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Reform of Ontario's air pollution law proposed Nov. 30 by Environment Minister Jim Bradley

A fundamental reform of Ontario's air pollution law was proposed on Nov. 30 by Environment Minister Jim Bradley.

Bradley released a discussion paper, inviting the general public, environment groups and industry to comment on the package of proposed reforms.

"The old regulation is outdated and provides inadequate protection for the people and environment of Ontario.

"We need a law that cuts pollution at the source. Our reforms address problems such as the long-range transportation of air pollution, and the ability of some of these chemicals to persist in the environment, accumulate in living things and climb the food chain," Bradley said.

The proposed reforms would:

- require significant air polluters to cut contamination to the level attainable by the appropriate level of pollution control technology;

- sources emitting the most-hazardous contaminants would meet the most stringent pollution reduction levels;

- adopt as a second line of defense, an air quality approach with enforceable ambient air standards to replace the current point-of-impingement system.

- apply immediately to all new sources. The reforms would be

phased in to cover the most-hazardous 10,000 existing air polluters within five years, and the remaining 10,000 significant existing air polluters within 10 years.

- require certificates of approval for processes and equipment to be reviewed every 10 years so that air polluters would regularly need to match the emission performance levels attainable by the latest techniques.

Under the new law, best management practices would be implemented. Certificates of approval would contain operating requirements to maintain a high level of pollution reduction efficiency.

Substances with high toxicity, and toxic substances which persist or which bioaccumulate, would be rated as high-hazard contaminants.

Examples of such high-hazard contaminants are lead and dioxin. Polluters emitting these contaminants would have to reduce these substances to the levels attainable by the best removal technology known anywhere in the world.

Substances rated as medium or low hazard, such as pentachlorophenol and total reduced sulphur respectively, would be subject to levels of pollution control appropriate to the risk that they pose.

Under one option presented for

public comment, medium-hazard pollutants would require reductions attainable by the best generally available technology which is economically achievable (BAT-EA).

Low hazard pollutants would require reductions attainable by technology generally demonstrated as acceptable.

Under another option, both low and medium-hazard contaminant emitters would have to meet BAT-EA levels.

"Our air pollution proposal is designed to deliver Ontario an ever-cleaner environment," Mr.

Bradley said.

"It joins two other basic reforms: MISA, which aims to stop water pollution at its source, and Bill 112, which makes it cheaper to comply with our environmental laws than to pay the dramatically higher penalties for polluting."

"Our goal is to cut air pollution drastically at source by putting in place legally enforceable rules that remove the loopholes of the past," Bradley said.

The minister asked all interested Ontarians to examine the proposals, and tell him what they

think of them.

"Your advice, your comments and your criticisms are essential if we are to get the most effective and workable cleanup of our air underway quickly," he said.

Written submissions on the proposal to reform Regulation 308 under the Environmental Protection Act should be sent to the minister at 135 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1P5, by March 31, 1988.

Copies of the discussion paper, in English or French, are available on request.

Youngsters can participate in contest to choose an official bird for Ontario

Ontario has an official flower, an official tree and an official mineral, but there is one emblem we lack, which most other provinces have. That's an official bird.

"I am asking youngsters aged nine to 11 to help fill that gap by participating in a contest to choose an official bird for Ontario," Natural Resources' Minister Vincent Kerrio said.

"Birds are a significant part of Ontario's natural heritage.

"They play an important role environmentally, and provide hours of enjoyment to people like myself, who like to watch them," he said.

All types of birds, such as waterfowl, songbirds, game birds and birds of prey should be considered for the emblem.

The contest is part of the province's Wildlife '87 activities marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of Canada's first wildlife sanctuary at Last Mountain Lake in Saskatchewan.

Youngsters should consider the following guidelines when preparing their entries:

- the bird must be native to Ontario (not an introduced species such as the English sparrow or the starling), fairly well-known and found throughout most of Ontario;

- youngsters should avoid choosing an endangered species;
- birds that have already been chosen as the emblem of another province, such as the blue jay, which is the official bird of Prince Edward Island, should also be avoided;
- other birds which already represent a province or territory are:

Stellers' jay (B.C.); great horned owl (Alberta); prairie sharp-tailed grouse (Saskatchewan); great gray owl (Man.); horned lark (Que.); black-capped chickadee (N.B.); belted kingfisher (Nova Scotia); Atlantic puffin (Newfoundland); and the common raven (Yukon Territory);

-the contest is open to all youngsters in Ontario born between January 1, 1976, and December 31, 1978;

-one entry per person will be allowed, naming a bird and including a one paragraph explanation with or without drawing outlining why it should be chosen as the official emblem of Ontario.

Of all the suitable birds proposed, the one most-often selected as a result of the children's research will be chosen Ontario's official bird.

A winning entry will also be chosen based on the quality of the explanation in his or her entry.

The winner will be required to show proof of age, such as a birth certificate, to ensure contest rules were met.

The winner will receive a piece of artwork and a copy of the newly-released Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario.

All entries should be mailed as soon as possible to:

Ministry of Natural Resources
Wildlife Branch
P.O. Box 118,
77 Wellesley Street West,
Toronto, Ontario,
M7A 1N3.

Entries must be received by January 31, 1988, to be eligible

for the contest.

The minister will announce the winning bird and make the presentation to the winning entrant during National Wildlife Week, April 10 to 17, 1988.

The trillium, Ontario's provincial flower, was selected through a similar children's contest.

The white pine and the amethyst are Ontario's other official emblems.

Much info gained at geology seminar

Toronto- prospectors, mineral developers, geologists and educators once again had the opportunity to obtain the latest information on the geology of the province during the annual Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) geo-science research seminar on Dec. 15 and 16 at the metro Toronto convention centre.

This 10th edition of the seminar featured investigation of gold camps, old and new, including Hemlo, Timmins and Detour Lake, a session devoted to platinum group elements in mafic and ultra-mafic rocks in Ontario, studies of the geology and mineral deposits in an area of Northwestern Ontario known as the Wabigoon Sub-province, and a session on gold exploration.

The Toronto seminar precedes similar regional seminars to be held in Thunder Bay, Timmins and Red Lake in February, 1988.

"In the OGS we have a dedicated group of scientists devoted to developing the knowledge that will help us realize our province's vast mineral potential," said Mines Minister Sean Conway.

Initiative promoting economic development takes a step forward

A provincial government initiative promoting economic development took a major step forward on Nov. 12 with the selection of two groups of consultants which will produce recommendations to assist the Ministry of Natural Resources make better use of Crown land.

"We have traditionally place a high priority on preserving this land," said Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio.

"But this vast area, much if it in the North, represents opportunities to bring in business and boost the economy.

"To do this, we want to get the best possible professional advice on how Crown land can be used most beneficially, while placing considerable emphasis on protect-

ing our wilderness and the quality of the environment."

The studies are one part of the implementation of an Ontario Government initiative to promote Crown land as a development tool (CLADT).

The CLADT program applies across the province, although emphasis is being placed upon proposals for land use in Northern Ontario.

A consortium comprising Anthony Usher, Planning Consultant, Michael Michalski Associates, both of Toronto, and Christopher Rees of North Bay, will conduct a review of the ministry's land disposition policies.

The study is expected to rec-

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A Happy New Year to everyone!