From: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***
Sent: April-25-10 4:05 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act Modernization submission- PLEASE acknowledge receipt
Attachments: Bcomment to 2010 water act modernizationApril 26.pdf

Please find attached my submission to the Water Act Modernization process. Thank you

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April 26, 2010

Ministry of Environment
Water Stewardship Division
PO Box 9362, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9M2

RE: Public submission-Water Act Modernization

It is with regret that I received the Discussion Paper and Technical Background Report only recently. I have not been able to spend the time to fully "digest" the information provided so my comments are mainly based on the principles mentioned on page 5 of the Discussion Paper:

- I am glad to see that the number one principle listed is that "B.C.'s water resources are used within sustainable limits." Ensuring that B.C.'s water resources remain sustainable must outweigh managing this resource for economic benefit.

- To me the statement "Water is needed for everything" quoted in the Discussion paper by our Minister of Environment ,Mr. Barry Penner says it all about how important it is for us to start managing our water resources responsibly NOW.

- I would like to see more emphasis on "prevention" efforts aimed at protecting water quality and quantity instilled into the Water Act.

- I would like to see clear rules/regulations defined in the Water Act related to pre-development requirements around water courses e.g. thorough baseline studies, "meaningful" consultation with stakeholders, production of "implementable" contingency plans for water replacement/reclamation prior to any development, etc. These efforts must address the potential for both short and long term impacts to water quality and quantity.

- I firmly believe that new Water Act needs to be "hard nosed", clear, and consistent. (We cannot afford to have a "waffly" Water Act. Regulators, business and the public need to know what parameters they are working within/towards. The mistake with so many governing documents is that it is not always made clear how/which regulations are "really" implemented and when, what and how measures are taken regarding any violation to the Act. What the public and companies complain about most is that "the goal posts are not well defined"!! This issue is often compounded when there is a change in ministry staff. This situation leads to big potential for added risk of negative impact to our water resource and lengthly disputes).

- I hope that the revised Water Act truly addresses the challenges that we face in ensuring our water resource remains sustainable for generations to come.

- I hope that our leaders in the B.C. government fully support the Ministry of Environment offices throughout the province to ensure we have the required number of trained personnel to carry out the many tasks that will be placed upon them to uphold the intent of the new Water Act.

I am a water licensee whose quality of life is heavily reliant on my present water supply. I welcome any effort to ensure water resources are protected, maintained and remain sustainable.

Thank you for your efforts displayed in modifying the present Water Act and thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide my comments.

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Sincerely,

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