

**Policy Directive:
Sawmill Wastes**

Division: Pollution
Prevention

Issue Date: November 30,
1984

Subject:

Sawmill Wastes

Objective:

To improve sawmill waste management practices in the province, to the extent that will see all operations in compliance with normal environmental requirements by 1987.

Background:

Many of the sawmill operations across the province contribute to water pollution through poor or non-existent waste disposal practices. Attempts by the Department of Environment and concerned municipalities to promote cleanups have met with little success and it is now necessary to renew such efforts with follow up through to prosecution where the owners continue in violation of environmental legislation.

Policy:

In view of the persistence of many sawmill waste disposal problems and the serious impact they are having on inland water quality as well as the ecological balance in some sheltered or heavily developed coastal coves and harbours, action under Section 19(1) of The Waste Material (Disposal) Act, 1973 should be taken against the owners of such sawmills when all reasonable efforts to obtain cleanups have failed. It is preferable that the disposal action be personally witnessed or supported by a statement and, except for serious incidents (fouling of recreational beaches, contamination of watersheds or of water intakes, fish kills, the plowing or mechanical blowing of large quantities into water, and the like) the action must be preceded by

- (1) conversations or visits with the owner to discuss the overall situation.
- (2) liaison with an appropriate Department of Forest Resources and Lands official with respect to our intended action on the specific case thereby soliciting the cooperation, involvement, and assistance of that Department.
- (3) correspondence to the owner pointing out the violation and asking for improvements within reasonable time periods.

