

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, showing a grid of fields and a winding road. The image is used as a background for the text.

Early Permits, Licences, Approvals and Agreements Collaboration within Environmental Impact Assessments

Ontario Association for Impact Assessment (OAIA) 2023 Conference

Presented by:

Catherine Gentile, MCIP, RPP

Mir Ahsan Talpur, RPP, MCIP, EP

Presentation Outline

- Introductions
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process
- Permits, Licenses, Authorizations and Approvals (PLAAs)

Introductions



Catherine Gentile, MCIP, RPP

Senior Environmental Planner and
Transportation EIA Team Lead



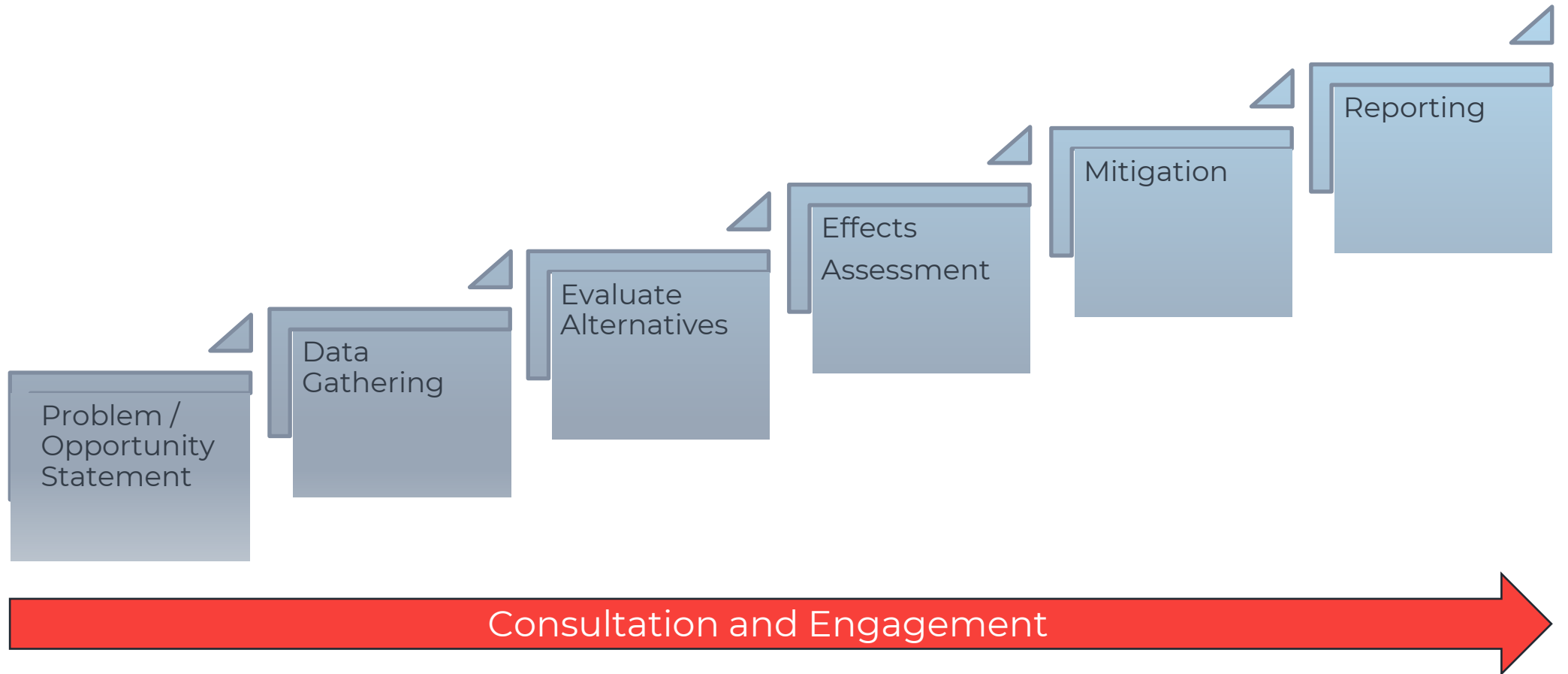
Mir Talpur, RPP, MCIP, EP

Senior Environmental Planner

Environmental Impact Assessments



Step by Step – A Typical EA



Inputs to the EA Process

Input is received from a variety of sources



Sample Technical Specialist Inputs



Fish & Fish Habitat



Terrestrial Ecosystem



Surface and Groundwater



Noise



Contaminated property & waste



Built heritage & cultural heritage landscapes



Archaeology



Landscape



Human Health



Navigable Waterways



Species-at-Risk

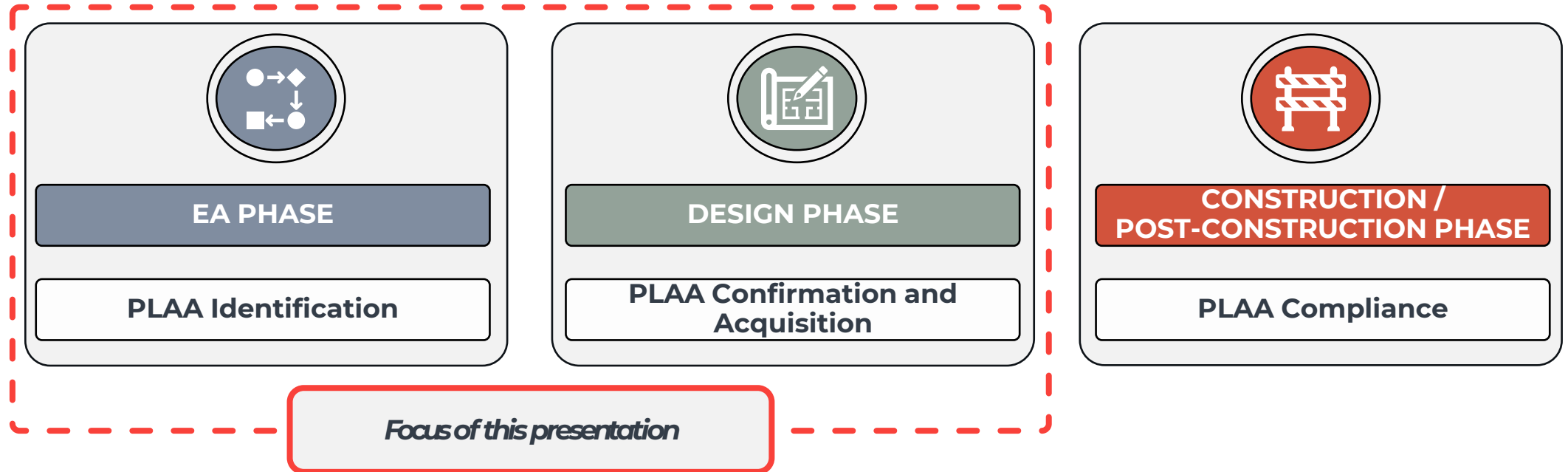


Surface Water and Fluvial Geomorphology

Permits, Licences, Approvals and Agreements



Permits, Licences, Approvals and Agreements (PLAA)



Types of PLAAs

- There are numerous types of PLAAs.
- PLAAs requirements vary from projects to projects and not all projects require same PLAAs.

Federal

- Migratory Bird Damage or Danger Permit under the Migratory Birds Regulations (ECCC)
- Permit under Species at Risk Act (ECCC)
- Authorization under Fisheries Act (DFO)
- Approval of works under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (TC)

Provincial

- Permit under Endangered Species Act (MECP)
- Permit to Take Water (PTTW)
- Building, Land Use, Encroachment Permits (MTO)
- Niagara Escarpment Development Permit (NEC)
- Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses (CAs)

Municipal

- Woodland and Tree Removal Permit (*Forestry*)
- Park Access Agreements (*Parks*)
- Utility Cut and Street Occupancy Permit (*Transportation*)
- Site Plan Approvals (*Planning*)

Indigenous Nations

- Capacity Funding Agreements (*Various*)
- Archaeological or Environmental Monitoring Agreements (*Various*)

Private Property Owners

- Permission to Enter Private Properties (*Various*)

Not an exhaustive list of PLAAs

The *Why, When, and How* of PLAAs

Why is early PLAA integration important?

- Risk of Project Delays
- Regulatory Compliance
- Relationship Building with Indigenous Nations

When to identify PLAA requirements?

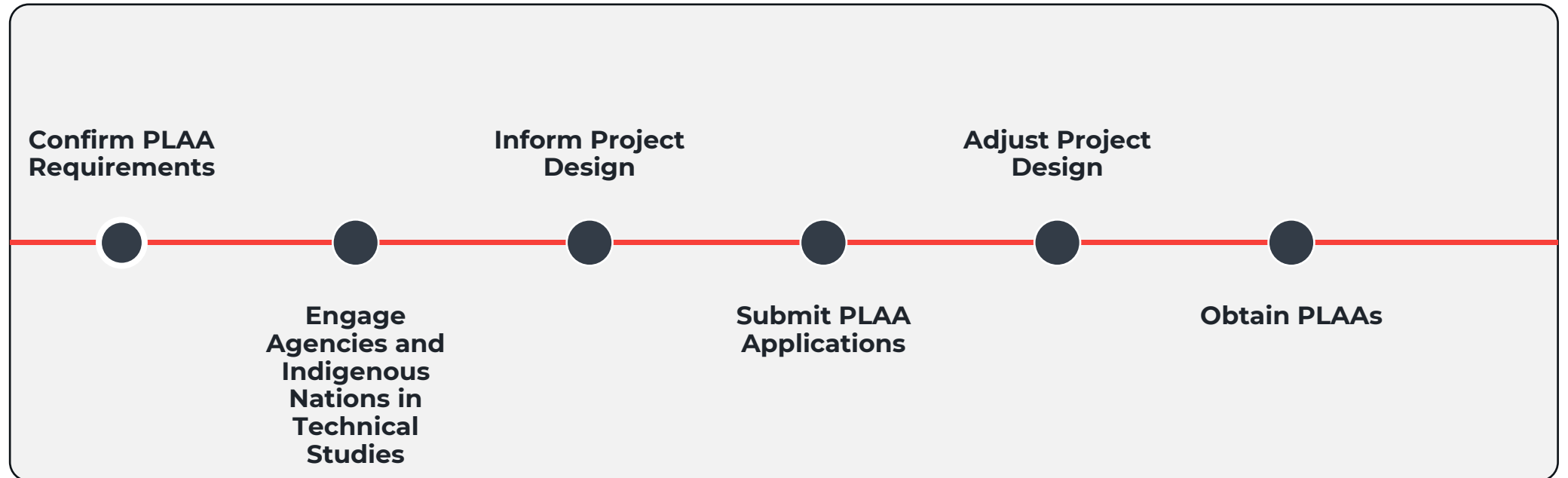
- Identify during EA Phase
- Confirm during Design Phase

How to streamline PLAA acquisition process?

- Initiate discussions with regulatory authorities and stakeholders (at EA Phase)
- Identify PLAA commitments in EA documentation
- Identify potential risks and mitigation strategies
- Identify Individuals at the AHJs
- Develop PLAA Matrix (and update throughout project)
- Monitor legislative changes and assess their implications
- Identify any delays and implement measures to get the PLAAs on track.

PLAA Acquisition Roadmap

Early collaboration on PLAAs is key to project success. It helps minimize risk of project schedule delays.

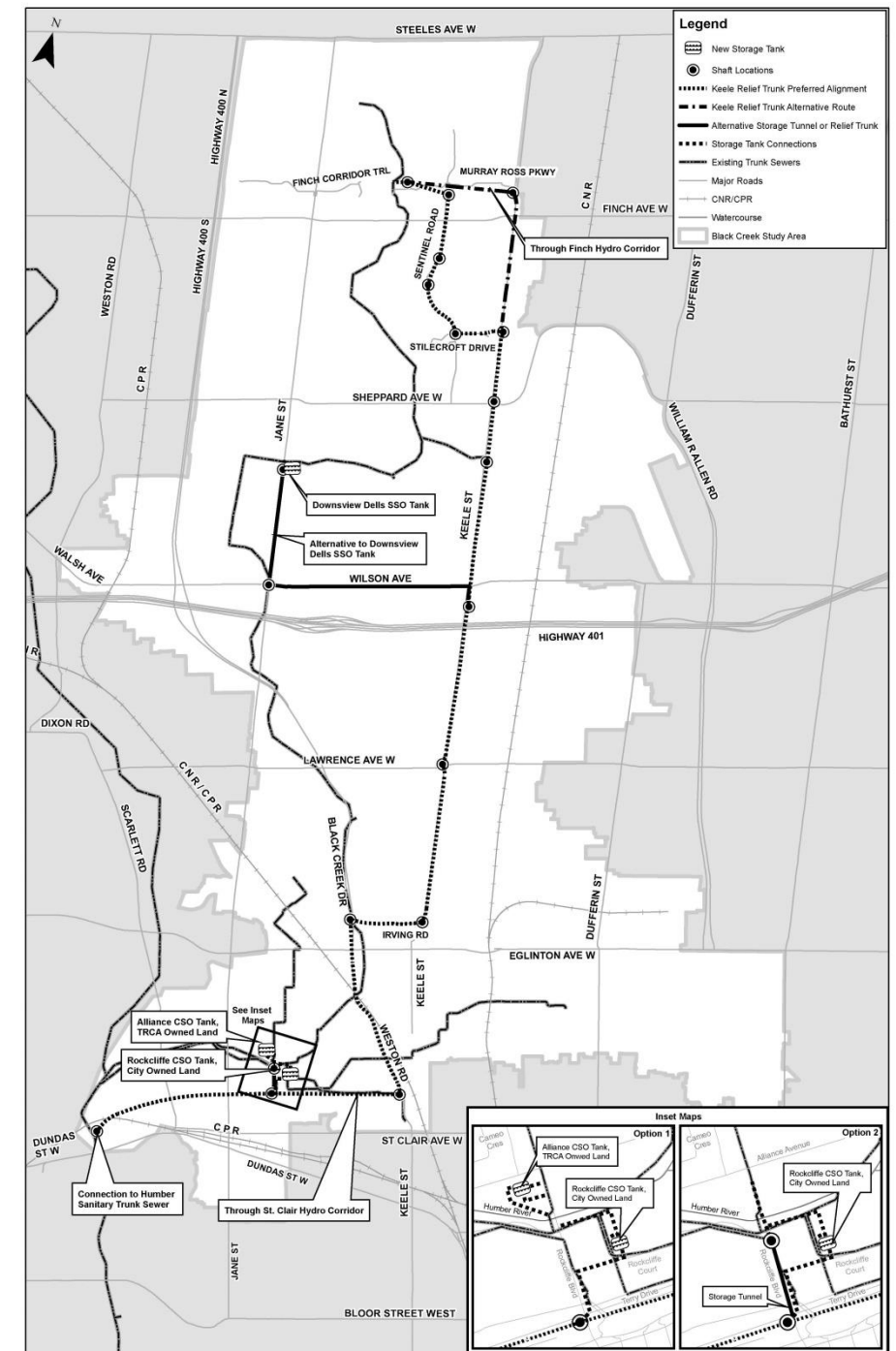


Engage Early and Often with Authorities Having Jurisdictions and Indigenous Nations throughout the PLAA Acquisition process.

Case Study: Black Creek Sanitary Trunk Sewer Relief System (Toronto)

Background

- Existing Black Creek Sanitary Trunk Sewer is a 15 km long sanitary trunk sewer that services the 5,500-hectare drainage area.
- During major storms, flows in the trunk system exceed the design capacity, causing surcharging.
- In addition, during some storms, overflows are released from the combined trunk sewers to the Black Creek watercourse.
- Over the next few decades, a population and employment increase is expected within the BCSTS drainage area.



Case Study: Black Creek Sanitary Trunk Sewer Relief System (Toronto)

Scope Overview

- Schedule 'C' Municipal Class EA completed in December 2020
- The project is currently in design phase
- The project proposes approximately 20 km long sanitary sewer network crossing several jurisdictions, including but not limited to:
 - Canada Land Company
 - Hydro One Corridors
 - Ministry of Transportation Right-of-Way (Hwy 401)
 - TRCA Regulated Areas
 - City of Toronto Road Right-of-Ways
 - City of Toronto Parks
 - Toronto District School Board

Case Study: Black Creek Sanitary Trunk Sewer Relief System (Toronto)

PLAAs required for Technical Studies

Federal

- Canada Lands Company Permission to Enter

Provincial

- Encroachment Permits (*MTO*)
- Land Use Agreements (*IO/Hydro One*)
- Screening Letter / Full Permit (*TRCA*)

Municipal

- Park Access Agreements (*Parks*)
- Utility Cut and Street Occupancy Permit (*Transportation*)

Indigenous Nations

- Archaeological Monitoring Agreements (*Various*)

PLAAs required for Construction

Federal

- Canada Lands Company
- Request for Review (*DFO*) - *TBD*

Provincial

- Environmental Compliance Approval (*MECP*)
- Building, Land-use, Encroachment Permits (*MTO*)
- Land Use Agreements (*IO/Hydro One*)
- Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses (*TRCA*)

Municipal

- Woodland and Tree Removal Permit (*Forestry*)
- Park Access Agreements (*Parks*)
- Utility Cut and Street Occupancy Permit (*Transportation*)
- Site Plan Approvals (*Planning*)

Indigenous Nations

- Archaeological Monitoring Agreements (*Various*)

Not an exhaustive list of PLAAs

Future Role of PLAAs

The landscape of infrastructure development in Ontario is rapidly changing.

With this, PLAA Regulatory Framework is also changing.

This change brings an opportunity for the planners and impact assessment practitioners to act as PLAA Specialists, and an opportunity for learning and growth.

This also challenges us to be inclusive and consider Indigenous Engagement in the PLAA work to advance reconciliation efforts.

Thank you!

catherine.gentile@wsp.com

mir.talpur@wsp.com

wsp.com