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PROVINCE'S NEW RULES HELP MUNICIPALITIES MANAGE WASTE BETTER *Small Communities, New Technologies and Recycling Projects to Benefit*

TORONTO –The McGuinty government's new rules make it easier for municipalities to find viable solutions for managing waste, Environment Minister Laurel Broten announced today. As part of its ongoing commitment to improving the environmental assessment process, the province has passed the Waste Management Project Regulation (O. Reg. 101/07), which clearly sets out the EA requirements for waste diversion and disposal facilities.

“Our goal is to improve the environmental assessment (EA) process and to give municipalities and industry more effective tools for managing waste,” Broten said.

In addition, the ministry has amended regulations under the Environmental Protection Act to streamline the approval process for recycling certain materials.

The initiatives contain the following components:

- Recycling facilities of any size will not have to go through the EA process providing just 1,000 tonnes per day of residual waste ends up going to disposal.
- Small rural landfills or expansions of between 40,000 and 100,000 cubic metres would go through an environmental screening process, saving municipalities 18 months and thousands of dollars.
- Proponents can pilot new waste technologies without having to undergo an EA providing they're small and can meet the ministry's air emission standards.
- It will be easier to recycle certain wastes that currently do not meet existing exemption criteria. Included are waste paint, crumb rubber, batteries and electronics.
- Converting certain wastes into alternative fuels will no longer require waste management approvals but still must meet air emission standards.

Over the next few months, Ontarians will begin to see results from recently announced and upcoming diversion initiatives, including industry funded diversion programs for household hazardous and special wastes and electronics, and the deposit-return program, which will keep another 80 million wine, spirit and beer containers out of landfills.

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