

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Resources Planning and Development
Policy Branch
Policy Division
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts

Direction des politiques de planification et d'exploitation des ressources
Division de l'élaboration des politiques
300, rue Water
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7

Notice: Proposed changes to the OGSRA to regulate projects to test or demonstrate new or innovative activities, such as geologic carbon storage, and to safeguard people and the environment

Hello,

I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is seeking feedback on a proposal that is part of our plan to develop a framework to regulate new technologies, such as geologic carbon storage. This plan is outlined in a Roadmap that was released in November 2022 and can be viewed on our website at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/geologic-carbon-storage>.

This proposal builds on previous proposals and the feedback we received related to geologic carbon storage, including a discussion paper released in early 2022 and amendments proposed in November that removed the prohibition on carbon storage from the *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act* (the Act).

The changes currently being proposed to the Act have been introduced through Bill 91, Less Red Tape, Stronger Economy Act, 2023. These changes, together with regulatory changes that would be proposed in the future, would allow approval to be sought for projects proposed to test or demonstrate new or innovative activities, such as geologic carbon storage. Further changes under other legislation would be required before carbon storage projects could be authorized on Crown land.

If approved, these changes would provide flexibility in authorization processes and requirements to better address technological innovation to support Ontario's changing energy needs, decarbonization efforts, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Additional changes proposed would enhance or create new tools to safeguard people and the environment and would apply to all activities regulated under the Act. These tools include new inspector's orders, court orders and clarifying the Minister's ability to consider past non-compliance with the Act in decision-making.

This proposal is available for review on the Ontario Legislative Assembly website: <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-91>. The

province is also seeking feedback on the proposed changes through the Environmental Registry of Ontario: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6752>. A Decision Notice will also be posted soon regarding the removal of the prohibition on carbon storage from the Act. Feedback on the proposed changes can be provided directly to the ministry or through the environmental registry.

If you would like more information or have any questions about the proposed changes, please contact Andrew Ogilvie, Manager of Resources Development Section, at 705-761-5815 or through email: Resources.Development@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Keyes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Keyes

Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch