



July 3, 2021

Shannon Boland
Divisional Compliance Branch
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St Clair Ave W, 8th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
shannon.boland@ontario.ca

RE: Modernizing environmental compliance practices of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Dear Ms. Boland,

The Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association (HIEA) is a non-profit association representing 14 industrial and manufacturing companies in the City of Hamilton. HIEA's mandate is to improve the local environment through partnerships with government, educational institutions, individual residents, and environmental groups. We also collaborate with our stakeholders to help understand environmental issues and to develop and implement sustainable programs and policies. HIEA members believe their organizations are not only a key contributor to both Hamilton and Ontario's economy, but also an essential part of the fabric of the community.

HIEA member companies provide employment for over 7,300 direct industrial and manufacturing positions as well as an estimated 56,000 indirect jobs in Hamilton and surrounding municipalities. Since its inception in 1998 HIEA and its membership has invested over \$1.1 billion in environmental capital expenses, contributed more than \$720 million in municipal property taxes, and contributed over \$1 million in community and educational activities in Hamilton.

HIEA's members have not only embraced and adopted a circular economy but practice it every day as part of their core business. HIEA members are part of an industrial ecosystem that reuses and recycles member companies' by-products and waste, recovering value and protecting the environment. HIEA and its members are committed to fostering a strong and sustainable future for the Province of Ontario, the City of Hamilton, and all its residents.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has published "Modernizing Environmental Compliance Practices of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks" on the Environmental Registry of Ontario.



HIEA would like to make the following comments on the proposed guidance document:

- HIEA supports updating the tools and resources used by environmental officers to help determine the level of intervention required.
- HIEA agrees that updating the “compliance history” and “environmental/human health” components of the informed judgement matrix will better reflect modern regulator objectives and environmental risk principles and will allow the Ministry to better address non-compliance activities.
- The Informed Judgement framework requires strict operating policies and internal operational auditing to ensure that the tool is being applied consistently across the regulated community. As a modern regulator, MECP must ensure that operational policies and results from operational audits are transparent and made available to the regulated community and public.
- By proposing that the municipalities will administer “nuisance” noise and odour complaints to non-regulated facilities, MECP may create confusion and frustration, especially if not properly implemented and communicated.
- Municipalities must be supported in taking on the nuisance complaints from MECP as these account for a significant portion of the current MECP workload.
- The framework must promote and maintain consistency for all regulated entities across the province, and within regional jurisdictions.
- Environmental Monetary Penalties need to be consistently applied across Ontario’s regulated community. Currently there is considerable regional variability in the use of this penalty across the regulated community. HIEA supports the consistent application of this tool.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Knapper".

Geoffrey Knapper, General Manager
Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association

