

Ministry of Natural
Resources

Ministère des Richesses
naturelles

Office of the Minister

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November 30, 2009

Mr. Yvon Maranda
Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs
Direction des Politiques de l'eau
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 8^e étage
675 Boul. René Lévesque Est, Boîte 42
Québec QC G1R 5V7

Dear Mr. Maranda:

Premier Dalton McGuinty has referred to me your letter notifying Ontario of the water use proposal by the Town of Thetford Mines, Québec. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Ontario.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposal in accordance with the "prior notice and consultation" provisions of the Great Lakes Charter and in the spirit of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.

Ontario acknowledges the effort made to demonstrate consistency of the proposal with the standards of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, even though key elements of the Agreement are not yet in force. We also recognize that while the proposal may be considered a diversion, as the town overlaps the boundary of the basin defined by the agreements, the water will not actually be removed from the watershed of the St. Lawrence River.

We have reviewed the materials provided, including the analysis of alternatives and the town's sustainable water management policy, and have sought input from our multi-stakeholder advisory panel, Ontario First Nations and provincial ministries. Based on this review, Ontario does not wish to object to the proposal. We would, however, like to offer some suggestions, particularly in the area of water conservation and efficiency, which could be achieved through conditions of approval. Rosalyn Lawrence, Assistant Deputy Minister of our Natural Resource Management Division, is Ontario's incoming Regional Body member, and will be providing more detailed comments on the proposal shortly.

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