

Ministry of the Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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September 24, 2009

Dear Stakeholders:

I am pleased to inform you the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) became law on September 24, 2009.

The REA is a major step forward in facilitating the *Green Energy Act*, a key component in the Province's plan to combat climate change. As you know, phasing out coal is a priority for our government and a centerpiece of Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan.

We have created an improved environmental approvals process and service guarantees for renewable energy projects that protect the environment and bring greater certainty for proponents, cooperatives and individual citizens.

It integrates the current requirements of municipal planning, environmental assessment, certificates of approval, permits-to-take-water and other Ontario government approvals and permits.

Our government has taken a cautious approach when setting standards for wind setbacks and noise limits to protect Ontarians. We are the only jurisdiction of eight European countries, all of the American states and all the provinces with wind programs to have a minimum setback of 550 metres for one to five wind turbines, with setbacks increasing with the number and the sound level rating of turbines.

We expect the *Green Energy Act* and the Renewable Energy Approval to create new jobs and opportunities for Ontarians. These new jobs would not only come from initial construction of renewable energy generation facilities, they are expected to have a positive impact on many sectors of the economy.

Our priority is that renewable energy projects are developed in a way that is protective of human health and the environment. We are confident our renewable energy approval ensures that protection. For more information please visit www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/business/green-energy/.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gerretsen".

John Gerretsen
Minister