



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

January 31, 2011

The Rt. Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

E-mail: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Dear Mr. Harper:

Our organization was pleased to have been invited by the National Energy Board (NEB) to review the draft update of the Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment (ESA) section of the NEB Filing Manual.

The attached is our submission which was sent to the Board on January 31st, 2011.

The NEB plays an important role in conducting environmental assessments pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). Because the CEAA suffers from serious flaws in its design and implementation, it was necessary while commenting on the Filing Manual to make known our recommendations for CEAA reform. This is particularly important in light of the forthcoming legislative review of the CEAA, and in light of the several fundamental changes your government has made to it, with little notice or consultation, in recent years. Because of the nature of the necessary reforms, which if implemented would go a long way toward putting Canada on a sustainable path, it is also necessary to transmit the present submission to you, relevant ministers, and members of the opposition parties, in the hope that the submission might help stimulate debate in Parliament.

We would be pleased to respond to questions or to endeavour to provide further information that you may require.

Yours very truly,

**CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION**

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cc: Hon. Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment  
Hon. Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources and Minister responsible for the National Energy Board  
M. Gaétan Caron, Chair and CEO, National Energy Board  
Celine Sirois, National Energy Board  
Mr. Michael Ignatieff, MP, Leader of the Official Opposition  
Mr. Jack Layton, MP, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada  
M. Gilles Duceppe, MP, Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
Mr. Gerard Kennedy, MP Liberal Environment Critic  
M. Denis Coderre, MP, Liberal Natural Resources Critic  
Ms. Linda Duncan, MP, NDP Environment Critic  
Mr. Nathan Cullen, MP, NDP Natural Resources and Energy Critic  
M. Bernard Bigras, MP, Porte-parole du Bloc Québécois en matière d'environnement  
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Ms. Elaine Feldman, President, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

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