

By Fax (819) 953-0279

1 September 2010

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Prentice:

Re: Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE) Revised Risk Management Strategy

On behalf of the David Suzuki Foundation, the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), and Environmental Defence, thank you for your letter of 30 August 2010, updating the actions taken in response to our Notice of Objection of 14 February 2007.

We are very pleased that the revised risk management strategy for polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDEs) flame retardants includes a comprehensive ban on all three commercial mixtures of PBDEs. The expanded ban on DecaBDE to all products, not just electronics, is a significant step forward and addresses many of the issues raised in our Notice of Objection.

We are also very pleased with the announcement of the development of a risk management strategy for the waste sector including products containing PBDEs.

Looking to the future, we believe that it is important that the government re-examine and strengthen the *Persistence and Bioaccumulation Regulations*, as the regulatory threshold for listing substances on the *Canadian Environmental Protections Act, 1997* (CEPA) Virtual Elimination List. The regulatory thresholds for determining persistence and bioaccumulation should be re-assessed so that precautionary measures can be taken and dangerous substances such as DecaBDE may be placed on that list and be more effectively regulated.

We hope that the scientific review and decision-making processes undertaken regarding the regulation of PBDEs can be streamlined and used for the more efficient regulation of other toxic substances in the future. The three-and-one-half year time period to respond to the Notice of Objection and the delay until 2013 in putting in place the comprehensive ban on PBDEs is unfortunate given that these toxic substances need to be addressed expeditiously.

Thank you again for your good work on these issues.

Yours truly,



Hugh Wilkins
Staff Lawyer
Ecojustice Canada

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