

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from September 22, 2006 Meeting

Members Present:	Mary Jane Conboy Rod Holme Derrick Kamanga Jim Merritt John Rudnickas Robert Walton	Michele Giddings Alex Hukowich Robert Lannigan Ken Roberts Lesbia Smith
Ministry Liaison Staff Present:	Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE	Satish Deshpande, MOE
Council Staff Present:	Scott Barrett, ODWAC	
Regrets:	Robert Andrews Ron Brecher Fred Ruf, MOHLTC	Iris Biggar, ODWAC Peter Huck
Guest(s):	Trevor Satchwill, PMRA (HC)	

1. Call to Order:

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

Introduction of New Member

The Chair introduced new Council Member Mary Jane Conboy.

Adoption of September 22, 2006 Agenda

September 22, 2006 agenda was adopted by consensus, with no changes.

Adoption of July 21, 2006 Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2006 meeting minutes were adopted by consensus, with no changes, and will be posted to the public area of the Council's website.

2. Reg. 170 Review:

The Council discussed the June 7, 2006 **Reg. 170 amendments** and it was learned that a THM Optimization Guideline, as well as updated Design Guidelines may be available for comment and review in the spring of 2007; and the proposed guidance document for disinfection will be development over the next two years.

The **Reg. 170 amendments** were also discussed in context to the 22 recommendations made in the Council's February 8, 2005 report to the Minister of the Environment entitled "Report and Advice on Ontario Regulation 170/03 Smaller, Private Systems Review and Recommendations".

The Council also learned of the Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) work on creating a "drinking information water portal".

Action(s):

- *Council to remain engaged in the implementation of Reg. 170 amendments, including the Disinfection Procedure, Design Guidelines, THM Optimization Guideline, and Guidance Manual for Disinfection, in order to provide on-going advice*
- *Council Executive Assistant to re-visit Reg. 170 scorecard to assess the Ministry of the Environment's progress on implementing the Council's 22 formal recommendations, and bring forward for the October 20, 2006 meeting*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison staff member to investigate the "drinking water information portal" and contact an appropriate staff person in order to provide the Council with a presentation at a future meeting*

3. Small Drinking Water Systems Program

The Council learned that the necessary amendments to the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* are still in the approval process. More information will be provided at the Council's October 20, 2006 meeting, as well as an update on the electronic Risk Assessment Tool, which was piloted during the summer of 2006.

Council member Alex Hukowich briefed the Council on his experiences as the interim Medical Officer of Health for Northwest Public Health, in Kenora this past summer.

The possible difficulties of compliance with Reg. 252, and the ensuing **Small Drinking Water Systems** regulation, under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* were highlighted in the context of the remoteness of northwestern Ontario.

Action(s):

- *Council to remain engaged in the Small Drinking Water Systems Program, including the electronic Risk Assessment tool, in order to provide on-going advice*

4. Clean Water Act

It was noted that the Ministry of the Environment proposed **amendments to the Clean Water Act** on September 19, 2006.

As a result, the Council decided to form a Working Group to review the **Clean Water Act amendments** and report back to the Council at a future meeting with areas of potential concern. The Working Group will consist of: Mary Jane Conboy, Derrick Kamanga, Rod Holme, Jim Merritt, and Scott Barrett.

Action(s):

- *Council to remain engaged in the development of the Clean Water Act, its regulations, and its guidance documentation, in order to provide on-going advice*
- *Working Group to review the "Clean Water Act" amendments and report back to the Council with areas of potential concern, at a future meeting*

5. Priorities

The Council discussed its individual priority documents for the 2006-2007 fiscal year with a view towards what the next steps should be, if any.

It was also re-enforced that the final output on any priority item would consist of formal advice to the Minister of the Environment.

Following is a summary of the priority items discussed and the next steps agreed to:

Nutrient Management Act Well Classes:

The question of “*Which drinking water system classes, served by wells, should be included in the “Nutrient Management Act” and its Regulations?*” has arisen. Classes included can be from Reg. 170, Reg. 252, or even private wells.

The Council decided that the next step would be to form a Working Group consisting of Mary Jane Conboy, Rob Walton, Michele Giddings, Jim Merritt, and Scott Barrett to address this issue in detail, once a formal request has been received.

Action(s):

- ***Council Executive Assistant to gather pertinent information on drinking water systems, using wells, in context of the “Nutrient Management Act”, for use by the Working Group***

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) in Drinking Water:

The Council decided that the next step would be to hear a presentation from a Ministry of the Environment (MOE) expert on what is being done with regards to PPCPs. It was also learned that the MOE may have completed a summary of literature reviews. As well, it was also learned that there is a joint University of Waterloo / Canadian Water Network seminar on “*Emerging Chemical and Microbial Contaminants – Relevance for Providing Safe Drinking Water*” at the University of Waterloo, on October 18, 2006.

Action(s):

- ***Ministry of the Environment Liaison staff member to arrange for an expert presentation to the Council for the October 20, 2006 meeting***
- ***Ministry of the Environment Liaison staff member to provide the Council with the literature search summary on PPCPs***
- ***Council member Ken Roberts to provide the Council with information on the upcoming PPCPs symposium at University of Waterloo***

Public Confidence in Ontario’s Drinking Water:

The Council decided that the next step would be to draft an advice letter to the Minister of the Environment, which would include background, outline of the issue, and possible suggestions for actions.

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Action(s):

- *Council Executive Assistant and Chair to develop draft advice letter for discussion at November 17, 2006 Council meeting*

Security / Vulnerability of Ontario's Drinking Water:

The Council decided that the next step would be to hear a presentation from a Ministry of the Environment (MOE) expert on what is being done with regards to the security / vulnerability of Ontario Drinking Water supplies. It was also noted that this issue should be linked to the upcoming Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS).

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison staff member to arrange for an expert presentation to the Council for the December 15, 2006 meeting*

Small System Treatment Equipment:

The Council discussed the issue of what the MOE is doing with regards to small system treatment system "certification". This issue was also discussed in context of recommendation # 17 made in the Council's February 8, 2005 report to the Minister of the Environment entitled "Report and Advice on Ontario Regulation 170/03 Smaller, Private Systems Review and Recommendations".

It was noted that the Canadian Standards Association is endeavouring to modify the NSF International standards to suit Canadian needs.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison staff member to arrange for an expert presentation from the Canadian Standards Association on their initiatives to certify water treatment equipment, for the December 15, 2006 Council meeting*

The following suggested priorities will be discussed at the October 20, 2006 Council meeting:

- Approaches for Groups of Substances
- Surrogates / Indicators
- Alternative Approaches for Disinfection
- Use and Significance of Parameter Trends
- Banned Pesticides in Reg. 169
- Dual Water Systems
- Ethylene Glycol
- Drinking Water Additives (NSF 60-61)
- Climate Change

Walkerton Part 2 Recommendations:

The Ministry of the Environment's progress on implementing the Walkerton Part 2 Walkerton recommendations was discussed in context of whether the intent of the recommendations is being addressed.

Action(s):

- *Council members to send their comments on the Walkerton Part 2 Walkerton recommendations to the Council's Executive Assistant, in order to have an amended table for discussion at the October 20, 2006 meeting*

6. Standards Review

Chlorite / Chlorate:

The Council learned that the **Chlorite / Chlorate** document has been revised since the public posting ended, in order to address stakeholder concerns, including chlorine dioxide. The Council will review the amended document, as soon as it is available, and will discuss and decide upon next steps at the October 20, 2006 meeting.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to obtain and circulate the revised Chlorite / Chlorate Document to the Council members for discussion at the October 20, 2006 meeting*

Radiological Characteristics:

The Council heard a presentation on and discussed the Document for Public Comment for **Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water**, which is currently posted for public comment by Health Canada. Ontario will be taking its comments to the Committee on Drinking Water (CDW), but has chosen to post its EBR Proposal after Health Canada's Guidelines are finalized.

Action(s):

- *Council Executive Assistant to provide Ministry of the Environment Liaison staff member with consolidated comments for inclusion in Ontario's comments to the CDW*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison staff member to provide the Council with public comments received from the national consultation*

HAAs:

The **final advice letter on HAAs** was transmitted to the Minister of the Environment on July 27, 2006, and the Council's advice will be taken by Ontario to the CDW. Ontario, has, however, chosen to post its EBR Proposal after Health Canada's Guidelines are finalized.

Potassium, Chloral Hydrate, Corrosion Control:

The Council will wait, to review in detail, the Documents for Public Comment for **Potassium, Chloral Hydrate, and Corrosion Control** until after the peer review comments are incorporated and the documents are posted for public comment.

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It was also re-enforced that these will be finalized as “Guidance” Documents rather than “Guidelines”, although they will be published as part of the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*.

Action(s):

- *Council to review, in Detail, the Documents for Public Comment for Potassium, Chloral Hydrate, and Corrosion Control after peer review comments are incorporated and documents are posted for public comment*

It was also noted that the next group of Guidelines to be reviewed and updated would include: **Dichloromethane, Tetrachloroethylene, Ammonia, and Nitrite / Nitrate.**

MCPA:

The Council heard 2 presentations on the development of Guidelines for pesticides in drinking water, and also discussed, specifically, the **Draft Document for Public Comment for MCPA in Drinking Water**. It was decided to review the Document further at the next Council meeting on October 20, 2006.

Action(s):

- *Council to review the MCPA Document further at the next Council meeting on October 20, 2006*

MTBE:

The **final advice letter on MTBE** was transmitted to the Minister of the Environment on July 27, 2006. Both the CDW and the Committee on Health and the Environment (CHE) have approved the Guideline as an Aesthetic Objective.

Pending Reviews:

The revised **Draft Documents for Public Comment for Benzene, and Chlorine** will soon be made available to the Council.

Action(s):

- *Council to review the revised Draft Documents for Public Comment for Benzene, and Chlorine at future Council meetings*

7. Other Drinking Water Issues

The Ministry of the Environment continues to develop its **Drinking Water Quality Management Standard**.

Action(s):

- *Council to remain engaged in the development of the MOE’s Drinking Water Quality Management Standard, in order to provide on-going advice*

The Council also discussed the Chief Drinking Water Inspector’s (CDWI) Annual Report, and it was decided that the Council would summarize its comments for discussion between the CDWI and the Council’s Chair.

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Action(s):

- ***Executive Assistant to summarize the Council's comments on the CDWI's Annual Report, with the assistance of Council members John Rudnickas and Lesbia Smith, for use in discussion between the CDWI and the Council's Chair***

8. Administrative Items:

The **Council's Annual Report for 2005-2006** was transmitted to the Minister of the Environment on July 31, 2006. The Council must now await acknowledgment before releasing the report to the general public

Action(s):

- ***Executive Assistant to post Annual Report for 2005-2006 on Council's website, once approval has been given to do so***

It was noted that the Council's Chair has been invited to co-present (with Dr. Steve Hrudey) at a plenary session at the Canadian Water Network's *Connecting Water Resources 2006* symposium, on November 21, 2006, in Montreal, Quebec.

It was also noted that the 11th Annual Technical Conference and Trade Show presented by the Ontario First Nations Technical Service Corporation will be held in Niagara Falls on October 2-6, 2006. See: <http://www.ofntsc.org/11ac.html> for more information.

Next Meeting(s):

- October 20, 2006 (Location to be determined)
- November 17, 2006 (Location to be determined)
- December 15, 2006 (Location to be determined)
- January 19, 2007 (Location to be determined)

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:30 p.m.