



CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

L'INSTITUT CANADIEN DU
DROIT ET DE LA POLITIQUE
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW ASSOCIATION

ecojustice.ca
formerly Sierra Legal Defence Fund

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Mr. Gregory Zimmer
Senior Programme Advisor
Ministry of Environment
Environmental Programs Division
Program Planning and Implementation Branch
Modernization of Approvals
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Toronto, Ontario
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Fax: 416-325-7962

Via Fax

Dear Mr. Zimmer

**Re: Proposed Environmental Activity and Sector Registry Group 1
Activities and Sectors Technical Report; EBR Registry Posting No. 011-1959**

The Canadian Environmental Law Association, Ecojustice, and the Canadian Institute of Environmental Law and Policy are writing to you in response to EBR Registry posting 011-1959, which outlines the standards for four industry sectors which will be subject to the new registry process (Environmental Activity and Sector Registry “EASR”).

We previously provided comments on the modernization of environmental approvals in response to EBR Registry No. 010-9143. A number of the concerns which we raised in our previous comments continue to be applicable to this EBR proposal as well. We are concerned about how cumulative impacts from multiple sources will be addressed under the registry process as well as in the approval process. We have raised concerns about this issue at the roundtable consultation sessions as well, but have not yet received a satisfactory response from the MoE to date.

At present, the MoE only makes certificate of approvals issued to industry available to the public through a publicly accessible registry. We urge the MoE to ensure that the public has access to all background information filed in support of an application for a certificate of approval as well as registration in the registry process in a publicly accessible registry. We believe these minimum

requirements are necessary to ensure transparency under the new environmental approvals process in Ontario.

We also strongly recommend that the MoE develop a monitoring, compliance and enforcement strategy to ensure that industrial facilities whose operation are subject to the registry process comply with Ontario's environmental laws. Information about industry-wide compliance for activities and sectors subject to the EASR should also be made publicly available to increase both industry and government accountability.

Please be advised that these are some of our preliminary comments and we may provide additional comments as we obtain more information about activities and sectors subject to the EASR.

Yours truly,
CELA

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