

Ontario

The provinces of Canada have the primary responsibility for controlling emissions of SO₂ and NO_x from plants and smelters. To a large extent, provincial standards are similar to federal guidelines.

However, following a recent change in Canadian law, the Federal Government has overriding authority to control pollution sources that contribute to transboundary pollution.

Ontario, which is both Canada's leading industrial province and the home of most of the damaged lakes, has been particularly active. It has appropriated about \$5 million (Cdn) for acid rain control in fiscal 1980-81 and has played a major

role in developing information on acid rain and in establishing controls.

Last year it established two new acid rain monitoring networks at forty-five locations — supplementing its existing 1,400 instrument Air Pollution Index and Alert Systems. It has also worked to control the emissions from specific sources.

INCO

The Ontario government has worked with the International Nickel Company to control emissions at its Sudbury, Ontario, smelting complex. The complex, the continent's single greatest source of SO₂ emissions, has reduced emissions by forty per cent since 1969.

In September 1979 the province issued a regulation limiting the emissions at Sudbury to 2,500 tons a day, effective immediately, and ordered the company to reduce them to 1,950 tons a day by 1983, and then to make additional reductions to the lowest feasible level.

Ontario Hydro

Ontario Hydro, which supplies electricity to the province, is publicly owned. It uses partly washed U.S. coal in its coal-burning plants. This alone reduces sulphur levels by fifteen to twenty per cent. It also blends low sulphur coal from western Canada with U.S. supplies to reduce emissions. The utility has been a major source of both SO₂ and NO_x emissions, but the output of SO₂ per kilowatt hour has declined steadily during the last ten years.

In January the provincial government ordered a forty-three per cent cut in sulphur dioxide and nitric oxide emissions before 1990, and Ontario Hydro initiated a \$500 million abatement program. It will include the installation of scrubbers and special burners to reduce nitrogen emissions at some plants, the purchase of hydroelectric power from Manitoba and the increased purchase of low-sulphur coal.

A Voice of Dissent

Spokesmen for utility companies and other contributing industries have generally resisted the scientific conclusion that the destruction of life in diverse ecosystems is caused by emissions from their operations.

Charles Taylor, an Ohio State air quality official, supports their position. Interviewed by *Audubon Magazine*, he said:

"What has happened to those lakes may be the result of a hundred years of human acidity. Maybe drastically cutting emissions right away won't make that much of a difference. I don't think another three to five years is going to make much difference. I don't think any lakes are going to be wiped out that quickly — well maybe some of the most critical (will be)."



INCO's superstack is more than 1200 feet high.