

Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC

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April 23, 2010

Water Act Modernization Submission
Ministry of Environment
Water Stewardship Division
P.O. Box 9362
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M2

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: British Columbia's *Water Act* Modernization Discussion Paper

The *Water Act* Modernization Discussion Paper was recently reviewed by the Environment Committee of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia ("the Association").

As we understand it, the modernization strategy is based on eight principles:

1. BC's water resources are to be used within sustainable limits;
2. First Nations social and cultural practices associated with water are to be respected and accommodated;
3. Science informs water resource management and decision making;
4. Water resource legislation, policy and decision making processes as well as management tools are to be integrated across all levels of government;
5. Rules and standards for water management are to be clearly defined, providing a predictable investment climate across the province;
6. Flexibility is to be provided to adapt to extreme conditions or unexpected events on a provincial, regional or issue-specific level;
7. Incentives are to be created for water conservation that considers the needs of users and investors; and
8. Rights to use water come with responsibilities to be efficient and help protect stream health.

These principles hope to fulfill four goals:

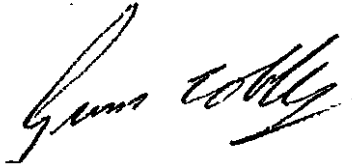
1. Protect stream health and aquatic environments;
2. Improve water governance arrangements;
3. Introduce more flexibility and efficiency in the water allocation system; and
4. Regulate groundwater extraction and use.

Letter to the Ministry of Environment
Re: Water Modernization Act
April 23, 2010

The Environment Committee of the Association noted the following issues in the materials: management of water resources on a watershed, rather than regional, basis; and the inclusion of groundwater protection in the legislation. The Environment Committee supports both of these initiatives.

The Association's Environment Committee supports the modernization initiative and wishes to be involved in the consultation process as it progresses. Please keep us apprised of the developments and of any further opportunities to provide input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerry O'Hara".

G. C. (Gerry) O'Hara, P.Eng.
Chair, Environment Committee
Association of Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of British Columbia