



ONTARIO FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION
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Growing a stronger, greener Ontario

July 24th, 2020

Erinn Lee
Policy Analyst
Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks
15th Floor, 438 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N3

Submitted via the Environmental Registry of Ontario

Re: Updating Ontario's Water Quality Management Framework, ERO #019-1340

Ms. Lee,

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) is proposing regulatory changes for managing water takings to protect the long-term sustainability of surface water and groundwater to ensure these important resources are responsibly managed and safeguarded now, and for future generations. Collectively, the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) represents 39 forestry companies, processing facilities, and forest managers across the province. Our member companies are committed to working with the MECP to protect and sustain the quality of Ontario's air, land, and water.

Water resource data plays an important role in supporting evidence-based decision-making; enabling the MECP to build better programs and services to ensure sustainable water use and water security. For some forest resource processing facilities, large quantities of water are consumed daily. However, at a minimum, the same amount is released back to the watershed. As MECP takes action on the sharing of government water quantity data, we ask that all indicators are shared and not limited to intake numbers only.

We would be happy to discuss this with you further, at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Ian Dunn, RPF
Executive Director of Policy and Operations
Ontario Forest Industries Association