

*Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards
Minutes from October 15, 2004 Meeting*

Members Present:

Bob Andrews	Michele Giddings
Rod Holme	Marilyn Lee
Alex Hukowich	Harry Richardson
Jim Merritt	John Rudnickas
Ken Roberts	Rob Walton
Scott Barrett	Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE
Ron Brecher	Lesbia Smith
Peter Huck	Fred Ruf, MOHLTC

Regrets:

Mark Servos

Ministry of Environment:

John Whytock, CB	Paul Froese, WPB
Matt Uza, WPB	Cassandra Lofranco, SDB

GPC Public Affairs (Consultants):

John McHugh	Heather Macmillan
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1. Call to Order

The Chair welcomed members and opened the meeting at 9:30 A.M.

Adoption of October 15, 2004 Agenda

The October 15, 2004 Meeting Minutes were adopted by consensus.

Adoption of September 21, 2004 Meeting Notes and Minutes

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

Review of Outstanding Action Items

Outstanding Action items were reviewed. It was agreed that outstanding items will be carried forward in a running list, from meeting to meeting, until completion:

- **Council Chair to invite CELA to present on chlorination and Reg. 903.**
- **Council Chair to invite Ontario Water Well Association to present on chlorination and Reg. 903.**
- **Executive Assistant to develop Council website.**
- **Chair to contact Chair of Legacy Trust regarding roles, responsibilities, and cross-over.**
- **Chair to review and revise Conflict of Interest document with Legal Services Branch to reflect that Council members represent various fields of involvement and expertise in the water industry.**

2. Reg 170 Consultation

Chair reported back from the working group on the progress of setting up the public consultations.

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The consultant, GPC Public Affairs, hired to plan and facilitates the O. Reg. 170 consultation, outlined the strategy, timeframe, locations, communications and next steps for the Council members.

O. Reg. 170 Consultation Sessions were scheduled at locations in Southwest Ontario (Dunnville, Chatham, Goderich, and Elora) and Southeast Ontario (Arnprior, Kemptonville, Belleville, Bracebridge) on October 25, 26, 27 and 29, 2004; and in Thunder Bay, Lindsay and Sudbury on November 1, 2 and 3, 2004. Two to three Council members and one to two GPC staff will be in attendance at each session. Ministry staff are not required to attend these sessions.

Notices of the consultations were sent to associations of concern on October 14, 2004 to be followed on October 15, 2004 by notices to regional contact lists and counties, and on October 18 and 19, 2004 by telephone, e-mail and fax. An invitation from the Minister inviting the public to participate in the Consultation Sessions was also prepared as an Information Notice for posting on the Environmental Registry. The notice invites interested parties wishing to make a presentation to the Council to register for one of the sessions.

GPC also provided the Council with some general media training for the upcoming public consultations.

The Working Group reported back on a meeting with Harry Swain, Chair of the Research Advisory Panel appointed by Justice O'Connor to discuss the intent of the recommendations made in the Part Two: Report of the Walkerton Inquiry.

Decision / Action:

- **Executive Assistant to ensure Sudbury invitation is translated into French.**
- **Executive Assistant to facilitate EBR Information Notice posting.**
- **Executive Assistant to provide consultation strategy to Council members.**
- **Executive Assistant to develop and deliver "Briefing Binder, including Reg. 170 "Fact Sheet" for Council use during consultations.**
- **Council Chair to enquire as to reporting "protocol" to Minister.**
- **Council members to prompt Executive Assistant on specific invitees.**

3. Justice O'Connor Priorities

Standards Development Branch and Water Policy Branch presented on the review and assessment of heterotrophic plate count and total coliforms as drinking water standards in Ontario.

A working group (John Rudnickas (Chair), Harry Richardson, Lesbia Smith, Michele Giddings, and Jim Merritt) was formed to review the options presented and will provide a progress report on November 19, as well as report back to Council in December.

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It was decided that no more epidemiological studies needed to be reviewed by the Council to determine that HPC, TCB, and TC are not direct indicators of health risk. These tests, however, can be useful indicators of deteriorating water quality and / or a declining treatment process.

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 (THM) began on September 7, 2004 and closes on January 7, 2005. Ontario has also posted this proposal on the Environmental Registry with the same closing date. The Council will keep THMs on the agenda for future meetings.

At the upcoming December 10, 2004 meeting of the Council, Pat Lachmaniuk is to present the approach used in the United States for THMs for review by the Council and Michèle Giddings will provide a presentation on the background of the technical support documentation for the proposed THM and bromodichloromethane limits.

A letter was sent to the Minister on October 15, 2004 outlining the process that the Council will use to review and comment on proposed CDWGs as they are adopted as Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

Decision / Action:

- **Working group to provide progress report on review and assessment of heterotrophic plate count and total coliforms for November 19 meeting.**
- **Working group to provide report back to Council on review and assessment of heterotrophic plate count and total coliforms for December 10 meeting.**
- **Michele Giddings to present to the Council, on December 10, the science behind the THM numbers.**
- **Pat Lachmaniuk to present to the Council, on December 10, the THM approach used in the USA.**
- **It was decided that no more epidemiological studies needed to be reviewed by the Council to determine that HPC, TCB, and TC are not direct indicators of health risk. These tests, however, can be useful indicators of deteriorating water quality and / or a declining treatment process.**
- **A letter was sent to the Minister on October 15, 2004 outlining the process that the Council will use to review and comment on proposed CDWGs as they are adopted as Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.**

4. Website

Executive Assistant provided a mockup of the site for Council members' comment.

Decision / Action:

- **Council members to send updated biographies to Executive Assistant.**

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- **Executive Assistant to continue with web development.**

5. Reg 903

Inviting CELA and the Ontario Water Well Association to upcoming Council meetings was discussed, in regards to Reg. 903.

Decision / Action:

- **Council Chair to invite CELA to the November 19 meeting to obtain their views on disinfection.**
- **Council Chair to invite Ontario Water Well Association to the December 10 meeting to obtain OWWA's views on disinfection.**

6. Administrative Items

The Chair announced that Iris Biggar has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant to the Council and will start on October 18, 2004.

7. Next Meeting(s)

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be primarily focused on discussing and summarizing outcomes and possible recommendations of the stakeholder consultation sessions, the Harry Swain meeting, and the other jurisdictional research.

November 19, 2004

December 10, 2004

8. Adjourn