

## Supporting Documentation

### **9) ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF THE EA**

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The integrated environmental study process developed for the Detroit River International Crossing is a unique process designed to meet the requirements of OEAA, NEPA and CEAA in order to ensure a practical, environmentally sensitive, and viable transportation solution to a complex problem. The planning and approvals processes for such a unique bi-national project are complex. A schedule by which the process will be completed can only be developed with the understanding that timeframes may change to suit the evolving project requirements.

At the same time, the transportation problems addressed in the Detroit River International Crossing project are vitally important to be addressed as quickly as possible, while maintaining opportunities for meaningful consultation. The Canada-U.S.-Ontario-Michigan Border Transportation Partnership is committed to initiating this integrated environmental study process as quickly as possible, and to look for opportunities to accelerate the process, which do not compromise the requirements of either of the Canadian and U.S. environmental processes.

The key milestones for completion of the integrated study process are provided below:

- Submission of OEA TOR/Circulation of Purpose and Need Statement under NEPA;
- MOE Minister's Approval of OEA TOR/U.S. agencies concurrence on Purpose and Need Statement;
- Assessment of planning alternatives/Generation of illustrative alternatives;
- Refinement and evaluation of illustrative alternatives;
- Refinement and assessment of practical alternatives;
- Selection of the preferred practical alternatives;
- Concept design and mitigation of the preferred alternative; and
- OEA/EIS/CEA Screening Report Submission.

Additional tasks, milestones and consultation may be developed/undertaken during the EIS/EA study process. Depending upon input received, it is estimated that the above tasks could be initiated as early as mid-2004 and completed as early as mid-2007.

If the EIS/EA receives the necessary decisions/approvals, the design and construction process could be undertaken in as little as four years.