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ONTARIO IMPROVES AIR EMISSION REPORTING SYSTEM *Industries To Save Time And Money While Protecting The Environment*

TORONTO — The McGuinty government is harmonizing the province's air emission reporting system with that of the federal government to maintain Ontario's high standard of environmental protection while saving businesses time and money, Environment Minister Laurel Broten announced today.

"Clean safe air is essential in protecting the health of our people and our communities," said Broten. "Ontarians have a right to know what is being put in the air they breathe."

Prior to the amendment, Ontario-based facilities had to report their emissions separately to both levels of government. As a first step towards full harmonization with the federal government, Ontario has amended the *Airborne Contaminant Discharge Monitoring and Reporting* regulation to update the list of Ontario-specific substances. The province has removed substances that are required to be reported through other regulations and has de-listed substances that present minimal risk to the environment and human health.

As a result, Ontario facilities can now report on over 280 Canada-wide and 15 Ontario-specific substances to the Environment Canada national database. All of the data collected by Environment Canada will be shared with the province. This harmonization step will result in annual reporting cost savings of more than \$2 million.

"Inco is a strong supporter of regulatory initiatives that result in efforts that avoid duplication and reduce administrative burden without compromising environmental protection," said Dave Taylor, Inco, Environment Superintendent - Ontario Operations. "We are pleased to see both levels of government partnering to work towards a reporting system that eliminates redundancy."

Ontario will continue to work with the federal government to finalize the harmonization. Ontario will ensure a continuous data collection process and timely public access to the reported data through a provincial-federal agreement. As well, the province will continue to protect air quality in Ontario through stringent regulations, targeted enforcement and a variety of innovative air quality initiatives.

“The Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers’ Association is supportive of the Ministry’s actions to harmonize the provincial and federal monitoring and reporting systems,” said Yasmin Tarmohamed, Vice-President, Environment, Health and Safety, Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers’ Association. “It is encouraging to see the Ministry addressing the issues and concerns raised over the last few years on the need for a one window, harmonized and streamlined approach to emissions reporting.”

“Providing timely, accurate public information on environmental data is a vital step in improving air quality because it improves public knowledge and accountability for sources of air pollution, and motivates companies to reduce emissions,” said Broten.

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