

## **Consultations on the Amendment of the Export and Import of Hazardous Wastes Regulations**

The Government of Canada adopted the *Export and Import of Hazardous Wastes Regulations (EIHWR)* in 1992 under the authority of the former *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1988 (CEPA, 1988)* and now under the new *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA, 1999)*. The *EIHWR* are intended to protect Canada's environment from the risks posed by unregulated traffic in hazardous wastes and to implement Canada's international obligations to protect the environment of other countries from uncontrolled hazardous waste exports from Canada.

*CEPA, 1999*, in force since April 2000, provides enhanced authority to control the export and import of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable materials. In addition, government and industry have gained significant experience in the administration and enforcement of the regulations. This experience has highlighted areas where the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulations can be improved, and where new technologies can be employed to assist in achieving this goal. These developments, along with a normal requirement to periodically review the operation of government regulations, have led to the initiation of an anticipated three-year process to amend and renew the *EIHWR*.

This discussion paper is intended to begin the public consultation process. This initial phase of consultations involves the publication of this paper to seek preliminary written comments from interested stakeholders. This phase will also involve both one-on-one discussions with various stakeholders and regional meetings with groups of stakeholders in February and March 2001. The initial consultation process will be followed by a comprehensive public consultation document detailing the proposed elements of a revised regulation. Public consultations with stakeholders on that document are then anticipated for the late summer/early fall of 2001.