

Ministry
of the
Environment

Deputy Minister

135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

Ministère
de
l'Environnement

Sous-ministre

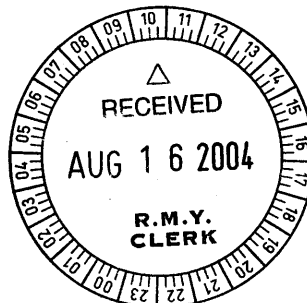
135, avenue St. Clair ouest
Toronto ON M4V 1P5



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AUG 1 1 2004

Mr. Denis Kelly
The Regional Municipality of York
York Region
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1



**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. -

*file
K. Schipper*

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter dated July 22, 2004 in which you make recommendations on behalf of the Regional Municipality of York Region on how to strengthen Ontario's environmental assessment (EA) process. This is a critical goal for the Ministry and the Minister.

An Advisory Panel has been appointed by the Minister to seek advice and insights on how to achieve this for the key sectors of waste management, transportation and transit, and cleaner energy. Ministry staff are working closely with the Advisory Panel to ensure that members have access to all relevant and critical information and data on EA in Ontario and elsewhere. Your submission has been provided to appropriate ministry staff for consideration through this ongoing process.

Regarding your recommendation to expeditiously finalize the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, you will be pleased to note that the Ministry is currently meeting with Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency representatives to address comments received during public consultation and to finalize the agreement.

We look forward to receiving the Advisory Panel's report, which will examine the existing process and identify opportunities for potential improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Virginia M. West".

Virginia M. West
Deputy Minister

