

*Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards
Minutes from November 19, 2004 Meeting*

Members Present:

Robert Andrews
Marilyn Lee
Alex Hukowich
Jim Merritt
Ken Roberts
Lesbia Smith
Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE

Michele Giddings
Peter Huck
Harold Richardson
John Rudnickas
Robert Walton
Mark Servos
Fred Ruf, MOHLTC

Council Staff Present:

Scott Barrett, Executive Assistant

Iris Biggar, Administrative Assistant

Regrets:

Rod Holme

Ron Brecher

1. Call to Order:

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

Adoption of November 19, 2004 Agenda

November 19, 2004 Meeting Minutes were adopted by consensus.

Adoption of October 15, 2004 Meeting Notes and Minutes

October, 2004 Meeting Minutes and Notes were adopted by consensus, with some minor revisions.

Review of Outstanding Action Items

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

- **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 the components that will formulate the final report:

Meeting with Walkerton Report Staff: The Council agreed that the information gleaned from this meeting not be widely distributed, and should be generalized in the report to the Minister.

Other Jurisdiction Review: The Council reviewed the report and asked for a summary table to be added, as well as a critical synthesis of the information gathered in to the summary. It was noted that there may be two more documents from other bodies

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available to complement the review: a First Nations protocol and a World Health Organization draft report: “Chemical safety of drinking-water: Assessing priorities for risk management”.

The protocol of circulating the terms of reference to the Council, as a whole, for future consulting projects, was discussed.

The public consultation findings were discussed. 125 presenters and over 100 written submissions were involved. It was agreed that the Executive Assistant would send out an inventory of the written submissions to complement the “Spot Reports” from each of the 12 public sessions.

It was decided to have an open discussion around various issues and recommendations with regard to small, private water system management.

Some of the points discussed were:

- Cost was one of the major issues heard
- “Risk” umbrella as the driver for the process
- Cross-over from Reg 170 to Regs 169, 248
- Municipal responsibility for residential systems
- Health Units as support bodies
- Delivery systems: MOE vs. Health Units
- Well records link: MOE and MOHLTC
- MOHLTC / MOE MOU
- Oxford County proposal as a good model to start with to be re-worked
- Split of system categories between: residential vs. commercial
- National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified treatment equipment
- Barriers in a water supply system to reduce risk: source, treatment, distribution, monitoring, adverse result response
- Best guess of the number of systems in Ontario
- Impact of chlorine on septic systems / environment / people
- Risk-based approach to include treatment / testing options
- Recommendations for sign postings
- Migration towards risk-based approach delivered by Health Units
- Remote testing frequency
- Use of Presence/Absence tests
- Spot Report format for website posting
- Minister’s Office staff update on timing
- Ministry staff (WPB) update on other Reg 170 initiatives

Council member were asked to provide, to the Executive Assistant, other issues (that were not discussed or summarized by the Chair) that they have heard or have become aware of as a result of the public sessions, or personal experience.

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Timing for the report to the Minister was also discussed. The Council agreed that more time was needed to assimilate the information. It was proposed that the working group provide a draft report for comment by the Council as a whole, before the December 10, 2004 meeting. It was also proposed that the final report be pushed to January, in order to have adequate time to review the various iterations.

The Chair also reported that he would be meeting with Minister's Office staff, to discuss report timing.

Also discussed were the results of the meeting of November 8, 2004, with Steve Hrudehy, regarding the risks to small systems. As a result of discussions, the working group decided to review New Zealand's approach to drinking water management.

Decision / Action:

- **Information gleaned from meeting with Walkerton Report staff to be generalized to preserve "anonymity"**
- **Executive Assistant to ensure Other Jurisdiction Review consultant includes a summary table, a critical synthesis of information (Summary), and additional information (if available) from the World Health Organization and the First Nations protocol, for the final report**
- **Executive Assistant to circulate Terms of Reference for future consulting projects, to the Council, for comment**
- **Executive Assistant to send out inventory of written submissions to the Council members**
- **The working group is to meet, produce a draft report, and circulate it to the Council as soon as possible prior to the December 10, 2004 meeting**
- **The Council agreed that it would be beneficial to have Ministry policy staff attend the December 10, 2004 meeting to hear what they have been doing regarding Reg 170, and to inform them of the Council's general direction of advice to the Minister**
- **Council Chair to invite Ministry Policy staff to attend certain portions of December 10, 2004 Council meeting**
- **The Council agreed that the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certification should be extended to Ontario**
- **Executive Assistant to produce Spot Reports for posting on upcoming website**
- **Council to ask for estimate on the number of smaller, private systems in Ontario**
- **Council to obtain information on the impact of chlorine on septic systems**
- **Council members to provide to the Executive Assistant, new issues resulting from the public consultation sessions, or from personal experience**
- **Working Group to review New Zealand's approach to drinking water supply management**
- **Council to get information on MOHLTC / Health Units / MOE meeting that was taking place in November 19, 2004**

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3. Justice O'Connor Priorities:

Council was provided with an update on the Canadian Drinking Water Guideline schedule.

At the upcoming January 21, 2005 meeting, the Council will hear a presentation on the background of the technical support documentation for the proposed THM and bromodichloromethane limits, and a report on the approach used in the United States.

The Council was provided with the arsenic consultation document that was posted by Health Canada on November 19, 2004 for a six month consultation period and the final turbidity document that will be posted as a Canadian Drinking Water Guideline in early 2005.

The working reviewing the preferred microbiological indicators, reported on their initial meeting, which was held on November 17, 2004.

The working group will be meeting prior to the December 10, 2004 Council meeting to finalize the scope of the initiative (i.e. the scope being limited to E. coli vs. fecal coliforms as the preferred indicator, or including an evaluation of all indicators, how they are used, who monitors for them and at what frequency).

The working group will be providing an update to the Council on December 10, 2004.

Decision / Action:

- **Working group to meet prior to the December 10 Council meeting, and then provide progress report on review and assessment of Heterotrophic Plate Count, Total Coliforms, and Total Background Coliforms, for the December 10, 2004 Council meeting.**
- **Presentation to be given to the Council, on December 10, the science behind the THM numbers.**
- **Presentation to be given to the Council, on December 10, the THM approach used in the USA.**

4. Administrative Items:

The Chair reported to the Council that the Terms of Reference were signed by the Minister.

The Chair also reported that the Council is the subject of an FOI request for all records up to August, 2004. MOE staff are accommodating the request.

It was re-confirmed and agreed to by consensus by the Council that Ministry staff must be specifically invited to attend certain portions of Council meetings, and can not show up unannounced.

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5. Next Meeting(s):

December 10, 2004

January 21, 2005

February 18, 2005

6. Adjourn.