

Environmental Assessment

A vision Lost

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October 21, 2009

Overview

- what was the original vision?
- did it work?
- how has it evolved?
- where are we now?
- what do we do?

A Visionary Statute

“The purpose of this Act is the betterment of the people of the whole or any part of Ontario by providing for the protection, conservation and wise management in Ontario of the environment”

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- **formal consultation and participation by the public**
- **rigorous review by a regulator backed up by EAAC and EAB**

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- **Ontario Waste Management Corporation**

Where are we now? ... 1/2

- **overarching decisions on policy and programs are not made under EA**

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- overarching decisions on policy and programs are not made under EA
- “No” is rarely an option
 - piece-mealing
 - superseding by other decisions
 - scoping ToR to avoid key questions
 - Class EA/ special Reg. dodges

Where are we now? ... 2/2

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- the neglected principal of “betterment”

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- **Sustainability assessments**

Casting a New Vision for EA

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- effective decision making at the provincial level
- grapple with need and alternatives
- deliver a “No” when appropriate
- full and effective participation of the public
- not just mitigation but betterment
- **effective oversight, compliance and enforcement**

Thank You For Your Attention

The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian (1906-1945)