

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Resources Planning and Development
Policy Branch
Policy Division
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts

Direction des politiques de planification et d'exploitation des ressources
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Notice: Changes under the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act related to Geologic Carbon Storage

Hello,

I am pleased to inform you that Bill 46, Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario Act, 2022 was introduced on November 23, 2022, which would make changes to the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act to remove the prohibition on geologic carbon storage. We also released a short Roadmap to further outline our plan to remove barriers for this activity in Ontario.

Last winter, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry sought feedback on a discussion paper (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-4770>) exploring possible legislative changes which would remove potential barriers to the storage of carbon dioxide and enable the creation of a regulatory framework to govern this and other new technologies.

Informed by the feedback received on that discussion paper, we have developed a plan to enable geologic carbon storage through a phased approach that would provide clarity for businesses to plan and invest in Ontario, while ensuring safe and responsible development.

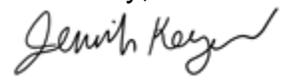
To build a framework that works for Ontario, we plan to work together with stakeholders, Indigenous communities and the public.

Bill 46 contains proposed changes to the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act and is available for review on the Ontario Legislative Assembly website: <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-46>. The province is also seeking feedback on the proposed change through the Environmental Registry of Ontario: (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6296>). Feedback on the proposed changes can be provided directly to the ministry or through the environmental registry.

A copy of the Roadmap has been attached for your information.

If you would like more information or have any questions about the proposed changes or future phases, please contact Andrew Ogilvie, Manager of Resources Development Section, at 705-761-5815 or through email: Resources.Development@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Keyes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Jennifer Keyes

Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch

Ontario's Roadmap towards Regulating Geologic Carbon Storage

One tool to help transition to a low-carbon future

We plan to enable geologic carbon storage through a phased approach that will provide clarity for businesses to plan and invest in Ontario while ensuring safe and responsible development.

Ontario's plan

Ontario's plan starts with proposing immediate action towards removing barriers to carbon storage in the province.

Next, we plan to propose legislative and regulatory changes to allow testing and demonstration projects so businesses can start exploring carbon storage while a proposal for a regulatory framework for commercial-scale projects is developed.

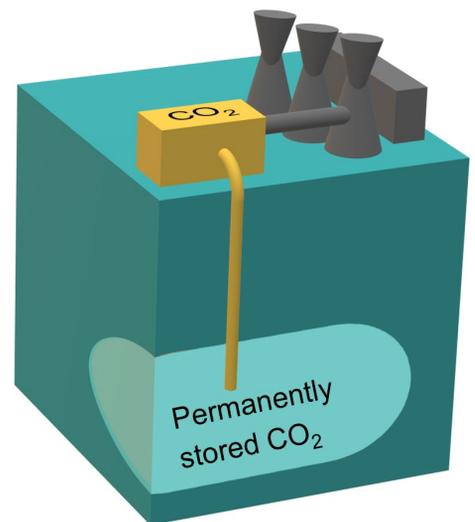
Benefits of enabling carbon storage

- supports emissions reduction and production of low-carbon hydrogen
- supports transition to a low-carbon economy
- allows businesses to take advantage of provincial and federal initiatives for carbon storage
- attracts investment and encourages innovation

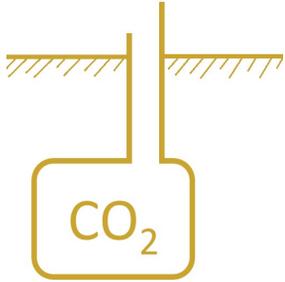
What is geologic carbon storage?

Carbon capture, utilization and storage, or CCUS, involves a broad suite of activities that capture, transport, use and store (sequester) carbon dioxide.

Geologic carbon storage is the permanent storage, or sequestration, of carbon dioxide in deep underground geologic formations.



Ontario's Roadmap towards Regulating Geologic Carbon Storage



This roadmap outlines Ontario's plan for creating a framework for the regulation of geologic carbon storage.

The plan provides a clear path forward and the opportunity to work together with stakeholders, Indigenous communities and the public to build a framework that works for Ontario.

Clarify Intent

Starting in: Fall 2022

Propose changes to the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act to remove the prohibition related to geologic carbon storage.

Design Framework

Anticipated start: Summer/Fall 2023

Design a framework to regulate commercial-scale geologic carbon storage projects on Crown and private land.

Discussion Paper

January to March 2022

Received feedback through postings on the regulatory and environmental registries of Ontario.

Enable Demonstration

Anticipated start: Winter/Spring 2023

Propose legislative and regulatory changes to allow projects to test and demonstrate new activities, such as geologic carbon storage, initially on private land only.

Develop changes to enhance public safety and corporate accountability.

Refine and Adapt

Anticipated start: 2025 and beyond

Refine and adapt the framework for new activities and emerging technologies.