

*Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards
Minutes from July 15, 2005 Meeting*

Members Present:	Michele Giddings Peter Huck (via phone) Marilyn Lee Harry Richardson John Rudnickas	Rod Holme Alex Hukowich Jim Merritt Ken Roberts Robert Walton
Ministry Liaison Staff Present:	Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE	
Council Staff Present:	Scott Barrett	Iris Biggar
Regrets:	Ron Brecher Lesbia Smith	Fred Ruf, MOHLTC Robert Andrews
Guests:	Saad Jasim, WCWC Len Ritter, U of G	Melissa McDonald, LeSB

1. Call to Order:

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Adoption of July 15, 2005 Agenda

July 15, 2005 agenda was adopted by consensus with suggested changes.

Adoption of June 27, 2005 Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2005 Meeting Minutes were adopted by consensus with suggested changes.

Review of Outstanding Action Items

None

2. Reg 170 Review:

The May 17, 2005 Broad Policy Proposal and June 22, 2005 Reg. 170 Amendment EBR postings were summarized by John Rudnickas, and discussed by the Council.

Discussion items included:

- New Ministry of Health Promotion
- Role of Health Units in the Broad Policy Proposal discussions
- Designated Facilities remaining in Reg. 170
- Regulation of POE / POU systems
- Regulation of private systems
- Measurement of chlorine residual only by electronic analyzer
- Calibration and maintenance of electronic analyzers
- Raw water sampling for groundwater vs. surface water sources
- Clarity of Regulation and regulatory amendments

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As well, the Executive Assistant developed and presented a table outlining the Council's Reg. 170 Report recommendations versus the Ministry's progress.

It was agreed that this table should be maintained and updated to be used in the future for providing feedback to the Ministry of the Environment.

It was agreed that the Council would monitor the status of the Broad Policy Proposal, as well as any future regulatory amendments, and would provide feedback to the Ministry of the Environment, where the Council deems it necessary.

Actions:

- **Council Executive Assistant to maintain Reg. 170 Report recommendations versus the Ministry's progress table for future Council consideration of providing feedback to the Ministry of the Environment**
- **MOHLTC Liaison Member to provide update on the development and progress of the new Regulatory Framework for the next Council meeting**

3. Drinking Water Source Protection

The Council Chair presented a draft cover letter to accompany the document developed by Peter Huck with a goal of providing the Council's thoughts to Minister's Office staff on areas of potential concern or Council involvement.

Drinking Water Source Protection was further discussed by the Council, including the following items:

- Focus on Drinking Water
- Allocation of resources on a risk-based approach
- Emphasis on groundwater
- Use of some specific numerical criteria
- Licence or Permit System for Well Construction

Actions:

- **Council Member Peter Huck to re-draft document to align it with cover letter and advice to Minister's Office staff**
- **Chair to proceed with submission of Council's areas of potential concern or involvement to Minister's Office staff, copying final submission to all Council members**

4. Standards Review

Priority Setting:

The draft letter for the Council to suggest priorities for Ontario to take forward for addition to the National Priority list was discussed and endorsed by the Council.

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Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize priorities letter and transmit to the Minister of the Environment**

THMs:

The draft report of the Chlorinated Disinfection By-Products (CDBP) Task Group was discussed and the Council continued to debate the 80 vs. 100 ug/l standard level as well the sampling and location issues.

Action:

- **All Council members to review all THM information supplied from pervious meetings with a view towards discussing and making a consensus-based decision at the next Council meeting**

Assigning Risk Factors for Drinking Water Standards:

Dr. Len Ritter provided the Council a presentation entitled “*Evaluation of Assumptions for Chemical Drinking Water Guidelines*”.

Dr. Ritter explained how various jurisdictions (including Canada) determine “assumptions” in the formulation of drinking water guidelines.

MTBE:

It was noted Health Canada has scheduled posting of the MTBE Document for Public Review for a two-month Public Comment from July 18 to September 19, 2005.

5. Walkerton Clean Water Centre (WCWC)

Dr. Saad Jasim was present to discuss the current and future activities of the Centre as well as possibilities of mutual or cross-over activities with the Council, given that both mandates concern safe drinking water for Ontarians. Dr. Jasim saw the cross-over activities in the areas of standards, research, and emerging issues.

The Council discussed some of its thoughts on potential areas of cross-over including: verification / certification of POU / POE treatment equipment and electronic analyzers; and training of new “Public Water Health Inspectors”, as recommended by the Council in its Reg. 170 review and report.

The Walkerton Clean Water Centre’s specific mandate includes:

- Training delivery and coordination for owners, operating authorities, and operators of drinking water systems
- Information and advice for small drinking water systems
- Demonstration of leading-edge drinking water treatment technology
- Education and outreach on technical, scientific, and regulatory information about drinking water
- Advising the Minister of the Environment about research and development to achieve safe drinking water

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This mandate is in tune with Walkerton Recommendation #s: 63, 64, and 92.

The Centre's website will be launched soon, and it was suggested to have links between the Centre's and the Council's sites.

A Research Committee will be struck, to which a member of the Council may be invited to participate in. This committee will be looking at a gap analysis for Research needs, regarding drinking water.

Dr. Jasim noted that he would be available to attend future Council meetings, as requested, and also invited a representative of the Council to attend the Centre's September 30, 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

Actions:

- **Executive Assistant to establish link from the Council's website to the WCWC website**
- **Council to consider a representative to participate in the WCWC's Research Committee**
- **Council Chair to consider a representative of the Council to attend the WCWC's September 30, 2005 Board of Directors meeting**

6. Justice O'Connor Priorities:

The Council discussed the draft advice covering letter for our comments on the "*Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario*".

It was decided that the Disinfection Working Group should meet and continue to draft advice to the Minister with a goal for completion in September, 2005.

It was also suggested that the Disinfection Working Group meet with the key Ministry staff that drafted the Procedure, in order to gain some perspective of the rationale for inclusion or exclusion of external references.

Action:

- **Executive Assistant to coordinate with MOE Liaison member to facilitate a meeting between key Ministry staff and the Disinfection Working Group, before the next Council meeting, to gain some perspective of the rationale for inclusion or exclusion of external references, etc.**
- **Disinfection Working Group to complete comments by September 16, 2005, for Council's review at the next meeting**

7. Administrative Items:

The Council's Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guideline was discussed with the aid of a Legal Services Branch representative. Specific definitions and potential areas of concern were highlighted.

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Action:

- **Executive Assistant to work with the Legal Services Branch representative to clarify and incorporate definitions for: “Commercial”, “Intangible”, and Third Party”**
- **Chair to contact Minister’s Office staff regarding the issue of Council members “representing” various associations**

The 2004-2005 Annual Report was discussed and approved by the Council with some minor modifications.

Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize and submit Annual Report to the Minister of the Environment by July 31, 2005**
- **Executive Assistant to draft a cover letter to accompany the Annual Report prior to submission to the Minister of the Environment by July 31, 2005**

Next Meeting(s):

September 16, 2005
October 21, 2005
November 18, 2005
December 16, 2005

Note: it was agreed that the August 19, 2005 meeting be cancelled.

8. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:00 p.m.