

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from November 16, 2007 Meeting

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

1. Call to Order:

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

Adoption of November 16, 2007 Agenda:

November 16, 2007 agenda was adopted by consensus.

Adoption of October 19, 2007 Meeting Minutes:

October 19, 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.

The Chair noted a few items of interest, including the announcement of the new Minister of the Environment: **John Gerretsen**.

2. MOE Update:

The Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member informed the Council that the Ministry is developing new **Draft Design Guidelines for Drinking Water and Wastewater**, and intends to post them on the Environmental Registry for public comment.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to circulate the Draft Design Guidelines for Drinking Water and Wastewater to all Council Members*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for presentations on the Draft Design Guidelines for Drinking Water and Wastewater for the January 18, 2008 Council Meeting*

The **Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS)** was also discussed in terms of Operational Plan “acceptance” versus “approval”, and the drinking water expertise of possible third party accreditation bodies.

Action(s):

- *The DWQMS Working Group to meet with key MOE Program staff to discuss Operational Plans and Third Party Accreditation in context of the Municipal Drinking Water Systems Licencing Program*
- *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 (SDWSP)**, which will facilitate the transfer of Reg. 252 systems from the Ministry of the Environment to Public Health oversight.

As well, the relationship of this program to **Reg. 248** and **Walkerton Recommendations 40 and 41** for sampling was discussed.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Liaison Staff Member to present an update on the SDWSP deliverables at the February 15, 2008 Council Meeting*
- *Reg. 248 Working Group to meet with MOE Laboratory Services staff to discuss alternative methods for microbiological and other testing in relation to Walkerton Recommendations 40 and 41*
- *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:

Corrosion Control:

The Chair briefed the Council on the **Corrosion Control Working Group's meeting** of November 6, 2007, regarding possible further advice that could be offered to Ontario and / or the national process, in relation to Health Canada's "Guidance on Controlling Corrosion in Drinking Water Distribution Systems" (*Council Standards Review Stage 4a*).

Action(s):

- *Chair and Executive Assistant to meet with Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to discuss details of comments from the Council to Ontario for the national Process*
- *Chair to meet with Minister's Office staff to inform them of possible upcoming further advice on Corrosion Control*

Tritium:

The Chair briefed the Council on the **Tritium Working Group's meeting** of November 13, 2007, regarding next steps for a possible public meeting. The Council agreed by consensus, with the approach of holding a public meeting.

Action(s):

- *Tritium Working Group to meet to further develop the details for a public meeting, for discussion at a future Council Meeting*

Radiological Characteristics:

The Council was updated on the progress of the **Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water Document** (*Council Standards Review Stage 4a*).

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on the Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water Document for the December 14, 2007 Meeting*
- *Council to review the Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water Document at the December 14, 2007 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 December 14, 2007 Meeting*

Benzene:

The Council was updated on the progress of the **Benzene in Drinking Water Document** was approved by CDW (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*).

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on Benzene in Drinking Water Document for the December 14, 2007 Meeting*

Chloral Hydrate, Potassium:

The Council was updated on the progress of the **Chloral Hydrate in Drinking Water and Guidance on Potassium from Water Softeners Documents** (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*).

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to provide Executive Assistant with updated versions of the Chloral Hydrate in Drinking Water and Guidance on Potassium from Water Softeners Documents*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for presentations on Chloral Hydrate and Potassium Documents for future Meetings*

HAAs:

The Council discussed the **HAAs in Drinking Water Document** (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*). Of particular note was the lack of and adequate number of references for treatment.

It was suggested that the Council re-visit the monitoring data for Water Treatment Plants with HAA levels that fall between 60 and 80 µg/L, in order to assess the impact of a more stringent standard.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to provide the Council with recent DWSP data on WTPs that have HAA values in the range of 60-80 µg/L for discussion at the December 14, 2007 Meeting*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to report back to the Council at the December 14, 2007 Meeting with timing for a possible original literature search on HAA treatment options for Ontario*

Chlorine:

The Council discussed the **Chlorine in Drinking Water Document** (*Council Standards Review Stage 2a*), which is still under public consultation until December 18, 2007.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on the Chlorine in Drinking Water Document at a future Meeting*

5. Other Drinking Water Issues:

Private Well Management:

The Council held a focused discussion on **approaches for private well management**, with regard to the following areas:

1. Monitoring New Wells
2. Monitoring Existing / Older Wells
3. Abandoned Wells

The Council's concern is the adequacy of the information being either sent to or made available to well owners, as well as the lack of a strong provincial presence or messaging in written material and in the field.

Action(s):

- *Council Executive Assistant to obtain the package that is sent to new well owners from well drillers*
- *Council to seek out what arrangements have been made by the MOE to communicate with and inform owners of existing / older / abandoned wells as to their regulatory requirements and best management practices*

6. Administrative Items:

Next Meeting(s):

- December 14, 2007 (location to be determined)
- January 18, 2008 (location to be determined)
- February 15, 2008 (location to be determined)
- March 14, 2008 (date to be confirmed and location to be determined)
- April 18, 2008 (location to be determined)

7. Adjourn

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