

January 18, 2019

Submitted online at: <https://ero.ontario.ca/comment/reply/node/525/comment>

Michael Friesen
Senior Policy Advisor
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Environmental Programs Division
Program Management Branch
Toxics Reduction Program
40 St. Clair Avenue West. Floor 4
Toronto, Ontario
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RE: EBR Proposal 013-4234 – Repeal the *Toxics Reduction Act, 2009* and all associated regulation by December 31, 2021

Dear Mr. Friesen:

The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the EBR Proposal 013-4234 – Repeal the *Toxics Reduction Act, 2009* and all associated regulation by December 31, 2021.

The OFIA includes over 40 forest products facilities operating in the province of Ontario, representing all aspects of the product life cycle from forest management through to final pulp, paper and solid wood products. With a strong primary sector, Ontario's forest sector supports advanced manufacturing and innovation in the fields of biomaterials, biofuels and biochemicals. Currently, the Ontario forest products sector represents \$15.5 billion of economic activity and provides over 170,000 direct and indirect jobs across Ontario.

Ontario's forest products sector has a long history of pollution prevention and investment in reducing toxic substances from their facilities including:

- Voluntary elimination of elemental chlorine bleaching to address generation of chlorinated organics, including dioxins and furans
- Voluntary elimination of products containing nonylphenol ethoxylates NPE's in response to concerns around endocrine disruption
- Ongoing tracking and monitoring of chemical additives to respond to strict customer requirements and concerns around priority substances such as mercury

The OFIA applauds the repeal of the *Toxics Reduction Act, 2009* and all associated regulations by December 31, 2021 for the following reasons:

- The over-prescriptive regulatory requirements do nothing more than create additional costs, regulatory burden and workload with little to no benefit for the

regulated community or protection of the environment. The annual reporting requirements on average cost each facility over \$20,000.

- Since the program began in 2009, any reductions in the use, creation or release of toxic substance in the wood products and the pulp and paper milling processes have been driven by the needs of the mills and decreases in production, not the Toxics Reduction Program.
- Tracking the trace amounts of the “toxic” substances that are naturally occurring in wood is a lot of work for no benefit to the public nor environment. The reporting numbers are meaningless because the calculations are based on chemical composition factors and emission factors related to production.
- The reporting of release, disposal and transfers of the “toxic” substances are already being reported under the federal National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI).
- The Ontario Toxics Reduction Program is not aligned with either the Federal programs for managing toxics via CEPA or with any other regulatory framework within the Province of Ontario.

The OFIA supports the proposal to no longer require facilities with existing toxics reduction plans to review those plans. The OFIA agrees that this will remove unnecessary duplication with federal programs and voluntary environmental management systems.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 647-231-1867 or bmosso@ofia.com.

Sincerely,



Barbara Mossop, P.Eng. MBA
Environment and Energy Technical Advisor
Ontario Forest Industries Association

cc:

Jamie Lim, President and CEO, OFIA
OFIA Environmental Affairs Committee