

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from September 21, 2007 Meeting

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

1. Call to Order:

Acting Chair, Ken Roberts, opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Adoption of September 21, 2007 Agenda:
September 21, 2007 agenda was adopted by consensus.

Adoption of July 20, 2007 Meeting Minutes:
July 20, 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.

2. MOE Update:

The Council received update presentations from Ministry of the Environment staff on the **Clean Water Act (Source Protection Committees), Municipal Drinking Water Licencing Program, Reg. 170, Reg. 248, Reg. 243, and the Reg. 903 Best Practices Manuals.**

Action(s):

- ***Council to remain engaged in the Ministry of the Environment's Legislative, Regulatory, and Policy developments and amendments, in order to provide ongoing advice to the Minister of the Environment***

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**, which will facilitate the transfer of Reg. 252 systems from the Ministry of the Environment to Public Health oversight.

An Implementation Committee is being formed, and a project manager and a consultant are being hired to facilitate the transfer. As well, 3 working groups have been formed: Business Processes; Knowledge Transfer; and Policy Coordination. The Risk Assessment Tool will be assessed by the Business Processes Working Group. Timing for the transfer was reported to still be on track for early 2008.

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:

Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality:

It was reported that the **7th Edition of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality** will be posted on Health Canada's website as a web-based document, with links to the individual parameters' supporting documentation.

Corrosion Control:

The acting Chair led a discussion with a view towards what further advice the Council could provide to Ontario for Health Canada's "**Corrosion Control in Drinking Water Distribution Systems**" Document for Public Comment.

Since the Document is currently being revised and re-formatted, and the consultation comments were not available, it was decided that the Council should hold a more detailed discussion at the October 19, 2007 Meeting.

Action(s):

- *Council to discuss the revised "Corrosion Control in Drinking Water Distribution Systems" Document for Public Comment at the October 19, 2007 Meeting*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to provide national and Ontario consultation comments on the "Corrosion Control in Drinking Water Distribution Systems" Document for Public Comment to Council Executive Assistant for use at the October 19, 2007 Meeting*

Tritium:

The **Tritium Working Group** met with Bruce Power, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Atomic Energy Canada Limited (AECL), and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) representatives regarding Tritium, on July 26, 2007. Their concern was that if the Standard was to become more stringent, the decision should be based on sound science, and they feel that current level of 7,000 Becquerels per litre is very safe.

The issue of standards versus action levels was also discussed, and the Working Group is collaborating on a table of Standards versus Action levels for key jurisdictions.

An offer was extended to Greenpeace, for October, 2007, to meet with the Working Group, and invite their interested parties to a panel-like meeting. The Working Group also plans to meet with other interested parties, depending upon the representation at the Greenpeace meeting.

There is a report on Tritium coming out of the United Kingdom later in 2007, and the Working Group has been encouraged to review that report as part of its deliberation on the Tritium Standard. As well, CNSC is currently undertaking a review of Tritium.

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

Action(s):

- ***Tritium Working Group to endeavour to meet with Greenpeace prior to the October 19, 2007 Council Meeting***
- ***Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for an Alpha / Beta Screening Protocols presentation from the Ministry of Labour, or the Ministry of the Environment, for the October 19, 2007 Meeting***
- ***Council's Tritium Working Group to report back to the Council with an update at the October 19, 2007 Meeting***

Chlorite / Chlorate:

It was reported that the **final advice letter for Chlorite / Chlorate** in drinking water was transmitted to the Minister of the Environment on August 23, 2007. (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*)

HAAs:

The revised **HAAs in Drinking Water Document** is being considered for Committee on Drinking Water (CDW) approval. (*Council Standards Review Stage 4a*)

Action(s):

- ***Council to review HAAs in Drinking Water Document at a future Meeting***

Radiological Characteristics:

CDW is seeking input and approval on the **Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water Document** from Health Canada's Radiation Protection Bureau (RPB), after which the Document will be considered for CDW approval. (*Council Standards Review Stage 4a*)

Action(s):

- *Council to review Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water Document at a future Meeting*

MCPA:

The current **MCPA in Drinking Water Document** was withdrawn from Health Canada's review, due to an increase in Total Daily Intake as a result of a new Pest Management Regulatory Agency's (PMRA) review. A new MCPA in Drinking Water Document will be developed for discussion at the CDW. (*Council Standards Review Stage 2a*)

Action(s):

- *Council to review new MCPA in Drinking Water Document at a future Meeting*

Benzene:

Comments on the **Benzene in Drinking Water Document** are to be presented to CDW in October. (*Council Standards Review Stage 4a*)

Action(s):

- *Council to review Benzene in Drinking Water Document at a future Meeting*

Chloral Hydrate, Potassium:

The **Chloral Hydrate and Potassium in Drinking Water Documents** are currently being re-formatted as Guidance Documents, since there will be no Guideline values for these two parameters. (*Council Standards Review Stage 2a*)

Action(s):

- *Council to review Chloral Hydrate and Potassium in Drinking Water Documents at future Meetings*

Chlorine:

The **Chlorine in Drinking Water Document** is due to be posted on Health Canada's website. (*Council Standards Review Stage 2a*)

Action(s):

- *Council to review Chlorine in Drinking Water Document at a future Meeting*

5. Other Drinking Water Issues:

Private Well Sampling:

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

Points of discussion included: mandatory versus voluntary testing; parameters and frequency; who should perform testing; promotion; and resources.

It was also suggested that the Council review the July 25, 2007 amendments to Regulation 903 to determine possible new well owners' responsibilities.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on the Reg. 903 amendments for the October 19, 2007 Meeting*
- *Council Executive Assistant and Council Members Mary Jane Conboy and Rob Walton to collaborate on a draft advice letter recommending that the Ministry of the Environment undertake a survey to determine how other jurisdictions manage private wells with regards to testing, maintenance, and education, for presentation at the October 19, 2007 Meeting*

Canadian Guidelines for Household Reclaimed Water:

The **Canadian Guidelines for Household Reclaimed Water** Draft Document for Consultation, posted on Health Canada's website on August 30, 2007, was introduced and briefly discussed.

Action(s):

- *Council to maintain Canadian Guidelines for Household Reclaimed Water as an Area of Ongoing Interest*

6. Administrative Items:

Annual Report:

The Council's **2006-2007 Annual Report** was transmitted to the Minister of the Environment on August 23, 2007. Public release timing is at the discretion of the Minister's Office.

MOE Drinking Water Organizational Charts:

The Council's Executive Assistant presented an organization chart that will form the basis for a new **organization chart** (for use by the Council), **based on drinking water functions and responsibilities** within the Ministry of the Environment.

Action(s):

- *Council Executive Assistant to develop new Drinking Water Function Organization Chart for presentation at October 19, 2007 Meeting*

Presentations at Upcoming Conferences:

The idea of the Council presenting at both the OWWA / OMWA Annual conference, scheduled for April 27-30, in London, and the National Drinking Water Convention, scheduled for October 4-7, 2008, in Quebec City, was discussed.

It was agreed that a general presentation on the Council's background, mandate, current projects, and annual achievements would be of benefit to the participants of these conferences, as well as the changes to small systems management in Ontario, as a result of the Council's work.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to develop a general presentation on the Council, as well as a small systems-focused presentation for use at upcoming conferences*
- *Executive Assistant to apply to have the Council placed on the agendas for presentations at both the OWWA /OMWA and National Drinking Water Conferences*

Council Meeting Packages:

It was suggested, in order to save paper and time, that only those members requiring complete **Council Meeting Packages** will be supplied with such on Meeting days. As always, all documentation is posted in the private section of the Council's website, and an E-Mail is sent out with all the attachments prior to the Meetings.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to poll Council Members to see how many require printed Meeting packages on Meeting days*

Next Meeting(s):

- October 19, 2007 (40 St. Clair, 10th Floor, Boardroom 1040)
- November 16, 2007 (location to be determined)
- December 14, 2007 (location to be determined)
- January 18, 2008 (location to be determined)
- February 15, 2008 (location to be determined)

7. Adjourn

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