



Statement of Environmental Values for the Ministry of Energy, Science Technology

Introduction

The Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) was proclaimed in February 1994. The founding principles of the EBR are stated in its Preamble:

The people of Ontario recognize the inherent value of the natural environment.

The people of Ontario have a right to a healthful environment.

The people of Ontario have as a common goal, the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment for the benefit of the present and future generations.

While the government has the primary responsibility for achieving this goal, the people should have means to ensure that it is achieved in an effective, timely, open and fair manner.

The purposes of the Act are:

- To protect, conserve and where reasonable, restore the integrity of the environment;
- To provide sustainability of the environment by the means provided in the Act; and
- To protect the right to a healthful environment by the means provided in the Act.

These purposes include the following:

1. The prevention, reduction and elimination of the use, generation and release of pollutants that are an unreasonable threat to the integrity of the environment.
2. The protection and conservation of biological, ecological and genetic diversity.
3. The protection and conservation of natural resources, including plant life, animal life and ecological systems.
4. The encouragement of the wise management of our natural resources, including plant life, animal life and ecological systems.
5. The identification, protection and conservation of ecologically sensitive areas or processes.

In order to fulfill these purposes, the Act provides the means by which

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- ▶ Ministry of Transportation

the residents of Ontario may participate in the making of environmentally significant decisions by the Government of Ontario; increased accountability of the Government of Ontario for its environmental decision-making; increased access to the courts by residents of Ontario for the protection of the environment; and enhanced protection for employees who take action in respect of environmental harm.

Statements of Environmental Values are a means for government ministries to record their commitments to the environment and be accountable for ensuring consideration of the environment in their decision.

The EBR requires a Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) from all ministries prescribed under Ontario Regulation 73/94. A SEV explains:

- how the purposes of the EBR will be applied when decisions that might significantly affect the environment are made in the Ministry; and
- how consideration of the purposes of the EBR will be integrated with other considerations, including social, economic and scientific considerations, that are part of decision-making in the Ministry.

It is each Minister's responsibility to take every reasonable step to ensure that the SEV is considered whenever decisions that might significantly affect the environment are made in the ministry.

Ministry Mandate

The Ministry of Energy, Science & Technology's mandate is to:

- ensure that Ontarians have access to safe, reliable and environmentally sustainable energy supplies at competitive prices; and
- ensure that all Ontarians are able to participate in the knowledge economy and share the benefits of scientific research, technology development and innovation.

Strategic Directions for the Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology

The following strategic directions will guide the Ministry's activities:

- promotion of a safe, secure and competitively-priced supply of energy;
- encouragement of environmentally sustainable energy production and use;
- encouragement of efficient energy production and use and conservation of energy to promote;
- economic development, increased jobs and investment in Ontario ;
- promotion of a competitive energy market with investment opportunities for new generators, co-generation, renewable and cleaner forms of energy production;
- identification of opportunities to invest in science and technology and to use provincial investment to leverage financial support by the private sector and other parties to benefit the economy and

- people of Ontario in an environmentally sustainable manner;
- help to Ontario businesses, institutions and individuals to adopt new technologies and enhance their ability to innovate, to promote economic development and to create jobs.

Integration of Statement of Environmental Values with Other Considerations

The Ministry will integrate the purposes of the EBR with its mandate by:

- taking consideration of the purposes of the Environmental Bill of Rights in its decision-making process;
- ensuring social, economic, and scientific aspects of the Ministry's mandate, as set out in PART III, are implemented in a manner consistent with the purposes of the EBR.

Application

- The Ministry will apply the value statements, described in Part IV, in its development of energy, science and technology policy.
- In making decisions that might have a significant effect on the environment the Ministry will provide opportunities for public input.
- The Ministry will increase awareness in its client groups, other ministries, agencies and the public of the benefits of energy-efficient economic development.
- The Ministry will monitor and report on its progress in implementing the Statement of Environmental Values.
- The Ministry will implement an Environmental Bill of Rights awareness program for Ministry staff.

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