

APR-05-04 MON 04:50 PM 260

FAX NO. 416 971 6191

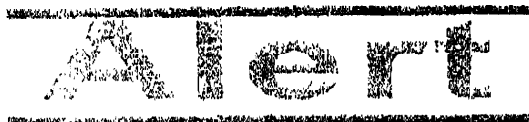
P. 01

Member Communication

Association of
Municipalities
of Ontario

393 University Avenue, Suite 1701
Toronto, ON M5G 1E6

Tel: (416) 971-9856 • fax: (416) 971-6191
email: amo@amo.municipal.com



To the immediate attention of the Clerk and Council

April 5, 2004 – Alert 04/014

AMO Responds to Environment Minister's Announcement on Review of Environmental Assessment Process and Waste Diversion Strategy

Issue: Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky announces a review of the environmental assessment process and will release a waste diversion discussion paper related to new 60% target.

Background: The Minister of Environment's announcement includes a review of the EA process, and developing a framework agreement to avoid duplication of Federal EA legislation. Members of the Panel were not announced today.

The 10-person advisory review panel will have municipal representation and will:

- Identify key impediments to obtaining timely approvals for projects subject to the environmental assessment process; and
- Examine the existing environmental assessment process and identify potential improvements by category of activity.

The Ministry of Environment will also release a discussion paper on options for achieving the 60% waste diversion target. The paper will include discussions on:

- Setting province-wide objectives;
- Setting diversion targets for residential waste;
- Centralized composting;
- Phasing in a ban on organics and other recyclable materials in landfills
- Introducing new options for source separation for IC&I sectors (industrial/ commercial /institutional);
- Considering new and emerging waste management technologies; and
- Promoting packaging reduction.

AMO will develop a response for the Minister's consideration when the discussion paper is available.

Below is the text of AMO's News Release issued today.

Toronto, Ont., April 5, 2004 -- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) today reacts to the Minister of Environment, the Hon. Leona Dombrowsky's announcement of changes to the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, including the appointment of municipal representatives to an advisory panel.

"Addressing duplication between Provincial and Federal environmental assessment process will give municipal governments some much needed clarity on approval of infrastructure projects," said AMO President Ann Mulvale. "It's also encouraging that the panel will consider the fact that different categories of projects may need a different process."

A Ministry of Environment discussion paper to be released shortly will consider a number of options for achieving 60% waste diversion, including increased composting, phasing in a ban on organics, source separation and promoting packaging reduction.

"Municipal recycling programs are subject to a number of rules and regulations, and it looks like there could be more," commented Mulvale. "Municipalities work at the end of the waste stream and it would be prudent to find out how we can work harder on the front end where the packaging is produced, and efforts for new technologies and recycling uses."