



The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
200 Sacré-Coeur; 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

April 9, 2020

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

The current pandemic is a unique and challenging time not only for individual Canadians, but for the businesses and industries that contribute to our economy. Not only have Canadian industries been responding to government calls for help in innovative ways, they have also been leaders in implementing the recommendations of our health care professionals to ensure that workers can stay safe while continuing to make products that we need. Unfortunately, as a result of COVID-related operational changes, many organizations are experiencing difficulties in meeting government-imposed deadlines.

In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the annual reporting and verification requirements under the Output Based Pricing System (OBPS). The deadline for the 2019 compliance period is June 1, 2020 and many facility operators are having challenges completing the requirements by this deadline due to physical distancing requirement that have been put in place to protect the health and safety of workers.

Further, s. 51 of the *Output Based Pricing System Regulations* requires that covered facilities receive a site visit by an accredited verification body if it is the initial verification. Given the fact that 2019 was the first compliance period, this regulation therefore requires that all covered facilities receive a site visit as part of the verification reporting process. This is particularly challenging when governments have required that workplaces prioritize the safety of workers through physical distancing measures, and facilities and accreditors would be discouraged to gather to undertake such activities for safety measures.

In order to help covered facilities prioritize the well-being of their workers, we respectfully request that the deadline for the annual report be extended from June 1 to at least August 31, 2020. This deadline could be extended further if circumstances dictate.

There is no doubt that this proposed deadline extension will support businesses during this challenging time and allow them to focus on keeping their workers safe and on meeting demand for critical products. We look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,



Hon. Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, P.C., Q.C.  
Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change  
Member of Parliament for South Surrey—White Rock



Dan Mazier  
Deputy Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change  
Member of Parliament for Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa



Brad Redekopp  
Member of Parliament for Saskatoon West



Scott Aitchison  
Member of Parliament for Parry Sound—Muskoka