

Draft Regulations

Draft Regulations

Environment Quality Act
(chapter Q-2)

Act respecting certain measures enabling the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation
(chapter M-11.6)

Activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas

Regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact

Environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects

Snow, road salt and abrasives management

Temporary implementation of the amendments made by chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2021 in connection with the management of flood risks

—Amendment

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of the Regulations Act (chapter R-18.1), that the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas, the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact, the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects, the Regulation to amend the Snow, road salt and abrasives management Regulation and the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the temporary implementation of the amendments made by chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2021 in connection with the management of flood risks, appearing below, may be made by the Government on the expiry of 45 days following this publication.

The draft Regulations make various amendments to the regulatory scheme applying to activities subject to a government or ministerial authorization, eligible for a declaration of compliance or exempted from a ministerial authorization. Amendments are also made to the exempted activities subject to a municipal authorization.

The Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas (chapter Q-2, r. 0.1) is amended to make various adjustments to the conditions for carrying out work requiring the removal and

trimming of vegetation in the environments concerned by the Regulation and those concerning the laying out or widening of a road. Amendments also provide for adjustments to certain activities on a lakeshore or riverbank as well as a few additions to the provision giving municipalities the responsibility for the application of some provisions of the Regulation.

The Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact (chapter Q-2, r. 17.1) is amended to require applicants for authorization and authorization holders having conditions for the monitoring, supervision or control of activities prescribed by the Minister to use an appropriate data collection tool available on the department's website. Backfilling activities in a quarry with certain materials are also added as requiring an authorization under the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2). The provisions of the Regulation concerning the storage and handling of road salt and abrasives are also revised. Various amendments are made to the provisions of the Regulation concerning activities in wetlands and bodies of water, in particular with respect to exemptions for work related to a residential building carried out on a lakeshore or riverbank or a flood zone. An adjustment is made to the designation of the hydrogen production process is adjusted to take into consideration greenhouse gas emissions when analyzing the application for authorization for that activity. Lastly, various amendments are made to the Regulation for clarification purposes.

The Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects (chapter Q-2, r. 23.1) is amended to revise the application of the environmental impact assessment and review procedure with respect to the manufacturing of motorized vehicles and to add certain activities related to the manufacturing of batteries.

The Snow, road salt and abrasives management Regulation (chapter Q-2, r. 28.2) is amended to specify certain layout and operation standards applicable to storage and handling centres for road salt and abrasives.

The Regulation respecting the temporary implementation of the amendments made by chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2021 in connection with the management of flood risks (chapter Q-2, r. 32.2) is adjusted to clarify activities related to a residential building that are subject to a municipal authorization and the content of such an application for

authorization. The Regulation is also amended to specify the provisions to be complied with so that a municipality may issue such an authorization and to specify the monitoring requirement applicable to that municipality after the issue of the authorization. Lastly, the Regulation is amended to extend the power of municipalities to regulate certain matters related to bodies of water without being subject to section 118.3.3 of the Environment Quality Act, which power extends to measures to control erosion, the management of sediments, techniques for carrying out stabilization work and quays.

The amendments to those Regulations consist mainly in regulatory clarifications, which have no impact on enterprises. As for the amendments to the Snow, road salt and abrasives management Regulation, some savings are anticipated for operators of storage and handling centres for road salt and abrasives eligible to a declaration of compliance due to the reduction in the frequency of certain required inspections.

Further information on the draft Regulations may be obtained by contacting Maude Durand, Acting Director, Bureau de stratégie législative et réglementaire, Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs, 900, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, bureau 800, Québec (Québec) G1R 2B5; telephone: 418 521-3861, extension 4466; email: question.bslr@environnement.gouv.qc.ca.

Any person wishing to comment on the draft Regulation is requested to submit written comments within the 45-day period to Maude Durand at the above contact information.

BENOIT CHARETTE

Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks

Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas

Environment Quality Act
(chapter Q-2, s. 46.0.22, pars. 10 to 12, s. 95.1, 1st par., subpars. 7 and 8, and s. 118.3.5)

Act respecting certain measures enabling the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation
(chapter M-11.6, s. 30)

1. The Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas (chapter Q-2, r. 0.1), as amended by section 1 of the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting activities in wetlands,

bodies of water and sensitive areas, enacted by Order in Council 1461-2022 dated 3 August 2022, is amended in section 2 by striking out “35.1,” in the first paragraph.

2. Section 18.1, as replaced by section 7 of the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas, enacted by Order in Council 1461-2022 dated 3 August 2022, is replaced by the following:

“**18.1.** Work requiring the removal and trimming of vegetation in the littoral zone or a lakeshore or riverbank must be carried out without stump removal, unless the nature of the work entails stump removal.”

3. Section 20, as replaced by section 8 of the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas, enacted by Order in Council 1461-2022 dated 3 August 2022, is amended by replacing “Construction of a road in a lakeshore or riverbank” in the first paragraph by “Laying out of a road in a lakeshore or riverbank or extension of such a road causing additional encroachment into the lakeshore or riverbank”.

4. Section 35.1 is amended by replacing the first paragraph by the following:

“Construction work on a main residential building and its accessory buildings and works, including the necessary access, is prohibited on a lakeshore or riverbank if it is carried out in compliance with section 340.2 of the Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact (chapter Q-2, r. 17.1).”

5. Section 51 is amended by striking out “or impermeabilizes the ground” in paragraph 14.

6. Section 59.1 is replaced by the following:

“**59.1.** Municipalities are responsible for the application of sections 7 to 11, 15 to 17, 18.1, 20, 21, 33.3 to 33.7, 35.1, 35.2, 38 to 38.11 and 43.1 with regard to the following activities carried out in their territory:

(1) activities requiring municipal authorization under sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Regulation respecting the temporary implementation of the amendments made by chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2021 in connection with the management of flood risks (chapter Q-2, r. 32.2);

(2) activities pertaining to any of the matters listed in section 117 of the Regulation respecting the temporary implementation of the amendments made by chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2021 in connection with the management of flood risks.

For the purposes of such responsibility, municipalities apply the penal sanctions provided for in Chapter IX but may not apply the monetary administrative penalties provided for in Chapter VIII.”

7. This Regulation comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact

Environment Quality Act
(chapter Q-2, s. 22, 1st par., subpar. 10, s. 23, 2nd par., s. 24, 1st par., subpar. 5, ss. 28, 31.0.6, 31.0.11, 31.22, and 95.1, 1st par., subpar. 25.1)

Act respecting certain measures enabling the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation
(chapter M-11.6, ss. 30 and 45)

1. The Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact (chapter Q-2, r. 17.1) is amended in section 10 by replacing “appropriate forms” in the first paragraph by “forms, templates, spreadsheets or any other data collecting tool that are appropriate and that are”.

2. The following is inserted after section 10:

“**10.1.** The holder of an authorization in which the Minister has prescribed in accordance with the Act conditions on the monitoring, supervision and control of activities must file with the Minister electronically, at the frequency provided for in the authorization or on the Minister’s request, the information or documents required using the forms, templates, spreadsheets or any other data collection tool appropriate to the requirements where they are available on the website of the Minister’s department.

The requirement provided for in the first paragraph applies to an authorization holder as of 1 January each year for any data collection tool made available on the website not later than 30 September of the preceding year.

This section also applies to an authorization issued before (*insert the date of coming into force of this section*), despite any inconsistent provision.”

3. Section 14 is amended by adding “referred to in Chapter IV of Title IV of Part I” at the end of subparagraph 4 of the first paragraph.

4. Section 35 is amended by replacing “the first paragraph” in the second paragraph by “this Regulation”.

5. Section 113 is amended by inserting the following after subparagraph i of subparagraph b of paragraph 3:

“i.1. the backfilling of the quarry with concrete from demolition work in accordance with section 42 of the Regulation respecting sand pits and quarries (chapter Q-2, r. 7.1);

i.2. the backfilling of the quarry with slurry referred to in subparagraph b of subparagraph 2 of the first paragraph of section 23 of the Regulation respecting sand pits and quarries;

i.3. the backfilling of the quarry with dust referred to in the second paragraph of section 23 of the Regulation respecting sand pits and quarries;”

6. Section 252, as amended by section 37 of the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact, made by Order in Council 1461-2022 dated 3 August 2022, is amended by striking out subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph.

7. Section 254 is replaced by the following:

“**254.** The declarant of an activity referred to in section 252 must hold a dismembering plant permit in the “composting” category referred to in the Regulation respecting food (chapter P-29, r. 1) for operating a composting facility.

During operation, the declarant must also measure the internal temperature of the materials being composted in the facility at intervals of not more than 72 hours.”

8. Section 284, as amended by section 40 of the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact, made by Order in Council 1461-2022 dated 3 August 2022, is amended by adding “or, if the user is the producer, the user holds the information and documents allowing to demonstrate the category of the material” at the end of paragraph 3.

9. The heading of Division II of Chapter IV of Title III of Part II is replaced by the following:

“**DIVISION II**
STORAGE AND HANDLING OF ROAD SALT
AND ABRASIVES”.

10. Section 292 is replaced by the following:

“**292.** The establishment and operation of a storage and handling centre for road salt and abrasives used for winter road maintenance and the storage of brine in an aboveground tank in such a centre are subject to an authorization pursuant to subparagraph 10 of the first paragraph of section 22 of the Act.”

11. Section 293 is amended

- (1) by replacing “subject to” by “where they meet”;
- (2) by inserting “sections 8 and 9 of” after “provided for in”.

12. Section 294 is amended by replacing “maximum” by “annual”.

13. The following is inserted after section 294:

“§3. *Exempted activities*

294.1. Storage of brine in an aboveground tank in a storage and handling centre for road salt and abrasives is exempted from authorization pursuant to this Division on the following conditions:

- (1) the centre meets the conditions for location and layout provided for in sections 8 and 9 of the Snow, road salt and abrasives management Regulation (chapter Q-2, r. 28.2);
- (2) the total capacity of the tanks is less than or equal to 50,000 litres;
- (3) the loading or unloading areas of the tanks is water-proof and designed to retain brine that could be discharged and facilitate its recovery;
- (4) the tanks are double-walled tanks equipped with an interstitial automatic leak detection system or an impermeable basin able to contain 110% of the tank’s capacity or, where there are several tanks, 125% of the capacity of the largest tank;
- (5) the tanks are protected by barriers at places liable to be struck by vehicles.

For the purpose of this section, despite subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph, a storage and handling centre for road salt and abrasives in operation on 2 September 2020 may be sited at a distance of 30 m or more but less than 60 m from a watercourse or a lake on (*insert the date of coming into force of this section*) if the operator holds an

opinion from a professional qualified in the field demonstrating that the activity performed at that distance is not likely to constitute a source of contamination.

DIVISION II.1
STORAGE OF TREATED WOOD

§1. *Activity subject to authorization*

294.2. The storage of treated wood is subject to an authorization under subparagraph 10 of the first paragraph of section 22 of the Act.”

14. The heading of subdivision 3 of Division II of Chapter IV of Title III of Part II is amended by replacing “3” by “2”.

15. Section 328 is amended by adding the following paragraph at the end:

“The conditions set out in this section do not apply to the dismantling of a building.”

16. Section 340.2 is replaced by the following:

“**340.2.** The construction of a main residential building, except its initial siting, and the construction of its accessory buildings and works and necessary access are exempted from authorization pursuant to this Division when carried out on a lakeshore or riverbank, on the following conditions:

- (1) except if the initial encroachment does not allow it, a vegetation strip at least 5 m wide, measured from the boundary of the littoral zone, must be preserved in a natural or restored state in order to re-establish at least 2 strata of herbaceous, arbustive or arborescent vegetation;
- (2) the work cannot be carried out elsewhere on the lot without encroaching into the lakeshore or riverbank;
- (3) the lot was created before 18 May 2005.

Where the work involves the enlargement or any other substantial modification of a main residential building, the work must not bring the building closer to the littoral zone or create an encroachment exceeding the encroachment created by the existing building.

Where the work involves the relocation of a main residential building, the relocation must be further away from the littoral zone than the initial location and, despite subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph, the relocation may take place regardless of the date of the subdivision of the land.

Where the work involves the reconstruction of a main residential building, the area of the encroachment of the reconstructed main building into the lakeshore or riverbank is equal to or lesser than the area of the encroachment of the initial building.

Where the work involves accessory buildings and works for a main residential building, the following conditions must be met:

(1) the area of the total encroachment of the accessory buildings and works into the lakeshore or riverbank is not more than 30 m²;

(2) the work does not require backfilling or excavation.

Where the work involves dismantling, the conditions set out in this section do not apply.

For the purposes of this section, reconstruction covers a main residential building that has sustained damage, with the exception of damage connected with flooding or submersion, when the value of the damage sustained exceeds one half of the new-build cost for the building, excluding accessory buildings and works, established in accordance with Part 3E of the Manuel d'évaluation foncière du Québec and adjusted on 1 July of the year preceding the year in which the building was affected by the flood or submersion.”

17. The following is inserted after section 340.2:

“**340.3.** The dismantling in a littoral zone of a main residential building and its accessory buildings and works and necessary access is exempted from authorization pursuant to this Division.”

18. Section 341 is amended by replacing paragraph 5 by the following:

“(5) work to construct a main residential building and its accessory buildings and works and necessary access, and landscaping work necessary during and after the work if, in the latter case, the work proposed allows to comply with the original topography of the land;”

19. Section 345 is amended by replacing subparagraphs 2 and 3 of the first paragraph by the following:

“(2) the dismantling of a main residential building, its accessory buildings and works and necessary access;

(3) in a wooded wetland situated in the bioclimatic domains of balsam fir stands with paper birch and black spruce stands with moss, in the case of a main residential

building not connected to a waterworks system or a sewer system authorized under the Act, the siting, reconstruction, relocation, enlargement or other substantial modification to such a building, its accessory buildings and works and necessary access, on an area of not more than 3,000 m²;”

20. Section 347 is amended by replacing “white” by “paper”.

21. Section 364 is amended by replacing “a depollution attestation, until the renewal date for the attestation” in subparagraph 1 of the first paragraph by “ministerial authorization related to the operation of an industrial establishment referred to in Division III of Chapter IV of Title I of the Act, until the renewal date for the authorization”.

22. Schedule I is amended by replacing paragraph 6 by the following:

“(6) a hydrogen production process, except a water electrolysis process supplied in electricity by hydroelectric, solar or wind energy sources;”

23. This Regulation comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, except sections 5 to 7, 9 to 14 and 22, which come into force on (*insert the date that is 180 days after the date of its publication in the Gazette officielle du Québec*).

Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects

Environment Quality Act
(chapter Q-2, ss. 31.1 and 31.9, 1st par., subpar. a).

1. The Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects (chapter Q-2, r. 23.1) is amended in Part II of Schedule 1

(1) by adding the following paragraph at the end of section 20:

“This section does not apply to the activities referred to in section 39 of Part II of this Schedule.”;

(2) by striking out section 26;

(3) by inserting the following after section 38:

“39. ENERGY STORAGE EQUIPMENT

The following projects are subject to the procedure:

“(1) the construction of a plant whose maximum annual production capacity would be equal to or greater than 60,000 metric tons by performing any of the following activities for the purpose of manufacturing cells, electrochemical accumulators or batteries:

- (a) the manufacturing of active materials for electrodes;
- (b) the manufacturing of separators;
- (c) the assembly of electrodes;

(2) the construction of an electrode, cell, electrochemical accumulator or battery assembly plant whose maximum annual production capacity would be equal to or greater than 30 GWh;

(3) an increase of the maximum annual production capacity of a plant referred to in subparagraph 1 or 2 that would reach or exceed a capacity referred to in either of those subparagraphs;

(4) in the case of a plant whose maximum annual production capacity is equal to or greater than a capacity referred to in subparagraph 1 or 2:

- (a) any increase of 50% or more of that capacity;
- (b) any increase of that capacity that results in an expansion of 25% or more of the plant operation area.

Subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph does not apply to a plant existing on (*insert the date of coming into force of this Regulation*). For those plants, any project to increase the maximum annual production capacity by 50% or more, that would reach or exceed a capacity referred to in subparagraph 1 or 2 of the first paragraph, is subject to the procedure.”.

2. This Regulation comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

Regulation to amend the Snow, road salt and abrasives management Regulation

Environment Quality Act
(chapter Q-2, ss. 31.0.6, 31.0.11 and 95.1, 1st par.,
subpars. 3 and 5)

Act respecting certain measures enabling the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation
(chapter M-11.6, ss. 30 and 45)

1. The Snow, road salt and abrasives management Regulation (chapter Q-2, r. 28.2) is amended in section 1 by adding “used for winter road maintenance to the extent provided for in Chapter III” at the end of the first paragraph.

2. Section 7 is amended

(1) by inserting “section 293 of” after “under”;

(2) by adding “Sections 8 and 9 also apply to activities exempted from an authorization under section 294.1 of that Regulation.” at the end.

3. Section 9 is amended in paragraph 1

(1) by replacing subparagraph *b* by the following:

“(b) be laid out so that the runoff water from outside the areas cannot flow into the areas, in particular by the use of perimeter trenches or any other collection system;”;

(2) by inserting “watertight collection” before “system” in subparagraph *c*;

(3) by replacing subparagraph ii of subparagraph *c* by the following:

“ii. to a water treatment system or to a watertight basin or reservoir which is to be discharged elsewhere than in a lake or a wetland in order to reduce the discharge of contaminants such as chlorides;”.

4. Section 10 is amended

(1) by inserting “the electrical conductivity and” after “verify” in paragraph 2;

(2) in paragraph 3

(a) by replacing “daily” by “weekly”;

(b) by adding “to make sure they are in good order” at the end;

(3) by replacing paragraph 4 by the following:

“(4) the handling and loading areas must be cleaned so as to remove any deposit of salt and abrasives resulting from handling and loading operations;”.

5. Section 13 is amended by striking out paragraph 3.

6. Section 14 is amended

(1) by replacing “\$550” in the portion before paragraph 1 by “\$500”;

(2) by inserting “paragraph 2, 3 or 4 of” after “set out in” in paragraph 2.

7. Section 15 is amended by adding the following:

“(3) operates a storage and handling centre for road salt and abrasives that does not comply with the operating standards set out in paragraph 5 of section 10;

(4) fails to first notify the Minister on ceasing activities in accordance with section 12.”.

8. The following is inserted after section 15:

“**15.1.** A monetary administrative penalty of \$2,000 in the case of a natural person or \$10,000 in any other case may be imposed on every person who operates a storage and handling centre for road salt and abrasives that does not comply with the operating standards set out in paragraph 1 or 6 of section 10.”.

9. Section 17 is amended by replacing “10” by “paragraph 2, 3 or 4 of section 10”.

10. Section 18 is amended

(1) by adding “, paragraph 5 of section 10 or section 12” at the end of paragraph 1;

(2) by striking out paragraph 2.

11. The following is inserted after section 18:

“**18.1.** Every person who contravenes paragraph 1 or 6 of section 10 commits an offence and is liable, in the case of a natural person, to a fine of \$10,000 to \$1,000,000 or, despite article 231 of the Code of Penal Procedure (chapter C-25.1), to a maximum term of imprisonment of 18 months, or to both the fine and imprisonment, or in any other case, to a fine of \$30,000 to \$6,000,000.”.

12. Section 19 is amended by adding “, subject to the cases provided for in the second paragraph of section 359 of the Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact (chapter Q-2, r. 17.1)” at the end.

13. This Regulation comes into force on *(insert the date that is 180 days after the date of its publication in the Gazette officielle du Québec)*.

Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting the temporary implementation of the amendments made by chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2021 in connection with the management of flood risks

Environment Quality Act

(chapter Q-2, s. 46.0.22, par. 11, and s. 95.1, par. 1, subpar. 9)

1. The Regulation respecting the temporary implementation of the amendments made by chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2021 in connection with the management of flood risks (chapter Q-2, r. 32.2) is amended in section 7 by replacing paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 by the following:

“(7) the construction of a main residential building, as well as that of its buildings, accessory works and the necessary access, on the conditions set out in section 340.2 of the Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact;”.

2. Section 10 is amended by inserting “on a lot situated in an ice jam flood zone with or without ice movement listed in a metropolitan land use and development plan, a land use and development plan, any interim control measure or a by-law adopted by a regional county municipality pursuant to the Act respecting land use planning and development (chapter A-19.1)” after “building” in paragraph 1.

3. Section 11 is replaced by the following:

“**11.** A local municipality issues an authorisation pursuant to this Regulation

(1) where the activity meets the conditions applicable to it under the Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact (chapter Q-2, r. 17.1);

(2) where the activity meets the conditions applicable to it under the Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas (chapter Q-2, r. 0.1), except those set out in sections 7, 11, 30, 33, 33.6 and 33.7 of that Regulation which need not be verified prior to issuance;

(3) for the construction of a boat shelter or quay referred to in subparagraph 4 of the first paragraph of section 6, when no shelter or quay is already present on the lot concerned by the application.

Subparagraph 2 does not apply when the activity is the subject of an authorization issued under section 22 or 31.5 of the Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2) by reason of the fact that such an activity does not meet the conditions set out in section 9 or 20 of the Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas.

After the issuance of the municipal authorization, the municipality must ensure compliance with the conditions set out in the Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas in accordance with section 59.1 of that Regulation except, in the case provided for in the second paragraph, the conditions set out in section 9 or 20 of that Regulation, as the case may be.”

4. Section 117 is amended in the first paragraph

(1) by striking out “referred to in sections 6 and 7” in subparagraph 1;

(2) by inserting the following after subparagraph 4:

“(5) the management of quays, in particular the number permitted per lot, the accepted materials, as well as cases that are prohibited and those for which prior municipal authorization is required;

(6) the control measures to be implemented when work is carried out to limit erosion and sediments;

(7) the management of work to stabilize an embankment, in particular the techniques to be used and the conditions to be met.”

5. This Regulation comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

106130

Draft Regulation

Act respecting certain measures enabling the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation (chapter M-11.6)

Environment Quality Act (chapter Q-2)

Agricultural operations — Amendment

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of the Regulations Act (chapter R-18.1), that the Regulation to amend the Agricultural Operations Regulation, appearing below, may be made by the Government on the expiry of 45 days following this publication.

The draft Regulation prohibits the spreading on any parcel of land of sludge from a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plant or any other wastewater treatment or collection system, as well as de-inking sludge from pulp and paper mills, where the sludge originates from outside Canada.

The draft Regulation also allows restoring to cultivation certain parcels subject to a prohibition, and establishes the conditions for doing so.

The draft Regulation also adjusts the monetary administrative penalties and penal provisions to review the seriousness of certain failures and offences.

The new prohibition of spreading sludge from outside Canada proposed in the draft Regulation could have a financial impact on importing businesses, which will have to find other markets for the reclamation of such sludge. It will be noted, however, that certain markets already exist. Moreover, the possibility of restoring certain parcels to cultivation represents an economic opportunity for those operators.

Further information on the draft Regulation may be obtained by contacting Maude Durand, Acting Director, Bureau de stratégie législative et réglementaire, Ministère de l’Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs, 900, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, bureau 800, Québec (Québec) G1R 2B5; telephone: 418 521-3861, extension 4466; email: question.bslr@environnement.gouv.qc.ca.