

*Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards  
Minutes from September 21, 2004 Meeting*

**Members Present:**

Bob Andrews	Michele Giddings
Rod Holme	Marilyn Lee
Alex Hukowich	Harry Richardson
Jim Merritt	John Rudnickas
Ken Roberts	Rob Walton
Mark Servos	Scott Barrett
Pat Lachmaniuk	

**Regrets:**

Ron Brecher	Lesbia Smith
Fred Ruf, MOHLTC	

**Guests: Ministry of Environment:**

John Mayes, SDB	Dale Henry, SDB
Matt Uza, WPB	Cassandra Lofranco, SDB
John Lynch, LaSB	Paul Froese, WPB

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair welcomed members and opened the meeting at 9:30 A.M. Scott Barrett was introduced as the new Executive Assistant to the Council.

**2. Adoption of August 17, 2004 Meeting Minutes**

The August 17, 2004 Meeting Minutes were adopted by consensus.

**3. Adoption of September 21, 2004 Agenda**

The September 21, 2004 Meeting Minutes were adopted by consensus.

**4. Review of Action Items**

Action items were reviewed and any outstanding items will be carried forward in a running list, from meeting to meeting, until completion.

**5. Correspondence**

Council agreed by consensus that all correspondence directed to the Council be processed through the Council's office.

**6. Reg 170 Consultation**

Chair noted that the role of the Council is as an independent body, apart from the Ministry of the Environment, but reporting to the Minister of the Environment.

Chair noted letter to Minister of the Environment on initial review and proposal for consultation. Council provided positive feedback to proceed with consultation.

Chair reviewed the work of the Working Group.

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Chair proposed that small panels of 3 people travel to north, east, west, and south / central Ontario to consult with affected groups, in the last 2 weeks of October, 2004, regarding smaller, private systems and the risk posed by amending requirements.

Three groups to be targeted:

1. Experts in the field of drinking water;
2. Consumers and consumer groups; and
3. The regulated community.

Consultations to be open to the general public, but time slots will be arranged for presenters in a formal fashion. Approval granted to proceed with hiring a consultant to facilitate this process.

Suggestions on consultation process from the Council included:

- Using consistent questions and feedback forms among the panels
- Using rural venues
- Involving media
- Using targeted questions to get targeted responses
- Using questionnaires for more longer term feedback
- Respecting perceived risk versus real risk
- Measuring risk factors
- Mixing up panels to gain a cross-section of skills

Working Group also discussed a multi-jurisdictional review to determine what others are doing to regulate and assess risk for smaller, private systems.

Working Group also suggested that the Reg 170 Working Group meet with Harry Swain to reassess the Walkerton recommendations to gain a perspective on interpretation.

**Decision / Action:**

- **Executive Assistant to develop consultation plan for consultant's use.**
- **Executive Assistant to develop 1-2 page "Context" piece to frame the issue.**
- **Council to provide Executive Assistant with names of potential consultants that could undertake a multi-jurisdictional review to determine what others are doing to regulate and assess risk for smaller, private systems.**
- **Chair to contact Harry Swain to set up meeting re: Walkerton recommendations**

**7. Reg 903 Presentation**

The Ministry of the Environment's Standards Development Branch made a presentation on "Chlorination Methods for Drinking Water Supply Wells".

The Council noted the following:

- The requirements focused on chlorine dosage, and not chlorine residual.
- There is no requirement to test chlorine residual after construction or on a routine basis.
- There seems to be a need for protocols for both new and existing wells.

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**Decision / Action:**

- **Council Chair to invite CELA, to a future meeting, to present their views on disinfection.**

**8. Reg 248 Presentation**

John Rudnickas made a presentation on Reg 248 (Drinking-Water Testing Services) and noted: that there seem to be missing exemptions; the regulation seems to apply to raw / process / finished water; and that many requirements are open to interpretation. Council agreed to keep a watch on this regulation as it relates to Reg 170.

**9. Justice O'Connor Priorities**

Standards Development Branch made a presentation on the "Preferred Indicator of Faecal Contamination in Drinking Water".

Council members were updated on the federal/provincial/territorial schedule for Canadian Drinking Water Guideline (CDWG) development. The national consultation on a proposed revised CDWG for trihalomethanes began on September 7, 2004 and consultation on the supporting documentation for bacteriological quality of drinking water (E. coli, total coliforms, heterotrophic plate count and emerging pathogens) began on September 13, 2004.

The Chair is developing the Council's process to review and comment on proposed CDWGs as they are adopted as Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

**Decision / Action:**

- **The Council decided to review the issue of total coliforms and heterotrophic plate count as indicators of adverse water quality. This issue will be brought forward as an agenda item at the next meeting.**
- **Pat Lachmaniuk to draft and present calculation differences for THM annual averages for October 15 meeting.**
- **Council members to review THMs guideline document for October 15 meeting.**

**10. Administrative Items**

It was noted that there is a conference in Sault Ste. Marie, from Tuesday November 16 to Thursday November 18, entitled: "Safe Water: At What Cost? Council members that want to attend, please contact the Executive Assistant.

**11. Next Meeting(s)**

October 15, 2004

November 19, 2004

December 10, 2004

**12. Adjourn**