



September 17, 2012

Ms. Agatha Garcia-Wright, Director  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Ministry of Environment  
2 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1L5

**Re: Conservation Ontario's Comments on the Proposed Amendment to the Class Environmental Assessment for Waterpower Projects**

Dear Ms. Garcia-Wright:

I am writing on behalf of Conservation Ontario to express my support in principle for the proposed amendment to the Class Environmental Assessment for Waterpower Projects with respect to small projects at existing infrastructure. Conservation Ontario is the umbrella organization for Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities, which are community-based watershed management agencies dedicated to conserving, restoring and managing Ontario's natural resources on a watershed basis. Conservation Authorities own and operate \$2.7 billion dollars worth of flood control infrastructure including 900 dams, dykes, channels and erosion control structures.

Conservation Authorities are active participants in the green economy, which enables citizens to live more sustainable lifestyles while growing economically within the capacity of our natural world. As such, we have an appreciation and understanding of the policy context within which this proposal is being advanced.

In my view, the proposed amendment is well aligned with the government's direction with respect to the encouragement of small, distributed renewable electricity projects. Conservation Ontario supports the use of existing infrastructure whenever possible to achieve the aims of greening the economy and will encourage developers to consider partnering with Conservation Authorities on these projects, wherever feasible.

I encourage the Ministry to accept the OWA's proposed amendment and I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely;

Leslie Rich  
Policy and Planning Officer

c.c. Paul Norris, Ontario Waterpower Association

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