

MOE Minister approves reduced decision making requirements.

On October 30, 2008 the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) published its policy decision to eliminate its founding mandated Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) responsibilities to all Ontarians set out under the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR).

No longer are MOE administrators mandated *“In making decisions to use science that meets the demanding standards of the scientific community.”*

PIRC submits that the government was fully aware that its proposed new pesticide classification system failed to meet the above scientific criteria as its cornerstone.

Irresponsibly proposed to be eliminated from urban lawn care use under the government's cosmetic pesticide ban regulations is Round Up ®, a Health Canada classified reduced risk product with the active ingredient “glyphosate”. A product that the MOE now proposes unjustifiably replaced by products containing the far inferior, higher risk, and more costly “acetic acid” active ingredient makes absolutely no scientific sense.

In addition, notably conflicting with the re-evaluation findings of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency, (PMRA), USA Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA), European Commission, (EC) and World Health Organization was MOE's unjustifiable decision not based on scientific criteria to ban the active ingredient 2,4-D from urban lawn care use by both homeowners and the licensed professional industry..

PIRC submits that this Ministry has failed its responsibility to adopt an ecosystem approach to environmental protection and resource management. This approach was to view the ecosystem as composed of air, land, water and living organisms, including humans, and the interactions among them. Yet the MOE callously disregarded the serious negative economic impact on Ontario's small lawn care businesses that will unjustly force many prior viable companies into bankruptcy in the coming year and years ahead unless its former classification scientific criteria and respect for Health Canada's pesticide re-evaluations and registration approvals are recognized.

It is significantly important to note that the PIRC membership formally appealed EBR Registration Number PA05E0016 posted July 27, 2005 in a submission dated September 6, 2005. Comments were allowed to September 25, 2005. PIRC therein advised the government that this new proposed MOE Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) policy substantially weakened environmental protection for human health, the environment, and our ecosystem. PIRC stated in its EBR appeal that the proposed SEV changes failed to strengthen stakeholder consultation much earlier in the legislation process as promised by the MOE.

PIRC submitted that the proposed MOE SEV unacceptable sought elimination of the phrase, ***“In making decisions, the Ministry will use science that meets the demanding standards of the scientific community.”***, profoundly and adversely impacted the lives and livelihood of our stakeholders and all Ontarians. It was for those reasons that the PIRC recommended that the MOE amend its proposed new SEV statement and add after the words, ***“In making decisions, the Ministry will use the best science available”*** our requested added words, ***“that meets the demanding standards of the scientific community.”***

Reference Source:

EBR Registry Number: PA05E0016

Title: Revised Statements of Environmental Values Ministry of the Environment

Date Decision loaded to the Registry: October 30, 2008

Date Proposal loaded to the Registry: July 27, 2005