

**Ministry of  
the Environment**

Office of the Minister

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**FEB 22 2006**

Ms. Linda Stewart  
Executive Director  
Association of Local PUBLIC HEALTH Agencies (alpha)  
425 University Avenue, Suite 502  
Toronto ON M5G 1T6

Dear Ms. Stewart:

Thank you for your letter of December 15, 2005 and for forwarding copies of alpha's resolutions, A05-6 – Experts Panel on Sound-Sorb and A05-11 – Stormwater Management Ponds.

As Minister of the Environment, I recognize your concerns about Sound-Sorb and I appreciate you bringing this information to my attention. The findings and recommendations of the Experts Panel are being considered by the ministry as it reviews the need to manage and regulate materials that contain paper-fiber biosolids products, such as Sound-Sorb. Any resulting policy or regulatory amendments that might arise from this review will be posted on the ministry's Environmental Registry for comment.

Should you have any additional comments or questions with respect to Sound-Sorb and the Experts Panel, please contact Mr. Geoff Carpentier, Manager of Regional Strategic Issues at our Central Region Office, at 416-326-1844.

Thank you also for advising me of your concern about stormwater management ponds as breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care are working with municipalities and local health units to review best practices for stormwater management pond design and maintenance for reducing the risk associated with mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus (WNV). Once completed, this work will be integrated into the ministry's Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual.

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Ms. Linda Stewart

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In addition, the ministry has in place a permitting process to allow application of a pesticide to control mosquitoes in standing water on public or private property, specifically to control the spread of WNV. The applicant may request a permit for use on a property under the jurisdiction of a municipality or public health unit, when supported by the local Medical Officer of Health.

Thank you, again, for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,



Laurel C. Broten  
Minister of the Environment

- c:   The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier  
      The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
      The Honourable Harinder Takhar, Minister of Transportation  
      The Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
      Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health