sudbury Annual Reporting – Permit Statistics</b>	
<b>Total Permits Issued (Overall)</b> (January 1 – December 31):	<b>77</b>
<b>Total Major Permits Issued:</b>	24
<b>Total Minor Permits Issued:</b>	53
<b>Total Applications Subject to Minister’s Order (Minister’s Review):</b>	0
<b>Annual Reporting – Permit Timelines</b>	
<b>COMPLETE APPLICATION REVIEW</b> Total complete application reviews completed in 21 days:	75
<b>PERMIT TIMELINES (MAJOR)</b> Total Major Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	23
<b>PERMIT TIMELINES (MAJOR)</b> Total Major Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	1
<b>PERMIT TIMELINES (MINOR)</b> Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days):	52
<b>PERMIT TIMELINES (MINOR)</b> Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days):	1
<b>REASON FOR VARIANCE FROM TIMELINES</b> Some permits are more complex and require more time for review. In addition, there are busier period of the year where staff have many ongoing files and timelines are difficult to maintain.	
<b>PERMIT TIMELINES (AVERAGE – ALL)</b> Overall Average Permit Review Timeline ():	13
<b>PERMIT TIMELINES (AVERAGE – MAJOR – 90 DAYS)</b> Average Major Permit Review Timeline:	12
<b>PERMIT TIMELINES (AVERAGE – MINOR – 30 DAYS)</b> Average Minor Permit Review Timeline:	13
<b>Annual Reporting – Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24</b>	
<b>MAPPING</b> Are maps of regulated areas available at the CA head office and on the CA website? (ss. 4(1) of O. Reg. 41/24)	Yes – see website for online mapping tool.
<b>MAPPING</b> Has the Authority undertaken an annual review of the mapping and made necessary updates? (ss. 4(2) of O. Reg. 41/24)	Yes –Mapping updates are undertaken as necessary.
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS</b> Total requests for administrative reviews made to the Authority:	0
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS</b> Total administrative reviews completed within 30 days of the request:	0