



**ONTARIO
RIVERS
ALLIANCE**

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West Central Region
Permit to Take Water Evaluation
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Operations Division
West Central Regional Office
119 King Street West, Floor 12
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y7
(905) 521-7833

Re: EBR: 012-4935 – Nestle Waters Canada – Permit to Take Water
Middlebrook Well – Evaluation Pumping Test
Ministry Reference No. 7647-9YHK4E

Dear Sirs:

Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA) is a Not-for-Profit grassroots organization acting as a voice for several stewardships, associations, and private and First Nation citizens who have come together to protect, conserve and restore healthy river ecosystems.

ORA is very pleased to offer our comments on this important EBR posting with regard to the proposed Permit to Take Water (PTTW) application for Nestle Waters Canada (Nestle), to conduct a short-term pumping test over a period of up to two (2) years on an existing well which is currently permitted and owned by 1445036 Ontario Inc. in Elora (known as Middlebrook Well).

ORA strenuously objects to a PTTW being issued to Nestle, on either a temporary or a permanent basis, for the extraction of water in Elora, or anywhere else in Ontario. Water from aquifers, rivers or lakes is an essential public commons that must not be privatized, or allowed to be extracted for the purpose of private profit or shareholder earnings.

Extracting up to 1.6 million litres of water each day could place water supply to communities and individuals living within the surrounding area at risk. The Mayor of Elora and many of its residents have already expressed their concerns and objections to this ill-conceived proposal to allow a global conglomerate to profit from a resource that must be protected as a public trust. It is incumbent upon the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to protect the interests of its citizens and this essential water supply.

ORA recommends this temporary PTTW be denied on the grounds that water is an essential and finite resource that must be protected for the common interest, and must not be privatized under any circumstances.



To ensure that a PTTW is not issued for corporations wishing to privatize water supply in the future, ORA requests a review of the PTTW policy and legislation under the Ontario Water Resources Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.40, and Ontario Regulation 387/04.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Linda Heron
Chair, Ontario Rivers Alliance
(705) 866-1677