

## *Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from July 20, 2007 Meeting*

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Robert Andrews Michèle Giddings Peter Huck Derrick Kamanga Ken Roberts Robert Walton	Mary Jane Conboy Rod Holme Alex Hukowich Jim Merritt John Rudnickas
<b>Ministry Liaison Staff Present:</b>	Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE	Dianne Alexander, MOHLTC
<b>Council Staff Present:</b>	Scott Barrett, ODWAC	Iris Biggar, ODWAC
<b>Regrets:</b>	Ron Brecher Lesbia Smith	Robert Lannigan

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### **1. Call to Order:**

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

#### **Adoption of July 20, 2007 Agenda:**

**July 20, 2007 agenda** was adopted by consensus, with one additional item requested from Council Member Peter Huck: Bottled Water in the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge area.

#### **Adoption of June 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes:**

**June 22, 2007 meeting minutes** were adopted by consensus and will be posted to the public area of the Council's website at [www.odwac.gov.on.ca](http://www.odwac.gov.on.ca).

### **2. MOE Update:**

The Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff member updated the Council on the progress of the **Reg. 170 amendments regarding lead**, as well as subsequent amendments to Reg. 248 (Drinking-Water Testing Services), and new Reg. 243 (Schools, Private Schools, and Day Nurseries). As well, work on the new Financial Plans Regulation is underway, as the public comment period is now over.

It was noted that the amended Reg. 170 will likely only be posted on EBR as a Decision, and that there may be further stakeholder meetings to explain the "final" Regulation.

The posting of a Regulation Decision for Reg. 903 (Wells) is expected in the next few weeks.

#### **Action(s):**

- ***Council to remain engaged in Reg. 170 and its associated amendments, in order to provide ongoing advice to the Minister of the Environment***

- *Council to remain engaged in Reg. 903 and associated guidance documentation, in order to provide ongoing advice to the Minister of the Environment*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to provide an update on the Clean Water Act for the September 21, 2007 Council Meeting*

### **3. MOHLTC Update:**

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Liaison Staff Member briefed the Council on the progress of the Small Drinking Water Systems Program, in regards to the transfer of small systems from the Ministry of the Environment to Public Health oversight. A “Conceptual Model” is being developed to guide the transfer.

It was noted that pitcher-type water filters recently lost their NSF certification for lead removal due to their inability to remove lead in particulate form.

It was also noted that the MOHLTC is preparing guidance documentation for health units, regarding lead at consumers’ taps.

#### *Action(s):*

- *Council to remain engaged in the Small Drinking Water Systems Program, Legislative and Regulatory changes, and Policy developments, in order to provide on-going advice to the MOE and the MOHLTC*

### **4. Standards Review**

Health Canada’s Priority List for Drinking Water Contaminants was discussed, with a view towards suggesting any re-rankings.

Health Canada now has 4 types of “Guidelines”:

- Health-related Guidelines
- Operational Guidelines (OG)
- Aesthetic Objectives (AO)
- “Guidance” Documents

It was noted that some Guidelines are inter-connected and should be developed with cross-referencing in mind. For example, Corrosion Control is related to pH, lead, and copper.

It was recommended that Health Canada provide further information into the ranking of two pesticides: Atrazine, and Malathion.

#### *Action(s):*

- *Council Member Michèle Giddings to make an enquiry to the CDW about the priority ranking of both Atrazine and Malathion*

Next, the Council discussed the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality that it is currently engaged in reviewing:

Corrosion Control:

The Chair updated the Council on the progress of the Working Group's advice to the Minister of the Environment on Corrosion Control. More formal advice was transmitted to the Minister of the Environment on July 6, 2007, regarding sampling stagnation time justification.

It was noted that the Council will continue to review Health Canada's "Corrosion Control in Drinking Water Distribution Systems" Document for Public Comment, with a view towards providing advice as to what feedback Ontario should give to Health Canada on the Document. This review will address any aspects not covered in the Council's initial advice to the Minister, transmitted on May 31, and July 6, 2007.

*Action(s):*

- *Council's Corrosion Control Working Group to review Health Canada's "Corrosion Control in Drinking Water Distribution Systems" Document for Public Comment and report back to the Council with comments for a future meeting*

Tritium:

Progress of the Working Group on the review of Ontario's Tritium Standard was discussed. It was noted that a meeting with The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Ontario Power Generation, and Bruce Power has been scheduled for July 26, 2007, and that future meetings will be scheduled with other stakeholders and experts. A list of focus questions was presented for use at these meetings, and a workshop with experts may follow the stakeholder meetings.

It was suggested that the Tritium Working Group obtain the Ministry of the Environment's presentation on Alpha / Beta screening protocols.

*Action(s):*

- *Council Members to provide comments to Executive Assistant on the list of focus questions to be used at future meetings*
- *Council Members to provide names of potential experts on Tritium to Executive Assistant for use at an upcoming workshop*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to provide Executive Assistant with Alpha / Beta Screening Protocols presentation for use by the Tritium Working Group*
- *Council's Tritium Working Group to report back to the Council with an update at the September 21, 2007 Meeting*

Chlorite / Chlorate:

The draft final advice letter for Chlorite / Chlorate was presented for information.

*Action(s):*

- *Executive Assistant and Chair to transmit final advice letter for Chlorite / Chlorate to Minister of Environment, once approval for the Guideline has been granted by the Federal / Provincial / Territorial Committee on Health and the Environment*

Benzene:

It was noted that Health Canada posted its “Benzene” Document for public Comment on July 6, 2007. The Council received a presentation on the Document from the Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member.

*Action(s):*

- *Council to review Benzene Document at a future Meeting*

It was also noted that Reg. 170, in general, requires an action (increased sampling) whenever Benzene (or any other result) exceeds one half the Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC); consistent with the USEPA approach.

*Action(s):*

- *Council to discuss the concept of Action Levels versus Standards at a future Meeting*

**5. Other Drinking Water Issues:**

**First Nations Safe Drinking Water Advice Letter:**

The draft advice letter for the Minister of the Environment on **First Nations Drinking Water Quality Recommendations** was discussed.

*Action(s):*

- *Executive Assistant to revise First Nations Safe Drinking Water Advice Letter and Chair to provide a draft copy to Minister’s Office Staff*
- *Council Member Derrick Kamanga to provide information to the Executive Assistant on the USEPA’s Technical Assistance Program*

**Private Well Sampling:**

Council Members Mary Jane Conboy and Rob Walton presented documentation on suggested sampling protocols for private well owners.

The Council agreed that some form of regular testing should be performed on private wells. The questions that need to be deliberated by the Council, therefore are:

- What testing should be regularly performed?
- Who should perform the testing?
- Should testing be voluntary or mandatory?

It was also suggested that the Council review the amended Regulation 903, when it is finalized, in order to determine possible new well owners' responsibilities. Well owner responsibilities may also have a link to source protection and the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

**Action(s):**

- *Council Members Mary Jane Conboy and Rob Walton to develop an approach to private well sampling, taking into account the Council's discussions of July 20, 2007, for presentation at the September 21, 2007 Meeting*

**Minister's First Annual Report on Drinking Water:**

The Chair noted that the Minister of the Environment released the first Annual Report on Drinking Water in June, 2007.

**Bottled Water Usage in the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge area:**

Council Member Peter Huck reported that he was interviewed by the "Record" daily newspaper regarding Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge's above the national average use of bottled water.

**6. Administrative Items:**

**Annual Report:**

The Council discussed the latest version of the **2006-2007 Annual Report**, which is due to the Minister of the Environment by July 31, 2007.

**Action(s):**

- *Council Members to provide feedback on the 2006-2007 Annual Report to the Executive Assistant, for inclusion in the final version*
- *Chair to provide draft final version of on the 2006-2007 Annual Report to Minister's Office staff*
- *Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize and transmit final 2006-2007 Annual Report to the Minister of the Environment by July 31, 2007*

**National Drinking Water Conference:**

Council Member Michèle Giddings reported that the National Drinking Water Convention is scheduled for October 4-7, 2008, in Quebec City. The theme will be small systems, and the call for papers will be in September, 2007.

**Next Meeting(s):**

- *No meeting scheduled for August, 2007*
- September 21, 2007 (40 St. Clair, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boardroom 1040)
- October 19, 2007 (40 St. Clair, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boardroom 1040)
- November 16, 2007 (location to be determined)
- December 14, 2007 (location to be determined)
- January 18, 2008 (location to be determined)

**7. Adjourn**

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