

*Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards  
Minutes from December 10, 2004 Meeting*

**Members Present:**

Robert Andrews	Michele Giddings
Marilyn Lee	Peter Huck
Alex Hukowich	Harold Richardson
Jim Merritt	John Rudnickas
Ken Roberts	Robert Walton
Mark Servos	Rod Holme
Ron Brecher	
Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE	Fred Ruf, MOHLTC

**Council Staff Present:**

Scott Barrett, Executive Assistant	Iris Biggar, Administrative Assistant
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**Regrets:**

Lesbia Smith

**1. Call to Order:**

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

**Adoption of December 10, 2004 Agenda**

December 10, 2004 Meeting Minutes were adopted by consensus.

**Adoption of November 19, 2004 Meeting Notes and Minutes**

November 19, 2004 Meeting Minutes and Notes were adopted by consensus.

**Review of Outstanding Action Items**

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

- **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:**

It was decided to have an open discussion around various issues and recommendations found in the draft report.

Some of the points discussed were:

- Website introduction page for consultation sessions
- Information from MOE/MOHLTC/Health Units meeting, November, 2004
- Report Conclusions
- Trained MOE staff
- Roles and Responsibilities amongst MOE/MOHLTC/Health Units
- User fees for sampling
- Non-Municipal, Year-Round Residential Systems
- Link to Water Strategy Expert Panel

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- Municipal/Private partnerships
- Economic viability of Non-Municipal, Year Round Residential systems
- Provincial involvement
- Protocol responsibility
- Transition to MOHLTC administration
- Alternative testing methods for remote areas
- Need for Treatment
- Pre-approved water treatment systems
- Generic and Site-Specific Risk Assessments
- Water Policy Branch's draft amendments
- Definition of "Small" systems
- Sign Posting
- Routes of Exposure for contaminants
- Sampling for parameters other than bacteriological
- Frequency of Inspection
- Link to Source Water Protection Legislation
- Reporting Responsibilities
- Meshing of MOE Acts/Regs. With other Ministry Legislation
- Operator Training
- Communications Tools
- Knowledge Gaps
- Responsible Person versus Certified Person
- Well inspections
- Cost issues in report
- Peer Review of report

The Council gave an update and received an update from Water Policy Branch staff. The Council's basic direction and approach was explained.

Water Policy Branch staff updated the Council on their work to clarify the Regulation summarized as technical and flexibility enhancements, as a series of amendments.

The Council Chair noted that he would be meeting with the Minister of the Environment on December 20 to discuss the report's direction, and delivery expectations. It is expected that a draft report will be supplied to the Minister at that time.

**Decision / Action:**

- **Council Executive Assistant to develop an introduction for the website, for the consultation session summaries**
- **Council Chair to meet with the Walkerton Clean Water Centre to learn roles and responsibilities, as well as inform them of the Council's directions**
- **Council agreed by consensus, that the risk-based approach in the draft report, as a direction, is to proceed**

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- **A Council member and the Council Chair are to develop the wording around municipal responsibility with regard to Non-Municipal Year-Round Residential Systems**
- **Council agreed by consensus, that surface water systems require treatment, and ground water systems *may* require treatment**
- **Council agreed by consensus, that resources will have to be present for the MOHLTC to administer safe drinking water programs, under the Council's recommended approach**
- **Ministry of the Environment Liaison Council member to request Water Policy Branch's draft proposed amendments for Regulation 170**
- **Council agreed by consensus, that re-assessment of systems should be triggered by some mechanism**
- **Council Executive Assistant to distribute to the Council as a whole, the specific recommendations and the Council's responses, for comment and review**
- **A Council member to re-write pages 1-18 of the draft report**
- **Council Executive Assistant to seek peer review draft report**

**3. Reg. 903**

CELA were to be present to share their position on well chlorination, but were unable to attend due to inclement weather.

As well, the Ontario Well Association was unable to attend due to inclement weather.

Representatives from the Ontario Ground Water Association (OGWA) presented their views on chlorination from the perspective of common practices used by well drillers.

**Observations and Comments:**

- John Schnieders considered to be the expert in the field of optimal well chlorination
- OGWA works on detectable odour, often; 50 mg/l can't really be detected, but 250 can
- Rough calculations are also often used
- OGWA recommends monthly bacteriological testing for the first year of a well's existence
- Every well must be looked at as a source of aquifer contamination
- All new wells are now GPS located; existing ones only if inspected
- Planning activities need to be more diligent to identify wells prior to construction projects
- Wells need to be inspected; OGWA suggests that this be done during ownership change
- OGWA suggests that Provincial Officers perform the inspections
- OGWA suggests that there should be a fee for well permits
- OGWA suggests that 10,000 to 20,000 new wells are being drilled every year

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**Decision / Action:**

- **Council Chair to re-invite CELA to January 21, 2005 Council meeting.**

**4. Justice O'Connor Priorities:**

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

The Microbiological Working Group provided an update to the Council on the progress of determining preferred indicators: *E. Coli* vs. Fecal Coliforms; Background Colony Counts on the Total Coliform Membrane Filter; Colony Counts on a Heterotrophic Plate Count; and Total Coliforms.

The Council Chair noted that a formal structure and process will need to be developed for routine standards review.

**Decision / Action:**

- **Council member to present to the Council, on January 21, 2005, the science behind the THM numbers**
- **Council member to present to the Council, on January 21, 2005, the THM approach used in the USA**
- **Council Executive Assistant and Chair to develop a structure and process for standards review**

**4. Administrative Items:**

The Chair noted that the Council's website is live, and information will be posted when Minister's Office has reviewed and accepted the notion.

**5. Next Meeting(s):**

January 21, 2005

February 18, 2005

**6. Adjourn.**