THE LIVING LIST FRAMEWORK UNDER ONTARIO'S TOXICS REDUCTION PROGRAM

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

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1.0 Introduction

This document describes the *Living List* Framework (the Framework), for reviewing and making changes to the lists of substances prescribed under the Toxics Reduction Act.

The ministry worked with a multi-stakeholder group from environmental, labour and public health groups, academia and industry to develop a proposed Framework that defined criteria and processes to add, delete or change a substance on the list. The proposed framework was posted to the Environmental Registry (EBR Registry Number 012-0764) between March 13, 2014 and May 12, 2014 for public review and comment. The 2014 Framework is based on the work of the multi-stakeholder work group and incorporates suggestions received through the Environmental Registry posting.

1.1 Reducing Toxics for a Healthier Ontario

Through the Toxics Reduction Act, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (ministry) aims to prevent pollution and protect human health and the environment by reducing the use and creation of toxic substances; and to inform Ontarians about toxic substances. The Toxics Reduction Act was created to augment the traditional "end of pipe" approach to managing the release of toxics by looking at ways to use safer substances, reduce use of toxics, change or refine processes and technologies, and taking other actions to reduce the release of toxics into our environment.

The Toxics Reduction Act requires regulated facilities that undertake manufacturing and mineral processing activities examine how and why they are using or creating prescribed substances and consider opportunities for reducing them, while recognizing that there may be essential and beneficial uses for some prescribed substances.

Reducing toxics can lower discharges to the environment and exposures in air, land, water and consumer products, and decrease risks to human health and the environment. Toxics reduction planning can also lead to additional environmental benefits such as improved energy and resource conservation and improved air and water quality.

The goal of the program is to help protect human health and the environment by:

1. reducing substances prescribed in the Toxics Reduction Act's regulation in air, land, water and consumer products,
2. informing people in Ontario about prescribed substances in their communities,
3. giving Ontarians the information they need to make informed choices,

4. supporting shifts in domestic market to greener products, and
5. positioning Ontario's manufacturing and mineral processing sectors to compete in an increasingly green global economy.

The Toxics Reduction Act, passed by the Ontario Legislature in June 2009 is the cornerstone of the Ontario Toxics Reduction Program. The act, coupled with *Ontario Regulation 455/09* ensures that Ontario companies develop plans to reduce the use and creation of toxics, where possible, in their manufacturing and mineral processing facilities. The act and regulation underwent significant consultation with health advocacy, environmental and labour groups, industry and the public.

The act requires regulated facilities in Ontario to:

- track, quantify and report annually on the toxic substances they use, create, release, dispose, transfer and contained in products
- develop plans to reduce the use and creation of these substances
- make annual reports and summaries of their plans available to their employees and the public

While preparing toxic substance reduction plans is mandatory, implementing the plans is voluntary. This is a proven approach to reducing toxics use and creation.

The plans can also help businesses identify operational efficiencies, costs savings and other opportunities to improve their competitive advantage in markets that are moving increasingly towards a greener economy.

Based on the ministry's analysis, to date, more than 95% of Ontario's regulated facilities are meeting their obligations under the Toxics Reduction Act and 40% of facilities are voluntarily implementing their toxics reduction plans.

With the Toxics Reduction Act, Ontario is the first province in Canada to introduce toxics reduction legislation, which complements federal programs that assess and manage chemical substances at the national level. Additional information about federal programs can be found on the federal Chemical Substances website.

1.2 Prescribed Substances

The Act refers to substances on two different lists: 1) *Toxic Substances* and 2) *Substances of Concern.* Each list has different reporting and/or planning requirements and was developed by the ministry in collaboration with an expert panel appointed by the Minister of the Environment.

1.2.1 Toxic Substances

Ontario Regulation 455/09 currently identifies toxic substances as all substances on the federal National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) as well as acetone, adopted from O.Reg. 127/01 made under the Environmental Protection Act.

The NPRI is Canada's legislated and publicly accessible inventory of pollutant releases to the environment. Substances on the NPRI must be manufactured, processed or otherwise used in Canada, present in the environment and of health and/or environmental concern in order to be added to the inventory. The national process for adding and deleting substances was developed in consultation with Canadian stakeholders. Additional information can be found on Environment Canada's website**.**

For these NPRI substances, under the Toxics Reduction Program, regulated owners and operators of manufacturing and mineral processing facilities are required to:

- track and quantify use and creation, releases to air, land and water, disposals, transfers, destruction, transformation and contained in product
- develop plans to reduce their use and creation,
- share summaries of their plans with the public, notify their employees
- submit annual reports on their progress in implementing their plans, post to the internet and inform their employees.

1.2.2 Substances of Concern

The intent of *Substances of Concern* is to gather more information on certain substances to support potential regulatory decisions. This list of substances of concern is not currently in effect as the relevant sections of the act have not been proclaimed. Additionally, a regulation would need to be prepared for public comment before any requirements with respect to these substances could take effect. This draft list would also be subject to review based on the proposed Living List Framework, if the relevant sections of the Act were to be proclaimed.

1.3 The Living List Framework

The Act requires that the ministry review lists of *prescribed substances* for possible changes at least once every five years.

> *49. (1) The Minister shall, at least once every five years, consult with experts and the public about,*
>
> > *(a) possible changes to the lists of substances that are prescribed as toxic substances and as substances of concern; and*
> >
> > *(b) possible changes to the regulations prescribed for the purposes of paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection 3 (1) and paragraph 2 of subsection 11 (1). 2009,c.19, s.49 (1).*

(2) The Minister shall from time to time publish lists of substances that are not toxic substances or substances of concern but that the Minister proposes to consider during the next consultation under clause (1) (a). 2009,c.19, s.49 (2).

The ministry's approach to review and make changes to the list of prescribed substances is called the *Living List Framework*. The ministry worked with a multi-stakeholder group to develop the Framework.

2.0 Development of the Living List Framework

The ministry formed a multi-stakeholder group to inform the development of the Living List Framework.

2.1 Multi-stakeholder Approach

The ministry sought to draw on the skills, experience, and perspectives of representatives from industry, environmental non-governmental organizations, health organizations, academia and labour groups to assist with the development of a proposed Living List Framework.

Members participated in a series of meetings and subgroup work over the course of a year to finalize the Framework. The key areas of discussion were:

- Process for reviewing prescribed substances under the Act
- Mechanisms for engagement, opportunities for stakeholder input during implementation of the Framework.

It is proposed that the group may serve as a useful forum for follow-up items related to implementation of the framework and overall implementation of the Toxics Reduction Program. As such, the ministry may seek to continue to meet, from time to time, with this group.

3.0 The Framework

The Living List Framework has three key steps: 1) Nomination and screening; 2) Review; and 3) Decision making.

Nomination and Screening

The public and the ministry may nominate substances for addition, deletion or change to the list of prescribed substances. The ministry will screen all complete nominations against established screening criteria to determine whether the substance(s) will be reviewed.

Review and Public Consultation

The ministry reviews substances using suitable scientific and contextual information and seeks input from stakeholders and experts, as appropriate. Based on information and initial feedback, the ministry would then post a proposal to the Environmental Registry (EBR) for public comment.

Decision

The ministry reviews the input received during the EBR consultation and adjusts the proposal as appropriate. The government makes the final decision with regard to the proposal.

Guiding Principles

Based on guiding principles agreed to by the multi-stakeholder group, the Framework should be:

Open: Public may participate and be informed in the nomination and review processes, including submitting nominations or additional information they feel is relevant to a nomination and/or participating in engagement meetings.

Transparent: Framework will be clearly described, including criteria for screening and review, with information available to the public. Nomination status, pre-engagement meetings, Environmental Registry postings and decisions will be publicly communicated.

Science-based: Process will use established science-based criteria and information from authoritative sources.

Flexible and Robust: Processes will be established to respond to challenges associated with data gaps, resource limitations, and/or consider unique factors associated with a nomination. Some substances may require different approaches, eg. Sector based reviews.

Outcome-driven: Proposals made during the review step will consider how the proposed action would contribute to health and environment goals.

Built on and acknowledge existing relevant programs: Proposals made during the review will consider existing controls in other programs with the goal of minimizing duplication.

It should also **integrate performance measurement:** Periodic evaluation of how well the Framework functions as well as the effectiveness of decisions in meeting program goals.

3.1 Nomination and Screening Step

The ministry and the public will be able to nominate substances for addition or deletion or for possible changes to the way in which the substance is currently prescribed.

- Nomination to Add:
    - Could apply to any substance that is not already on the prescribed list of substances
      (Possible outcome: add to the current list of prescribed substances)

- Nomination to Delete
    - Could apply to any substance or group AS LISTED on the prescribed list
      (Possible outcome: substance or group of substances is removed from the current list of prescribed substances)

- Nomination to Change
    - Could apply to any substance AS LISTED on the prescribed list
    - May include a change to how the substance is captured, including reporting threshold and/or the definition of how the substance is captured (e.g., compound specific versus all compounds containing the substance; substance used in a specific activity)
      (Possible outcome: change in how the substance is defined)

The Living List-specific nomination process is an electronic process that integrates the principles of the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) for a Minister's Review. Members of the public and/or corporations may submit a nomination. The ministry encourages two (2) nominators to be included in the form, but a form with one or more than two nominators is acceptable. Information requested to be treated as confidential business information that meets the requirements of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* will not be disclosed as part of this consultation process.

The nomination form, with an accompanying guidance document, has been designed to allow nominators to make nominations as easy as possible, while providing enough information for the ministry to make informed decisions in the screening step. Nominators seeking additional guidance on completing the nomination form may contact the ministry by telephone through the Public Information Centre (PIC) at 416-325-4000 or 1-800-565-4923 (toll free), or by sending an email.

Nominations may be submitted at any time.

In the nomination form, nominators provide their contact information, the name and Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number (CAS RN) (if available) for each substance and indicate the nature of the nomination:

- add a substance to the list of prescribed substances,
- remove a substance from the list of prescribed substances,
- change the way a substance is captured.

Nominators must submit a rationale for the nomination that summarizes why the request is being made and how it addresses the screening criteria.

Nominators have the option of providing information under the following categories to support their nomination:

- form of the substance
- hazard properties specific to the nominated form of the substance
    - environmental hazard:
        - persistence
        - potential to bioaccumulate
        - hazardous to the aquatic environment (ie. fish, invertebrates, algae)
        - wildlife toxicity (mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds)
    - human health hazard:
        - acute toxicity
        - chronic toxicity
            - carcinogenic (material known or suspected to cause cancer)
            - mutagenic (material known or suspected to cause changes to cells)
            - endocrine disruption
            - reproductive or developmental toxicant
    - other characteristic that is not covered by the hazards listed above but gives rise to an equivalent level of concern
- contextual information regarding any uses, creation or releases in Ontario

Once the ministry receives the nomination, it will acknowledge receipt of the nomination form by emailing the nominator. The ministry will identify any data gaps and seek to find the information necessary to screen the nomination against screening criteria, described below, to determine whether the nominated substance(s) should be reviewed. In times of high volume, or complex nominations, the ministry may need to prioritize nominations and/or batch the screening and posting of screening decisions in order to best use its available resources.

For transparency, the ministry will maintain a publicly accessible web site to provide the public with updates on the status of nominations, i.e. screening, review and decision steps, including summaries of information relied upon to support reviews and rationale for decisions. In addition, the ministry will use the Environmental Registry to communicate publicly at key stages of the review and decision steps, including pre Environmental Registry posting engagement meetings.

Section 4.3.2 provides further information regarding how public can keep informed about the status of nominations.

Screening Criteria

In addition to the information below, the ministry developed a guidance document that will accompany the nomination form. It will provide additional detail regarding terminology and the criteria used in the screening process.

Screening criteria will be used to determine whether or not a nomination will be reviewed and the criteria will be applied based on the intent of the nomination (i.e., to add, delete or change). These criteria will include:

- Whether or not the substance is/is not on the prescribed list;
    - A nomination to add may be rejected if the substance(s) is already prescribed.
    - A nomination to delete may be rejected if the substance is not prescribed.
- Substance is confirmed or likely to be used/created or emitted in Ontario by a regulated facility (facilities within the sectors set out in the regulation);
    - A nomination to add may be rejected if it could be confirmed that the substance was not used or was not likely to be used by a regulated facility or is banned in the province.
    - A nomination to delete a substance may be rejected if the substance is released or being used in Ontario.
- Substance has an identifiable hazardous property;
    - A nomination to add may be rejected if a substance is recognized as not hazardous or of low hazard.
    - A nomination to delete may be rejected if a substance is recognized as being highly hazardous.
- Nomination is within the current policy scope of the Toxics Reduction Act.
    - Nominations may be rejected if they are outside the current scope or mandate of the Toxics Reduction Act.

Nominations to change a substance on the prescribed list will be assessed in a similar manner to an addition or deletion, depending upon the change requested.

To implement the above approach, the ministry will use established hazard classifications available from authoritative bodies such as, but not limited to, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the World Health Organization, US Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada and Health Canada.

Given that substances are quite varied, the screening process may require flexibility, and could be reflective of the information available for that substance. In some instances, expert judgement may need to be applied. In all cases, the ministry will publicly disclose the process used and the information relied upon to make its screening decision. Information made available in this fashion will be in plain language format.

3.2 Review and Public Consultation Step

The ministry will carry out a more detailed review of the substance and will make recommendations to the Minister regarding potential actions under the Toxics Reduction Program. The process used during the review, as well as the criteria to be applied and the information collected for a substance and/or substance condition will inform a wide range of possible decisions such as:

- Add the substance to the prescribed list
- Delete the substance from the prescribed list
- Change the reporting threshold for the substance
- Change the definition of the substance on the list
- No action under the Toxics Reduction Program

During this step, the ministry will review substances by applying the review criteria and protocols described later in this document, including the consideration of relevant contextual information. The ministry may also request information from third parties, to support the review.

In order to use resources efficiently, reviews may be undertaken by the ministry in batches, based on chronology (i.e., substances batched as received) or commonality (i.e., substances batched as a class, sector, or use).

3.2.1 Review Criteria

In order to establish the review criteria, the ministry screened a number of chemical lists prepared by various agencies and categorized them according to how they were developed and how they were used. Three main categories were identified for how lists were developed: lists based on hazard; lists based on hazard and contextual information; and lists based on risk assessment.

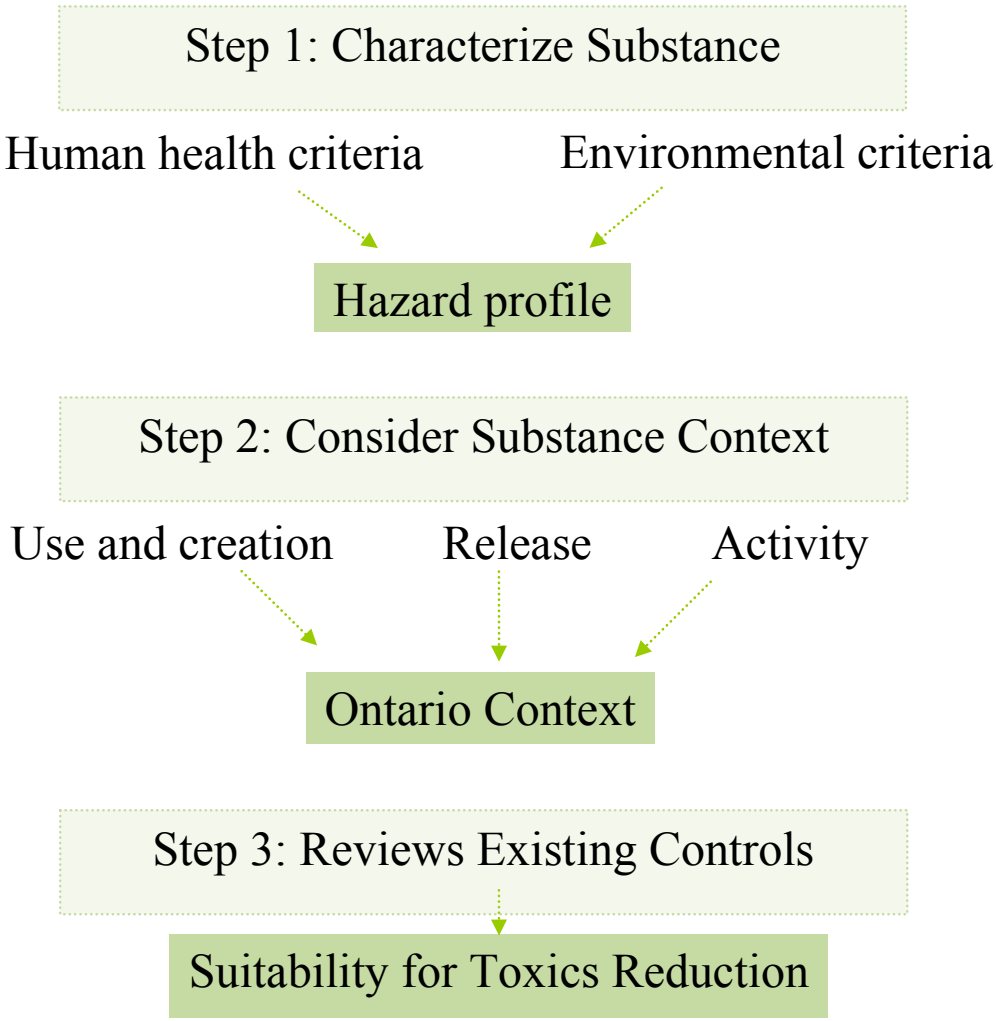
Five categories were identified for how lists were used: for reference; for reporting, for promoting reduction in use/creation, for mandating reduction in use/creation, and for targeted elimination. Lists for reference, reporting and promoting reductions in use/creation were generally based on hazard or hazard and contextual information. Lists for mandated reductions or for targeted elimination were based on risk assessments.

The purpose of the Toxics Reduction Act is to prevent pollution and protect human health and the environment by reducing the use and creation of toxic substances; and to inform Ontarians about toxic substances.

Based on this review and in keeping with the mandate of the Toxics Reduction Act, hazard supported by contextual information are the criteria that will be used for the Framework. Hazard criteria will be applied first during the review stage, supported by important contextual information about use, release and activities associated with the substance in Ontario. Existing controls and relevant ongoing work of the federal government will also inform a recommendation

under the Toxics Reduction Program. The application of the review criteria is depicted in Figure 1 and in the text below.

Figure 1: Application of Review Criteria during the Review Step



3.2.2 Characterizing the Substance

The ministry would gather information on the hazard properties of the nominated substance. The ministry could use varied sources of information to make this determination.

Specifically, the ministry would use the environmental and human health criteria that follow to characterize the hazard of a nominated substance.

Environmental Criteria

i)	Persistence Half life ($T_{1/2}$) in air water and soil/sediment
ii)	Bioaccumulation (Bio concentration Factor or Bioaccumulation Factor)
iii)	Aquatic Toxicity (fish, invertebrates, algae)
iv)	Wildlife Toxicity (mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds)

In addition, characterization of a substance may include consideration of its form and its associated bioavailability.

Human Health Criteria

i)	Acute Toxicity
ii)	Chronic Toxicity - Carcinogenicity - Mutagenicity - Endocrine Disruption - Reproductive or Developmental
iii)	Other: Substances that may have similar properties although not meeting the above criteria which have scientific evidence of probable serious effects on human health or the environment thus giving rise to an equivalent level of concern

The ministry will focus on readily available, peer reviewed sources of information (e.g. toxicity characteristic lists, databases, authoritative bodies). Examples of such sources include the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the National Toxicology Program (NTP), the Domestic Substances List categorization, the US Environmental Protection Agency and INCHEM, the International Programme on Chemical Safety's database on chemical safety information from intergovernmental organizations.

For substances with less readily available information, the ministry will need to use other available sources of information, engage experts and/ or make a request for information.

3.2.3 Contextual Information

In addition to characterizing the substance in terms of its inherent hazardous properties, the ministry will review information on the substance's use and/or creation, as well as discharges. Key information in this analysis will include, where relevant:

- Are discharges primarily associated with industrial sources or other source?
- Are discharges primarily associated with a regulated sector?
- Generally, how does the substance enter a process, how is it used or created within manufacturing or mineral processing operations?
- What is the role of the substance in the final product? Is the substance used or created by facilities regulated under the Toxics Reduction Act?
- Is there reason to believe that there may be an increase or decrease in the use or creation or release of the substance in Ontario?

Sources of information may include data currently reported under the Toxics Reduction Program or the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), the US Toxics Release Inventory, data gathered to support work in the Great Lakes, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change databases (i.e., approvals, monitoring and reporting) or through ministry partners, or the federal government, municipalities and the regulated community.

Where available, the ministry may also consider the following:

- Environmental data, if available
    - Is there monitoring data to assess the likely impact by considering information from another jurisdiction, such as the United States or the European Union?
    - Do the concentrations or the levels of discharges exceed biota or environmental media safety criteria?
    - Can information be obtained from environmental fate and transport modelling?
    - Are trend data available?

During the review step the ministry will also collect contextual information to assist in determining the timing of implementation for any possible changes to the list of prescribed substances. Information to collect could include:

- Availability of data, methods for tracking and quantifying the substance
- Alternatives assessments
- Summaries of Toxic Substance Reduction Plans

The ministry will also summarize information on how the chemical is managed in Ontario within federal and provincial programs.

3.2.4 Public Consultation

Once the ministry has completed a review of the nomination, it will engage interested parties prior to developing a proposal. During this early engagement, the ministry will post a Notice to the EBR Environmental Registry to advise those interested in participating that a meeting will be held. The Notice will also advise interested parties of the availability of review summaries.

During the early public engagement, the ministry will provide an overview of the scientific and contextual information reviewed and will summarize information about how the chemical is already managed in Ontario. Additionally, the ministry will discuss uncertainty in the information reviewed and how it was addressed. Participants will be able to pose questions and provide feedback and/or additional information to support the ministry's review. The ministry will consider available information, comments, and input received prior to finalizing the scientific information for public comment during the Environmental Registry posting of a Regulatory Proposal Notice or Information Notice.

If the ministry proposes to add, delete or change a substance prescribed under the Act, a Regulatory Proposal will be posted on the Environmental Registry to seek comments from the public. The ministry may also hold meetings with the public, stakeholders and/or experts during the consultation period, as needed, to clarify and seek feedback on the proposal. Any other ministry proposal in response to a nomination will be posted as an Information Notice on the Environmental Registry. All comments received will be taken into consideration when finalizing a decision, as set out below, in the decision step.

3.2.5 Suitability for Management under the Toxics Reduction Act

The purpose of the Toxics Reduction Act is to prevent pollution and protect human health and the environment by reducing the use and creation of toxic substances; and to inform Ontarians about toxic substances.

In determining whether the nominated substance(s) meets the purposes of the Toxics Reduction Act and Program, the ministry reviewers will consider tools and programs already in place for the management of the substance. The ministry may consult with administrators of other provincial programs as well as other agencies and/or other jurisdictions working to learn from opportunities for toxics reduction and to reduce duplication of environmental management of toxic substances in Ontario.

In addition to the changes that could be made to the list of prescribed substances through the Living List Framework, changes may also result through the rolling reference to the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) of substances, thresholds and rules set out in O. Reg. 455/09. The rolling reference to NPRI means that any changes made to the NPRI are adopted by the Toxics Reduction Act. The ministry provides public notification of these changes through an Information Notice posted to the Environmental Registry. It is the ministry's intention to consider any proposed changes to NPRI under the Living List Framework and to work with NPRI by sharing information prior to any decisions being made by either jurisdiction.

Based on its review, the ministry may or may not recommend that the substance be referred to another program in addition to or instead of management under the Toxics Reduction Program.

3.2.6 Addressing Information Gaps and Uncertainty

The Framework includes a process during the review step for assessing the impact of data gaps on decision-making. In keeping with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Statement of Environmental Values (SEV), the ministry will follow "a precautionary, science-based approach in its decision-making approach to protect human health and the environment". Expert judgement and some flexibility may be needed in situations where little information is available on a substance.

Following consultation with experts, where appropriate, and the public the ministry may still find data gaps or uncertainty (e.g. if there is no hazard information available or when there is significant debate regarding the hazard of the substance, with respect to a specific nomination). The ministry will document the information that was relied upon during the review and make a summary of the criteria considered (weight of evidence) available to the public. The ministry will also outline where there is uncertainty and how the ministry addressed limited and/or contradictory data in the information made available to the public to support their participation in the review step. The focus will be on the actions to be taken in light of the lack of data, including additional information gathering or another mechanism.

3.3 Decision

During this step, the ministry will consider input received, including public comments from an Environmental Registry posting during the review and public consultation step and will prepare the necessary documentation for government review and decision, including expected benefits to both health and environment. The ministry may need to consult with other agencies or jurisdictions. The government may also consider costs to industry under a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) as well as any economic/environmental benefits of any proposed changes to the list of prescribed substances.

Once the decision is finalized, the nominators will be notified of the decision and the decision will be posted to the Environmental Registry. Where changes are made to the list of prescribed substances, the amending regulation and effective date will be specified. The status of the nomination will be updated on the website.

Decision posting will include:

- a summary of the information relied upon to support decision-making in an accessible and comprehensible manner
- rationale and expected benefits to both health and environment as a result of action

3.3.1 Addressing Implementation

The Toxics Reduction Program identifies some important dates and periods for toxic reduction planning. The first is the year when a facility meets the reporting thresholds for a prescribed substance and is now subject to the Toxics Reduction Act.

In the following year, the facility *must* submit an annual report by June 1st, and annually thereafter. The facility is also required to prepare a plan based on the first annual report and submit a plan summary by December 31st of that same year. Plans and plan summaries must be updated on fixed review years by December 31st. Those fixed review years are 2018, 2023, 2028, and every 5 years thereafter.

The ministry will make best efforts to provide sufficient lead time prior to implementation for the regulated community to make any changes resulting from changes to the list of prescribed substances. There may be implementation challenges where a new substance is to be prescribed and data is not currently gathered for that substance.

4.0 Engagement and Maintaining Transparency

4.1 The Nominator(s):

After receipt of the nomination, if additional information is required, the ministry will first seek to address gaps if information is readily available but may need to seek additional information from the nominator(s). Screening outcomes will then be shared with the nominator(s). If the nomination proceeds to the review step, the nominator(s) will be kept apprised of progress via electronic communications. Once the government decision is finalized, the nominator(s) will be notified of the final decision on the nomination(s).

4.2 Interested Stakeholders

The ministry will communicate with interested parties:

- through regular postings to the government web site about the status of nominations and public meetings, and finally,
- by integrating the use of the Environmental Registry to communicate publicly at key stages of a nomination.

The ministry will regularly update the status of nominations in a central location. Nominations received, outcomes of screening, summaries of the review, key engagement meeting dates, and government decisions will all be made publicly available.

Finally, the ministry will use the Environmental Registry to post Information Notices and Regulatory Proposals, as outlined in the review and decision steps. Notice of meetings and

availability of review summaries will also be provided through this mechanism. Ministry proposals for formal public consultation in response to a nomination as well as government decisions will also be posted on the Environmental Registry.

4.3 Experts, other agencies and jurisdictions

Engagement with experts, other agencies and jurisdictions may be required at different steps within the Framework, depending upon the nomination. For example, to determine if work is currently underway through another program or agency on the nominated substance(s), or to better understand how a substance is used or created by a specific industry or managed by another program. Additional expert engagement may also be required in cases where little information is available. The ministry will document and make a summary of this information publicly available to maintain transparency.

5.0 Performance Measurement

The ministry will review the efficiency and effectiveness of the framework and improve implementation if and when needed. Stakeholders may provide comments and suggestions to the ministry at any time.

In addition to maintaining a public web site on substances nominated and their status, the ministry may include in the Minister's annual report on toxics reduction, progress on implementing the Living List, including number of substances nominated and outcome.

6.0 Conclusion

The ministry listened to industry, environment, health and labour organizations and the people of Ontario who said they want to be involved in reviewing and making changes to the list of prescribed substances covered by Ontario's Toxics Reduction Act. The ministry acted on that feedback by working with a multi-stakeholder group to develop a draft Living List Framework and then incorporated suggestions received during the Environmental Registry posting of the proposed framework. The ministry remains committed to maintaining transparency and promoting stakeholder, public and expert engagement as it moves forward in implementing the Living List Framework.