

BILL 82 - THIS BILL EXPANDS THE POWERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS & INCREASES THE PENALTIES UNDER THE ONTARIO WATER RESOURCES ACT, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, AND THE PESTICIDES ACT.

WHILE STRONGER ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS ARE GOOD, THE CONCERN IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT ENFORCING EVEN ITS EXISTING LAWS ADEQUATELY.

THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO CUTBACKS IN STAFF & PARTLY DUE TO EXPRESS DECISIONS BY THE MOE NOT TO ENFORCE SOME OF ITS OWN LAWS!! (FOR EXAMPLE, THE ENFORCEMENT POLICY LEAKED TO THE MEDIA LAST MONTH).

STRONG LAWS ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE ENFORCEMENT BEHIND THEM.

IN MANY CASES, THE GOVERNMENT IS GIVING AWAY ITS ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHER NON-GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY LED ASSOCIATIONS.

THE OTHER CONCERN WE HAD ABOUT BILL 82 WAS THE SHEER SPEED WITH WHICH IT WAS INTRODUCED AND PASSED - 10 DAYS POSTING ON THE EBR, AND FROM "1ST READING" TO "PROCLAIMED" IN THREE WEEKS! IT WAS A 200 PAGE BILL AMENDING 3 OF THE PROVINCE'S MOST IMPORTANT PIECES OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION & SHOULD HAVE HAD BROADER CONSULTATION

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

BILL 25, OMNIBUS LEGISLATION THAT INTRODUCED CHANGES FROM MANY DIFF. MINISTRIES IN LATE 1998. CALLED "THE RED TAPE REDUCTION ACT" (AGAIN). MANY SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENTS.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS ONE OF THE ^{NEW} STATUTES INTRODUCED THEREIN: THE STATUTE & REGULATION REVISION ACT.

THIS ACT GIVES THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (A STAFF PERSON) AND CABINET THE POWER TO AMEND STATUTES WITHOUT PASSING THEM THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE IN ORDER TO

"CLARIFY THE INTENT" OF THE LEGISLATURE & FOR OTHER REASONS.

THIS ~~FORGOTTEN~~ STATUTE & THE POWER IT GIVES ~~THE~~ OF LAW MAKING FUNCTIONS, TO NON-ELECTED PERSONS, IS OF EXTREME CONCERN TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY.

ENERGY COMPETITION ACT - BILL 35 -

THIS BILL RESTRUCTURES ONTARIO HYDRO & ONTARIO'S ENERGY INDUSTRY COMPLETELY. PARTS OF ONTARIO HYDRO BECOME ONTARIO GENERATION AND PARTS BECOME ELECTRICITY SERVICES (TRANSMISSION).

HOWEVER, ODDLY, THE TWO NEW CORPORATIONS ARE BEING INCORP'D EFFECTIVE APRIL 1/99 - IN 1 1/2 WEEKS, UNDER THE BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT. THIS ODD CREATION - THE CROWN WILL BE SHAREHOLDER - MEANS THAT THE NEW COMPANIES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LEGISLATION. THIS IS OF ENORMOUS CONCERN DUE TO THE IMPLICATIONS FOR ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ISSUES.

SIMILARLY, THESE NEW ONTARIO HYDRO CORPORATIONS MAY NOT BE SUBJECT TO AUDIT, FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE & OTHER TOOLS OF DEMOCRATIC OVERSIGHT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY.

THESE TRENDS, ALONG WITH REMOVAL OF THE APPLICATION OF THE EBR & THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT, ALSO AFFECT THE TSSA, MENTIONED ABOVE.

YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE CHANGES & SIMILAR CHANGES IN THE FUTURE THAT AFFECT PUBLIC RESOURCES & PUBLIC OWNERSHIP - WATER UTILITIES

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