Category: **Obligation to Make Environmental Information Public**

Sub-Category: Online Tools and Applications Related to Access to Environmental Information

Name of Good Practice: Ontario’s Environmental Registry

Key Words: Access to information, Technology, Internet, Public Participation

Implementing Actors: Sub-National Government: Ontario Government

Location: Ontario, Canada

Description: The province of Ontario has created a web-based Environmental Registry where the public can access a wide spectrum of environmental-related information. The Environmental Registry was created pursuant to the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights, a comprehensive law whose purpose is, among other things, to protect the right to a healthful environment. According to the website, the Environmental Registry “contains ‘public notices’ about environmental matters being proposed by all government ministries covered by the Environmental Bill of Rights. The public notices may contain information about proposed new laws, regulations, policies and programs or about proposals to change or eliminate existing ones.” The public notices provide information on where to find the details about the proposals, how and where to send comments, and the deadline for having comments considered.

Through providing internet access to environmentally-relevant information, the Environmental Registry allows the public to exercise its right under Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights to be given public notice of a range of government proposals and decisions related to environmental matters, and to provide comments on those issues.

Further Information: See Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights (1993), S.O. 1993, CHAPTER 28, sec. 2; website of the Registry, <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca>.