



Ontario

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news release

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PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE ON NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

TORONTO - The Ontario government is continuing public consultation meetings on a second round of regulations under the Nutrient Management Act, Minister of Agriculture and Food Helen Johns and Minister of the Environment Chris Stockwell announced today. The legislation and its regulations will provide clear, consistent standards for agricultural practices that affect the environment, especially as they relate to land-applied materials containing nutrients.

"We are committed to listening to what the people of Ontario tell us," Johns said. "After holding several consultation meetings across the province, stakeholders told us there was a need to clarify several areas. We have changed the format of the meetings and materials to ensure that everyone will be able to understand more clearly the regulations we're proposing."

"The nutrient management framework will become a key part of the water protection approach envisioned by Commissioner Dennis O'Connor," said Stockwell. "Because of this, it is critical that we work alongside all our partners to ensure that the regulations are workable, well understood and fulfill this government's commitment to protecting the environment."

The proposed regulations are being examined during several stages of consultations. The first stage dealt with content requirements of nutrient management plans, and the categories of livestock operations that will be required to prepare these plans.

The second-stage consultations deal with proposed requirements regarding:

- categories of non-livestock, municipal and industrial generators of materials containing nutrients;
- content requirements of nutrient management strategies for municipal and industrial generators;
- construction and siting of barns and manure storages;
- setbacks and buffers from watercourses for land application;
- training and certification for anyone who prepares nutrient management plans and strategies, as well as haulers and applicators;
- quality standards for land-applied nutrients;
- nutrient management at feedlot operations;
- roles and responsibilities of local advisory committees;
- winter spreading;
- land application near municipal wells; and
- enhancements to the Ministry of the Environment's land application program.

A proposed strategy to ban the land application of untreated septage over a five-year period is also part of the second-stage consultations.

"It is important to note that these regulations are still in the draft stage, and would be put into force only after we've completed consultations," Johns added.

In addition to the consultations, Minister Johns is presenting information on the draft regulations at agricultural and commodity group meetings throughout the winter.

Recent meetings were held in Owen Sound and Bradford and future meetings are being held in Stratford, Carleton Place, Barrie, Alfred (meeting in French only), New Liskeard (French language services provided), Leamington, Lindsay and Rainy River. Visit www.gov.on.ca/OMAF for dates and locations of meetings and to view the draft regulations. Further consultations are in the planning stage.

Contacts:

Derek Nelson
Minister Johns' Office
(416) 326-3861

Heather Capanelli
Minister Stockwell's Office
(416) 314-6742

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