



Newsrelease

For immediate release

Waterpower industry advances environmental sustainability

OWA publishes second Best Management Practices Guide for Species at Risk

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April 7, 2010 – Toronto –The Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) released today its second Best Management Practices (BMP) Guideline to help proponents and regulatory agencies address key issues pertaining to species at risk. The BMP Guide, prepared by Genivar Consultants LP and through cooperation between industry, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources focuses specifically on the relationship between waterpower projects and American eel.

“The OWA and its members are committed to responsible resource management and environmentally sustainable economic development”, said Paul Norris, OWA President. “This initiative will help to ensure we maintain and enhance waterpower’s contribution to the province’s renewable energy and climate change objectives, while contributing to the protection of American eel.”

“The waterpower industry has been very proactive in developing practical advice using science-based information”, added Michael Ewaschuk, Aquatic Ecologist and co-author of the BMP Guide. “This product identifies the current state of knowledge as well as concepts that are on the more distant horizon.”

The OWA previously developed a similar Guide focused on Lake Sturgeon, published in the fall of 2009. Both documents are available from the OWA and add to the series of resource material available under the Association’s Class Environmental Assessment for Waterpower Projects.

The Ontario Waterpower Association was formed in May 2001 and represents more than 95% of Ontario waterpower producers. Waterpower is clean, renewable and accounts for more than one quarter of Ontario’s energy mix. It is of critical importance in responding to daily and weekly changes in demand. Almost 200 facilities are distributed across Ontario - a strategic security advantage. For more information, contact Paul Norris, OWA President at 705-743-1500.