

July 19, 2016

Review of Environmental Assessment Processes
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor, Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
Via email: CEAA.EARReview-ExamenEE.ACEE@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Re: Environmental assessment processes: Draft Terms of Reference for Expert Panel

Lake Ontario Waterkeeper is a Canadian charity working for a day when every person can safely touch the water in their watersheds, when the water is pure enough to drink, and clean and wild enough that you could toss in a line anywhere and find a fish.

Our programs bring together law, science, culture, and digital media in order to connect and empower people to restore polluted places, protect human health, and promote thriving natural spaces.

Through our Waterkeeping work on Lake Ontario, we speak up for swimmable, drinkable, fishable water and help to safeguard the health and well-being of people who live in this watershed. We also train people to recognize, document, and report pollution or environmental concerns.

Through our National Water Centre, we develop thought leaders who enhance people's understanding of the different ways water has shaped - and continues to shape - Canadian lives. This work includes leadership summits, residencies, our Watermark storytelling project, and our internationally-recognized Swim Guide beach information service.

Waterkeeper supports the Government of Canada's efforts to review and improve the Canadian environmental assessment process. We generally support the Draft Terms of Reference for the Expert Panel while endorsing recommendations from the Canadian Environmental Law Association ("CELA") and West Coast Environmental Law ("WCEL").

In particular, we support CELA's recommendations around judicial accountability and severe accidents and WCEL's recommendation regarding expanding the scope of the panel's review to address the role of national energy regulators in the environmental assessment process.

Waterkeeper is concerned about the fairness, transparency, and adequacy of environmental assessments related to nuclear power projects and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's oversight in general. Waterkeeper is also concerned by the

delegation and substitution provisions included in *CEAA 2012*.

Fair, open, transparent, and accountable decision-making processes are essential for protecting Canada's most valuable assets - the natural environment that supports life. Consistency across the country means the difference between leadership on the world stage and a race to the bottom. This review and the Government of Canada's subsequent response will shape the identity of Canadians for a generation or more.

People who live here say that they love water and nature more than any other nation on earth. Yet Canada ranks last amongst wealthy countries when it comes to actual environmental protection activities.

We look forward to participating in this process and righting the wrongs made in recent years.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Mattson', is written over a horizontal line that extends across the page.

Mark Mattson
President & Waterkeeper