Modernization of Environmental Approvals

Operations Division

Environmental Approvals and Access Service Integration Branch

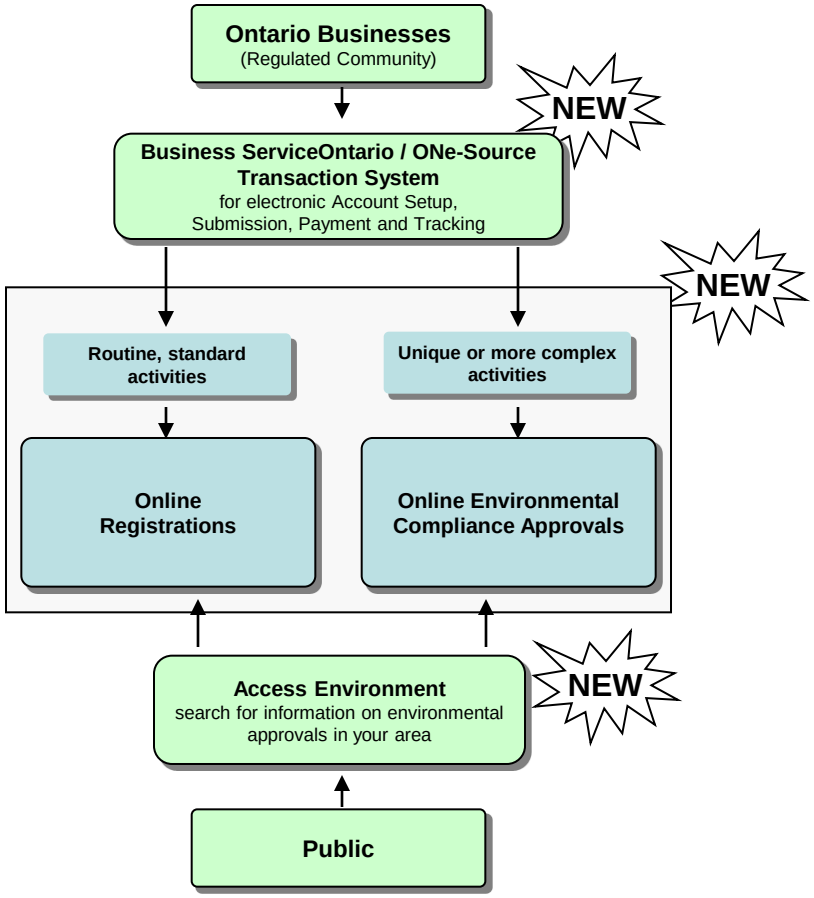
November 2011

Modern Environmental Approvals Process

Electronic service delivery

Two path process for protecting the environment

Public transparency



Ontario

Environmental Activity & Sector Registry (EASR)

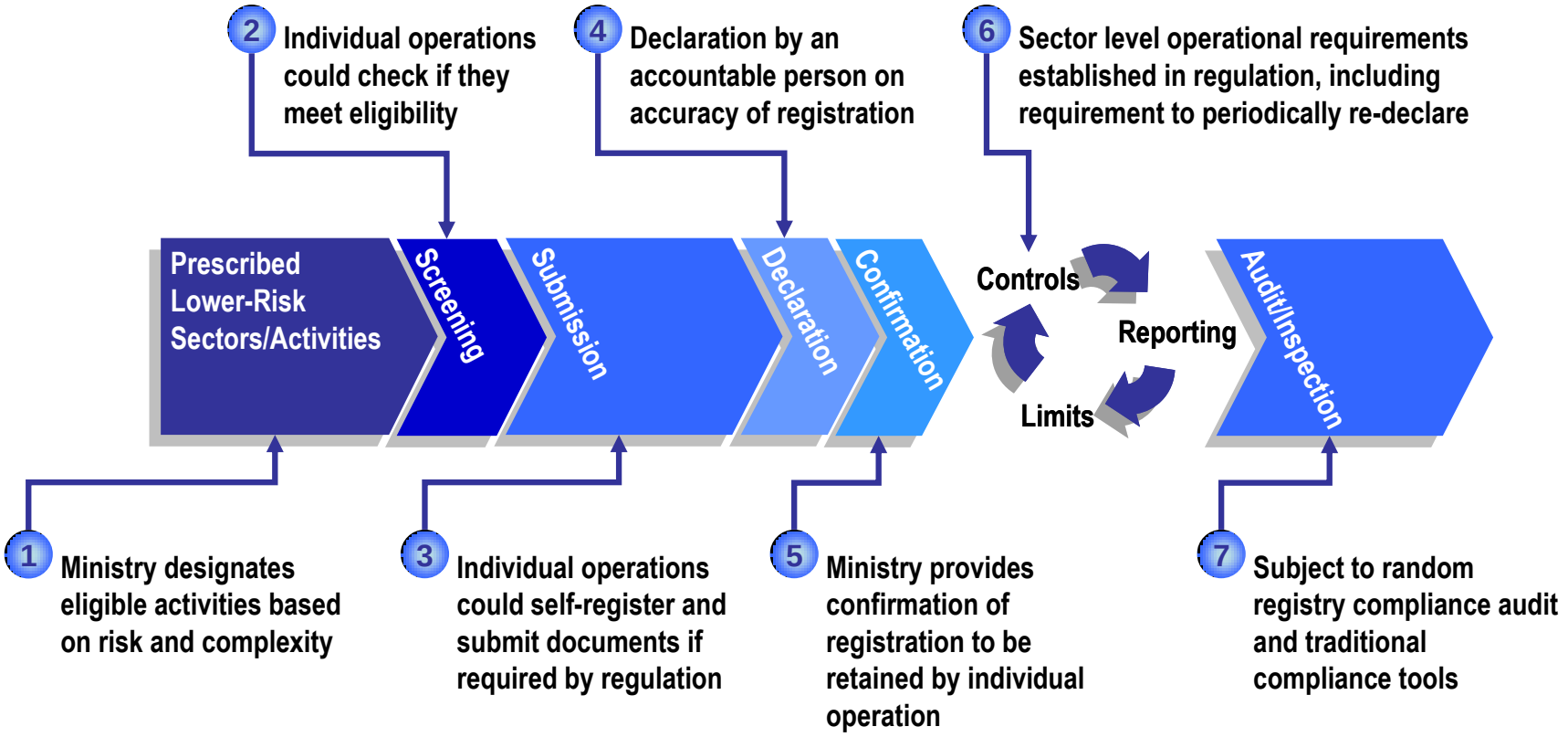
- The EASR replaces the requirement to obtain an approval for specific activities (Group 1) that are set out in the *Prescribed Activities and The Environmental Activity and Sector Registry – Heating Systems, Standby Power Systems and Automotive Refinishing* Regulation (O. Reg. 245/11)
  - e.g. Automotive repair, telecommunications, and the building industry.

- **Key features of the EASR include:**
  - an efficient online self-registration process for registering activities prescribed in regulation
  - an online publicly searchable database of registered activities

- The ministry is investigating two other groups of activities and sectors
  - ***Group 2:*** Waste Collection and Hauling; Stormwater; Ready Mix Concrete; Concrete Product Manufacturing; Printing
  - ***Group 3:*** Cooling Towers for Comfort Cooling & Refrigeration; Retail Collection of Household Hazardous Waste; Remote Site Services; Small Generators; Municipal Recycling Facilities

Ontario

Overview of EASR Process



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Environmental Compliance Approval

- The *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act* provide that a Director has the discretion to issue, refuse to issue, amend or cancel a ECA. In making this decision, the Director must consider the environmental impact with respect to ministry legislation, regulation policies and guidelines and take into account concerns raised by the public during the review process.

- The holder of an ECA is responsible for compliance with all terms and conditions which may be imposed on the ECA and is liable for any contravention of the legislation and or the requirements of the ECA.

Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)

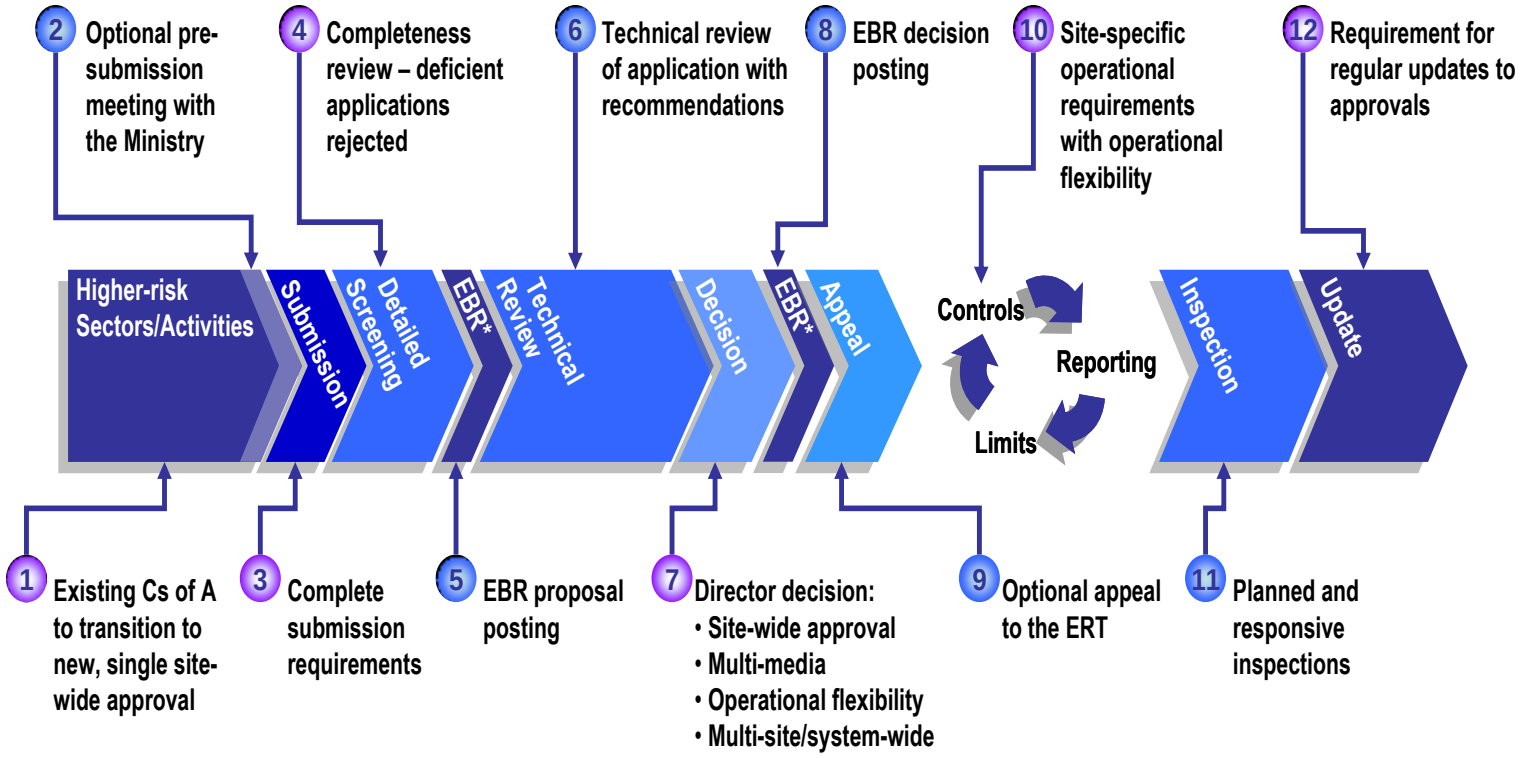
- The ECA process will be for applications that are **unique and more complex**, and for which there is no EASR regulation

- **Key features of the ECA include:**
  - Single approval for multiple activities or locations
  - Flexible operating rules for owners and operators
  - Greater certainty for applicants with rules on what is required for complete application
  - Level playing field for old and new businesses

- Existing CsofA will remain in place – no update is required
  - Gradual transition for ECA process – more functionality, rules and guidance to come

- The ministry is developing organizational capacity and policy to implement **system-wide ECAs for sewage systems or waste management systems**
  - System –wide ECA may be designed to cover all equipment involved in the transport and collection negating the need for individual ECA for each pipe or piece of equipment that make up the system

Overview of ECA Process



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Implementation

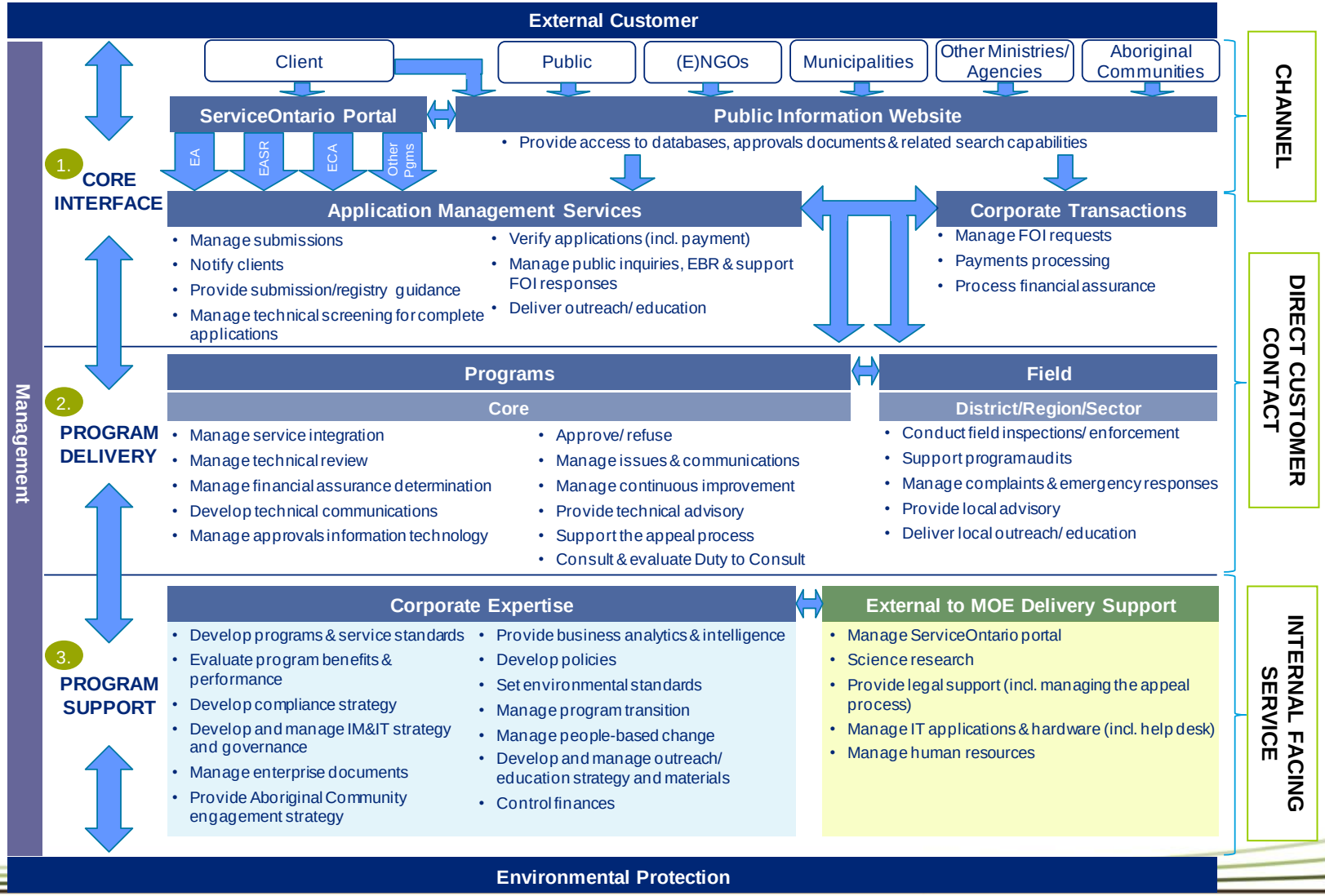
- Proclamation date for the new legislative changes is **October 31, 2011**

- **As of October 31, 2011**
  - EASR regulation for heating systems, standby power and automotive refinishing will be in effect
    - A person can register their eligible activity online via ServiceOntario business portal for eligible activities and sectors
  - CsofA will no longer be issued – ECAs will be issued instead for activities not subject to the EASR
    - Facility-based applications can be submitted by mail or e-mail
    - Complete application requirements and application form available on-line
  - 'Access Environment' website will be available
    - Central location for accessing existing databases
    - Geospatial search capability for CsofA, ECAs, EASR

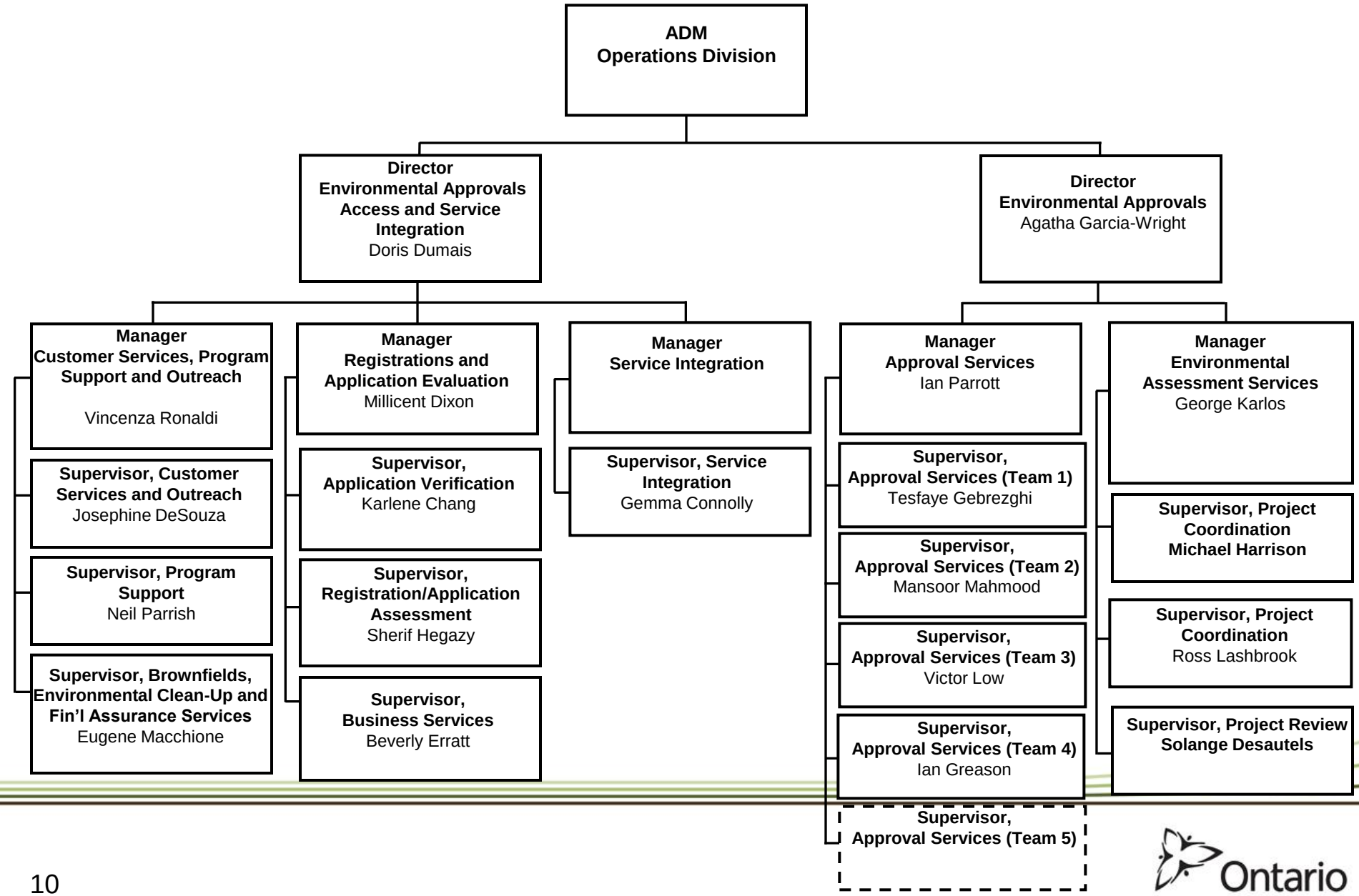
- Organizational changes to support the **new service delivery model** were put in place in September 2011. Staff training on the new approvals process is underway to support the implementation of the new program changes that will take affect October 31, 2011.

- New service delivery model may expand to include approvals such as Renewable Energy Approvals, Permits To Take Water, drinking water systems and municipal licensing that are **not currently in scope.**

Future-oriented Service Delivery Model for Approval Services



New Organization Design



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