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From: Ed Mankelow [mailto:wildlife@shaw.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 4:08 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Subject: Comments on Proposed Water Sustainability Act

This is my final response to the proposed Water Sustainability Act. I am also speaking for the 40,000 members of the BC Wildlife Federation through their resolution passed at their 2013 convention held in Courtenay in April.

Sincerely
Ed Mankelow Past President
BC Wildlife Federation

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I did send a previous Comment on behalf of the BC Wildlife Federation on the Proposed Act on March 11th 2011 and had previously met with Ted Proban and Ian Graeme on February 17th 2011 to discuss the proposed act. There were 2 other submissions from BCWF committees. I am attaching some of my previous comments and the comments in **BOLD** are my additions today.

Water is one of the main necessities of life for people, all wildlife and fish. It therefore follows that the conservation and sustainability of this resource is paramount to our survival. Thanks to governments it is still a public resource owned by the people and stewarded by governments. The new act should have that fact as an overarching principle.

“Water is owned by the citizens of British Columbia and its availability and sustainability is paramount to our Survival

Governance and Communities We fully support the position taken by the BCWFs Land Use Committee on not giving communities and local governments more decision making authority over resource decisions, for the reasons documented. Municipalities and local governments have not to our knowledge, ever addressed the issue of limits to growth and permitted large subdivisions even though they may not have the infrastructure or water resources to support the large increase in population. In the North Cowichan Municipality they have recently issued development permits for the construction of hundreds of new houses in Chemainus with more proposed, even though they have just gone to wells in the Chemainus River aquifer against the strong opposition from the local First Nations who have wells in the area. In Parksville which has gone to well and river withdrawals there is a lot of concerns from that town. In the “Parkville Residents Association report on Water ‘ they state:

“In 1978 the city began development of the Springwood Well field. Since 1988 the Ministry of Environment has been monitoring an observation well at the Springwood site. Readings between 1979 and 1996 show a decline of over 40%. At this time we were taking groundwater from the aquifer faster than nature could replenish it”.

After quoting from a municipal promotional pamphlet they continue:

“So reads the current promotional pamphlet provided by the city of Parksville but in their RDN-Watershed snapshot report 210 LANARC states-Parksville Aquifers, Primarily aquifers 216 and 220 but also aquifer 217 have significantly declining water levels. This affects the municipal water supply and also private wells.

“Drilling new wells into the aquifer is not a viable option. It was estimated in 1996 that the city could only support a maximum of three new wells. This would be like a child adding more straws to a glass of water- you can empty the glass quicker”

The report goes on to state that as the aquifer is depleted the threat of sinkholes and seawater contamination is likely. Which has been indicated in one area.”

The facts are that aquifers in many parts of North American are experiencing replenishing problems In the South United States basin, wells have had to be dug One hundred and fifty feet deeper to keep the water supply. Will the problem get worse with the advent of climate change? We don't know, but would be wise to take the precautionary principle.

Industrial use. How in the new proposed legislation are you considering the industrial use of water?. Will there be any requirement in the act to require industry to re circulate and re-use the water they use if it is possible? **.Possible, not just economically possible.**

One of our concerns has been the Oil and Gas industries use of water, Hydraulic fracking for coal-bed methane or shale oil. Each frac can use thousands of gallons of water with a mix of chemicals that the industry has refused to divulge. The water when recovered is highly polluted and cannot be used on the soil. It has to be reinserted by another drilled well below the shale bed. New York has banned the practice and other US States are looking at the environmental Impacts of the practice. The United States EPA estimates that the industry uses 140 billion gallons of water annually.

France has extended the ban on shale oil drilling, largely due to the concern about the use of Hydraulic Fracking.

On the issue of Fracking, attached is a copy of the resolution passed at the BC Wildlife Federation convention this April in Courtenay. A copy was sent to then Mines Minister Rich Colman, and when we got no response, indeed not even an acknowledgement that it had been received, we sent a copy to the premier with a DVD copy of the Global 16/9 Program “Untested Science” on Fracking with the same non response.

Reading the way the issue is addressed in the proposed bill, I doubt that it will be addressed there. I should point out that the United States EPA have stated that they have now found a link between fracking and ground water pollution and the French highest court has recently supported the governments concern moratorium on the practice, against a court challenge from a drilling company.

I am writing this believing that to me it seems an obscenity to turn billions of gallons of fresh water into an unusable toxic soup, having just seen on the news today people in Indonesia who will die for the lack of water.

Sincerely. Ed Mankelow. Past President
BC Wildlife Federation

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Draft

Hon Christy Clark, Premier
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC

May 18th 2012

Madame Premier;

May I first say how pleased we were that you found time in your busy schedule to visit and address the delegates at our annual meeting in Courtenay. Your address to the delegates was well received and appreciated.

At the convention, the following resolution was passed by the delegates almost unanimously.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Wildlife Federation request that a moratorium on fracking be imposed until studies are done to determine the full impacts of this practice are completed and published, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BCWF request a public board of enquiry be put in place by the province to examine this practice and to enquire into how permits were issued for water withdrawals from our reservoirs without public consultation.

The British Columbia Wildlife Federation has a history of dealing with government within the process, rather than deal through the media. It is for this reason that we ask for a meeting on this issue as soon as is possible.

It is because of the **Be it further resolved** that we are sending this letter directly to you rather than directly to the ministers involved. We believe that it should be you who would call a board of enquiry if it is so required.

We also know that this is a resource land use issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Sincerely
Ed Mankelow Past President
BC Wildlife Federation

cc.

Hon Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Hon Steve Thomson Minister of Forest, Lands & Natural Resources
Hon. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment
Bill Bosch President BC Wildlife Federation
Carl Gitscheff, Director BC Wildlife Federation

