

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

The Honourable L'honorable

Jim Prentice

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

Dr. John L. O'Donoghue  
Scientific Advisor and Group Manager  
Hydroquinone Group  
3915 Clover Street  
Honeoye Falls, New York  
14472-9319  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. O'Donoghue:

I am responding to the notice of objection you filed on November 18, 2008, regarding the proposed Order adding hydroquinone (CAS No. 123-31-9) to the List of Toxic substances in Schedule 1 to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, that was published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, on September 20, 2008.

I have carefully considered your submission, and I am of the view that your notice does not bring forth new scientific data or information that would likely lead to a different conclusion of toxicity of hydroquinone as detailed in the final screening assessment report released on July 5, 2008. In other words, no points have been raised that change our understanding of the nature and extent of the danger posed by hydroquinone. Therefore, I will not establish a board of review.

Please be assured that the Government of Canada is committed to consulting with all stakeholders, such as your organization, and the public on the development of risk management options, including regulations. Issues raised will continue to be considered in an open and transparent way.

Further periods for comment as well as opportunities to file notices of objection will be provided, under the Act, following the publication of instruments for the preventive or control action of hydroquinone, such as a proposed regulation.

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- 2 -

I appreciate your bringing the Hydroquinone Group's concerns to my attention, and look forward to working with you in the future on matters of environmental or human health interest to your group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., Q.C., M.P.