

Dear Mr. Tolmie;

Thank you for your email of December 5 regarding the recent release of our annual greenhouse gas progress report: *A Question of Commitment*.

For your background information, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario with specific powers to watch over and scrutinize ministry environmental decision-making activities as prescribed by the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR). The ECO does not have the powers to initiate our own reviews or investigations, nor does the ECO have the authority to intervene directly on behalf of residents, nor may we override ministry decisions.

However, the EBR does enable any two residents of Ontario to request a review of the need for a new policy, Act or regulation, or to request an investigation into an apparent contravention of the law. An option open to you would be to submit an Application for Review requesting, for example, that the Ministry of Energy undertake a review of the role that seasonal thermal energy storage could play in Ontario's longer-term energy planning. This would be submitted to our office, which would then be forwarded on to the Ministry of Energy.

There is no guarantee that the ministry will conduct the review. Nevertheless, whether or not the request is granted, an application could result in action being taken at some point in the future. Moreover, the ECO reviews how the ministry handled the request.

You will find further information on filing applications in the document 'Your rights under the EBR' <http://www.eco.on.ca/uploads/EBR%20Documents/The%20EBR%20and%20You.pdf> on our website.

Regards,

Yazmin Shroff

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