From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 10:00:30 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Re: Water Act Modernization- Discussion Paper Feedback

Submitted on 04/29/2010 - 23:00
Submitted by anonymous user: [96.54.238.68]

Submitted values are:

Postal Code: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Comments:
To whom it may concern,

Water Act reform is needed in the following areas:

- groundwater extractions need to be licensed and licensing should be based on the ability to use an aquifer without mining it. BC should be embarrassed to be still in the 18th century with respect to groundwater.

- The focus of the Act should be refocused from a licensing process for users to an ecology-first approach of comprehensive watershed planning, done by the Province and NOT downloaded to local governments.

- Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) assessments must be supported by regional and municipal bylaws. There should be a penalty in place for regional districts/municipalities that don’t comply with RAR legislation.

- Water license applications need to have an expiry date, so that private industry can’t hold onto water rights.

- We must have a licensing/permitting system that prioritizes water uses, such as ecosystem and domestic uses above irrigation uses for golf courses and lawns.

- First in Time, First in Rights system needs to have restrictions under low flow conditions and this must be enforced.

- The impacts of climate change must be taken into consideration, including an assessment of how it will impact the ability to meet ecosystem and domestic needs.

In Closing:
I've no doubt that these comments will be thoroughly ignored and we will go into the 22nd Century with inadequate environmental legislation, but please read them so you know what ought to be done. Your Ministry employees know what needs to be done, so get on with it.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
http://www.wildsight.ca/node/1024/submission/681