

Ministry of Natural
Resources

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MNR4046MC-2010-2680

FEB 03 2011

Mr. William A. Allen
9 First Avenue
Burk's Falls ON P0A 1C0

Dear Mr. Allen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the draft policy proposal *Technical Guidelines and Requirements for Approval under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*. I appreciate your comments on this proposal, specifically your concerns for Ontario's endangered species and fish habitat.

Since 2006, my Ministry has been working with a stakeholder Advisory Panel to find ways to modernize provincial dam safety requirements in Ontario. The intent of the draft policy proposal 011-1306 posted on the Environmental Registry was to outline these potential enhancements and in no way attempts to avoid Ministry responsibilities under the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* (LRIA) for fish passage and ecosystem health.

Your comments on the importance of balancing the objectives of the *Green Energy Act* with other legislative mandates are well appreciated. In order to help achieve this balance, MNR will continue to apply existing legislative and policy tools, including those within the LRIA, to ensure that renewable energy projects consider the needs of aquatic ecosystems.

The Environmental Registry posting was an important step in the policy development process to provide the public with an opportunity to review these draft guidelines and help MNR decide whether or not to move forward with any of these potential changes. Your comments will be taken into consideration.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Jeffrey".

Linda Jeffrey
Minister of Natural Resources