



Pollution Probe at the University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1

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Probe Pins Kerr's Promises on Clean-Up Calendar

Pollution Probe intends to act as the provincial Environment Minister's unofficial memory bank, in making sure that pollution control schedules for the Ontario pulp and paper industry, now eleven years behind in its clean-up efforts, are adhered to.

At a press conference today, Probe distributed its "KERR-trol Calendar - Pollution Probe's Handy Guide to Control Order Control" on the Ontario pulp and paper industry. The calendar, which was distributed to media and provincial opposition party members, marks Environment Ministry deadline dates for clean-up instructions served on the industry in the form of Control Orders, Program Approvals, and Requirements & Directions.

"The industry is accustomed to having the Ministry of the Environment set guidelines and restrictions on pollution from its mills, but over the years the Ministry has granted so many exemptions from and extensions to its own pollution control instructions that it is now the Ministry that needs the guidance" said Probe's Adele Hurley.

That guidance, according to Probe, will come from provincial opposition members who will be watching their KERR-trol calendars for deadlines on industry clean-up programs and asking questions of Mr. Kerr in the Legislature.

"The pulp and paper industry generates 87% of the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) being discharged by all industries directly into the Great Lakes" Hurley added. "There is no reason to believe that other polluting industries will clean up until pollution from BOD's Big Daddy has been KERR-tailed."

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In October Mr. Kerr assured the Ontario public that the Ministry was tightening up control of the pulp and paper industry by issuing a new set of stricter clean-up instructions. Probe is not convinced, since there is no legal guarantee that these controls will remain firm. "How can we be sure that the Ministry won't find a new way to dilute the clean-up instructions with additional extensions and exemptions? Furthermore, what guarantee is there that the Ministry will prosecute offending industries after the firm deadlines pass?" asked Hurley.

"In practice, the Environment Ministry has demonstrated that the more things change the more they stay the same. Only a political climate which forces the Environment Minister into public accountability on each and every set of clean-up controls that his Ministry issues to the pulp and paper industry will prevent a history of botched efforts from degenerating further. No more fumbles! This time Probe will be there with a fine-toothed comb to untangle the snags in the solution to pollution."

For more information, contact: Adele Hurley
978-5432