



RECEIVED APR 3 1974

Department of the City Clerk

City Hall, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 2N2

Address all correspondence
to the City Clerk

Gordon T. Batchelor / City Clerk

Roy V. Henderson / Deputy City Clerk

Attention: **Mr. J. Harvey - 367-7033**

April 2, 1974.

Canadian Environmental Law Association,
Suite 303,
1 Spadina Crescent,
Toronto, Ontario,
M5S 2J5.

Dear Sir:

On April 1, 1974 the Committee on Public Works had before it a communication (February 21, 1974) from the Commissioner of Public Works regarding the report entitled "Green Paper on Environmental Assessment" of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

The Committee decided to refer the foregoing communication to the Canadian Environmental Law Association, Pollution Probe, the Sierra Club and CORRA for consideration, with a request that representatives of the aforesaid organizations be requested to appear before the Committee on Public Works at its next meeting to be held on April 16, 1974.

Yours truly,

R. V. Henderson

Deputy City Clerk.

*Rt
OH*

Encl.

*No. 3 Committee Room West Side
11: AM.*

*- (Vague)
- Wanted comments on the proposal
- Addressed to the public works submission*

*11 members
How many members on comm? ~~367-7033~~
Time? Place? ~~Mr. Harvey~~
What needed? - 15 min, 1 hr*

*Bunce
King*



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

R.M. BREMNER, P. Eng., F.I.C.E., Commissioner
ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COMMISSIONER

CITY HALL, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5H 2N2

February 21, 1974.

TO:

Committee on Public Works

SUBJECT:

Green Paper on Environmental Assessment

ORIGIN:

Ontario Ministry of the Environment

COMMENTS:

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment distributed their report titled "Green Paper on Environmental Assessment" to the clerks of municipalities for their review and comments in September, 1973. However, some municipalities did not receive this document at that time; the City of Toronto was amongst these municipalities. On December 4, 1973, this paper reached the Department via the Municipal Engineers Advisory Committee requesting the Department's comments by January 1, 1974.

The Green Paper was the result of the Ontario Government's concern with the protection of the environment and the need of legislation to ensure that all environmental factors are considered in a comprehensive and co-ordinated fashion prior to the undertaking of projects of potentially significant environmental effects.

The paper investigates several different approaches for achieving the objectives of Environmental Assessment and seeks the views of the public and private sector before selecting a particular system for implementation. The following alternative systems were presented:

- (a) - Independent hearing agency established.
- Preparation of assessment by Ministry of the Environment.
- No comprehensive civil service review of environmental assessment document.
- Hearings held by Agency.
- Decision made by Hearing Agency, subject to appeal to Cabinet.

- (b) - Independent environmental assessment commission established.
 - Preparation of assessment document by the proponent.
 - Review by staff of environmental assessment commission.
 - Public hearings held at discretion of commission.
 - Decision made by environmental assessment commission.
No appeals.

- (c) - Assessment document prepared by project proponent.
 - Review co-ordinated by Ministry of the Environment.
 - Hearings held by Environmental review board at discretion of Minister of the Environment.
 - Approvals by Minister of the Environment with consultation where appropriate.
 - Refusals by Cabinet.

- (d) - Commissions of inquiry established for major projects on ad hoc basis.
 - Assessment by consultants retained by commission of inquiry.
 - No comprehensive civil service review of assessments.
 - Hearings held by commission.
 - Decision made by cabinet.

The four alternative proposed systems have been reviewed and I am of the opinion that System "C" would be the most desirable one from the City's standpoint.

A further matter which requires to be discussed is the method by which the "screening" of projects is carried out in order to separate those projects having little or no environmental impact from those which require a full environmental assessment.

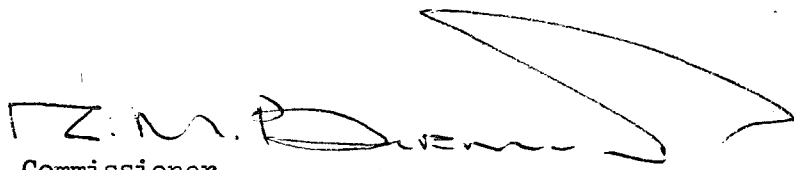
This problem requires an early solution, for it is an integral part of a workable assessment scheme. To ensure that there is a valid assessment made of all projects, it would seem logical that the "screening" mechanism should be related to the various levels of government, from Municipal through Provincial, in terms of their various jurisdictions, and take full advantage of existing information channels.

The direction of the screening process at least requires to be laid down at this time so that when the Environmental Assessment Programme comes into operation the flow of assessments is not delayed while further decisions as to the modus operandi take place.

For example, it is conceivable that a scheme such as the Scarborough Expressway Project would be subject to an Environmental Assessment prior to its construction. However, if subsequent consideration of temporary environmental impacts due to its construction are required, it is expected that these would be handled by a local Municipal jurisdiction rather than being returned for further Assessment on an appeal basis.

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that this report be forwarded to the Honourable James A. C. Auld, Minister of the Environment.


Commissioner.

FMB/ng