

April 26, 2013

The Hon. Tracy MacCharles
Minister - MINISTER'S OFFICE
Mowat Block
6th Flr - 900 Bay St
Toronto ON M7A1L2

Dear Minister MacCharles:

On behalf of the Ontario Energy Association's (OEA) Board of Directors and members, we are writing you in regard to regulations associated with Bill 8, *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act*.

Upon the introduction of Bill 8, our members who actively supported the legislation consulted key industry stakeholders, many of whom are longstanding members of the OEA. As a result of this consultation process, we are confident in providing feedback to you and your government that speaks on behalf of the Ontario energy sector.

With the pending implementation of Bill 8 in June 2013, the OEA is requesting that the associated regulations are passed with expediency in order to provide those affected with greater clarity to ease preparation and compliance. In particular, the OEA is supportive of regulations to ensure strong enforcement of the act; as well as the inclusion of an operation definition of an "emergency locate" within the regulations to prevent abuse of this important service.

We would also like to reiterate that although a voluntary one-call system had previously been established, it is not as effective as the new mandatory requirement put in place by Bill 8 and that is in effect in all 50 U.S. states. A mandatory one-call system will ensure that all underground infrastructure owners participate and public and worker safety is better protected. Our sector endorses a safety culture and supports the mandatory requirements of a one-call system which brings clarity to the locate process and will make Ontario safer and more efficient.

Should you wish to discuss this further or require more information, please contact Tina Arvanitis, Vice President, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, OEA at 647.920.3269 or at tina@energyontario.ca.

We look forward to continuing to unravel the most complex energy challenges, together.

Yours truly,



Elise Herzig
President and CEO
Ontario Energy Association

CC: The Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy

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ABOUT THE OEA

The OEA speaks with one voice to government and the public on behalf of Ontario's energy sector. The OEA has more than 150 corporate members who represent the full diversity of the energy industry in Ontario – power producers, firms that transport, transmit and deliver natural gas and electricity, marketers and retailers, manufacturers, contractors, service providers, and energy consultants.