

To: LTVCA Board of Directors
From: Jason Homewood, P.Geo., Water Resources Technician & Regulations Officer
Date: 20 January 2026
Subject: 2025 Permit Statistics, Timelines and Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Background:

On April 01, 2024, the Conservation Authorities Act was amended, bringing into force new legislative and regulatory requirements associated with Conservation Authority (CA) permitting. The requirements include timelines associated with the permitting process, as well as a new requirement for all CAs to prepare an annual report outlining statistics on permits and the level of compliance with the requirements of Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits).

This report provides an overview of the permit statistics and timelines for 2025 as well as the level of compliance with different sections of the regulation.

2025 Permit Statistics:

2025 PERMIT STATISTICS	
Total # of Applications Received	601
Total # of "Complete" Applications Received	803
Total # of Permits Issued (Overall)	792
Total # of "Major" Permits Issued	2
Total # of "Minor" Permits Issued	790
Total # of Applications Subject to Minister's Order (Minister's Review):	0

The differential between the number of applications received in 2025 and the number of "complete" applications received is largely due to a significant number of applications received in 2024 that weren't "complete" until 2025 (e.g. additional required documentation was submitted in 2025, or the fee was paid in 2025).

The differential between the number of permits issued versus the number of "complete" applications received can be attributed to applications which were put on hold or cancelled by the applicant, or hadn't yet been processed as of the end of 2025.

2025 Permit Timelines:

2025 PERMIT TIMELINES	
Complete Application Review Total # of “complete application reviews” completed within 21 days:	594 106 applications exceeded the 21 days for their “completeness” review.
Permit Timelines (Major) Total Major Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	1
Permit Timelines (Major) Total Major Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	1
Permit Timelines (Minor) Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days):	560
Permit Timelines (Minor) Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days):	230
Variance from Timelines Reason for Variance from Timelines:	The majority of the permits which didn’t meet the provincial timelines were related to the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (“SWIFT”) program – bringing government subsidized high speed internet to rural areas. The projects were large in scope and covered significant portions of our watershed. The influx of these applications were often congregated and lead to immediate congestion and backlog issues given staffing restrictions.
Permit Timelines (Average – All) Overall Average Permit Review Timeline:	21.4 days (ranged between 0 & 147)
Permit Timelines (Average – Major – 90 Days) Average Major Permit Review Timeline:	108.5 days (ranged between 70 & 147)
Permit Timelines (Average – Minor – 30 Days) Average Minor Permit Review Timeline:	21.1 days (ranged between 0 & 103)

Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24:

COMPLIANCE WITH O. REG. 41/24	
Mapping 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
Mapping Has the Authority undertaken an annual review of the mapping and made necessary updates? (ss. 4(2) of O. Reg. 41/24)	Work continued on required mapping updates in 2025. However, no updates were completed or uploaded to the online portal.
Administrative Reviews Total requests for administrative reviews made to the Authority:	0
Administrative Reviews Total administrative reviews completed within 30 days of the request:	N/A

Analysis and Conclusion:

The LTVCA issued 792 permits in 2025 under O. Reg. 41/24. Of those, ~71% met the Provincial standards for service levels. For initial “complete application review”, ~85% met the Provincial standard. Variances in meeting time standards for 2025 can generally be attributed to challenges with staff’s ability to keep up with the workload demand due primarily to high pressures in the private utility industry, specifically fibre optic communication expansions. Even with support from municipal plan review staff, the staffing challenges persisted.

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