

## Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from December 14, 2007 Meeting

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

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### 1. Call to Order:

The Chair opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

#### **Adoption of December 14, 2007 Agenda:**

**December 14, 2007 agenda** was adopted by consensus.

#### **Adoption of November 16, 2007 Meeting Minutes:**

**November 16, 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).

The Chair noted a few items, including:

- Working Group Updates
- The Throne Speech
- Climate Change and Drinking Water

### 2. MOE Update:

Ministry of the Environment staff from the Source Protection Programs, Environmental Monitoring and Reporting, and Standards Development Branches briefed the Council on the proposed **Pathogen Risk Assessment** process, as part of the Clean Water Act's Drinking Water Source Protection initiatives.

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

- ***Council Members Lesbia Smith, Ken Roberts, Rod Holme, Mary Jane Conboy, Rob Walton, and Michèle Giddings to provide their comments to the Executive Assistant on the Risk Assessment process items / issues that the Council may want to discuss at future Council Meetings***

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on the Chemical Risk Assessment component of Drinking Water Source Protection for the February 15, 2008 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 (SDWSP)**, which will facilitate the transfer of Reg. 252 systems from the Ministry of the Environment to Public Health oversight.

The Council discussed the option of formally raising, with the Minister of the Environment, the question of why the Reg. 252 drinking water systems have still not officially been transferred to Public Health oversight.

The advice on lead exposure risks that was transmitted to schools from the Public Health Units was next discussed.

#### *Action(s):*

- *Council Executive Assistant to obtain copy of advice that was sent out from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Liaison Staff Member to Public Health Units, regarding lead risks in schools*
- *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:

#### Tritium:

The Chair briefed the Council on the progress of the **Tritium** Working Group.

It was noted that the UK report from the Independent Advisory Group on Ionizing Radiation, entitled: “**Review of Risks from Tritium**” was released, as well as CNSC’s draft report, entitled: “**Standards and Guidelines for Tritium in Drinking Water**”.

It was also noted that CNSC is holding a **Tritium workshop** in Ottawa, on January 8, 2008. Council Chair Jim Merritt, Member Lesbia Smith, and Executive Assistant Scott Barrett are all confirmed to attend.

As well, the Working Group learned that **Dr. Ian Fairlie** will be in Ontario in January, and will endeavor to meet with him in person.

Next, plans for the **public consultation on Tritium** in the winter of 2008 were shared with the Council. Requests for Services were sent out, and proposals from consultants have been received.

*Action(s):*

- *Tritium Working Group to review both the UK and CNSC reports on Tritium*
- *Council Chair Jim Merritt, Member Lesbia Smith, and Executive Assistant Scott Barrett to attend Tritium Workshop in Ottawa, on January 8, 2008*
- *Tritium Working Group to endeavour to meet with Dr. Ian Fairlie in January, 2008*
- *Tritium Working Group to select a consultant in early 2008 to facilitate the public consultation on Tritium for the winter of 2008*

Corrosion Control:

The Chair briefed the Council on the progress of the **Corrosion Control** Working Group.

The **Working Group's comments** were assimilated with Ontario's comments for consideration by the Committee on Drinking Water as they work towards finalizing the national document (*Council Standards Review Stage 4a*).

It was noted that the Ministry of the Environment held a **2-day workshop on Corrosion Control** for their approvals engineers. The course was well received and the material provided was considered to be an excellent reference.

The Chair suggested to Ministry of the Environment staff that the course be expanded to include consulting engineers and municipalities. There was also a discussion as to whether the Ministry of the Environment intends to formalize a **Corrosion Control guidance document for Ontario**.

The linkages of **Corrosion Control** to the **Design Guidelines**, and the **Lead Guideline** were also discussed. The Design Guidelines are due to be posted on the Environmental Registry soon, and the Lead Guideline is slated for national review in 2008.

*Action(s):*

- *Chair to meet with Minister's Office staff to discuss the Council's Corrosion Control advice for Ontario and how it may differ from the National Document*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to provide Executive Assistant with and electronic copy of Stantec's Corrosion Control reference material that was presented to MOE approvals engineers, for distribution to Council Members*
- *Council to review the MOE's Design Guidelines for Water with respect to Corrosion Control*

- *Council to review the Lead Guideline, as it proceeds through the national process*
- *Council to stay engaged in Corrosion Control initiatives by the Ministry of the Environment, in order to provide on-going advice, as necessary*

HAA's:

The Council discussed the **HAA's in Drinking Water Document** (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*). In particular, a summary of the monitoring data for Water Treatment Plants with HAA levels that fall between 60 and 80 µg/L, was discussed, in order to assess the possible impacts of a more stringent standard.

It was noted that the Ministry of the Environment is developing a **THMs reduction protocol**, which is likely to have an effect on HAA's as well.

It was determined that more plant-specific treatability information was needed, as well as a review of the **USEPA's HAA document**.

*Action(s):*

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to provide the Council with plant-specific HAA treatability data for discussion at the February 15, 2008 Meeting*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to report back to the Council at the February 15, 2008 Meeting with any pertinent treatability information from the USEPA's HAA document*

Chloral Hydrate, Potassium:

It was noted that the **Chloral Hydrate in Drinking Water and Guidance on Potassium from Water Softeners Documents** (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*) are for guidance purposes only and, as such, no values are provided in the Guidance Statements.

*Action(s):*

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for presentations on Chloral Hydrate and Potassium Documents for Council deliberation at future Meetings in 2008*

Chlorine:

It was noted that the **Chlorine in Drinking Water Document** (*Council Standards Review Stage 2a*), 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 in 2008*

Radiological Characteristics:

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

It was noted that Ontario is requesting that a realistic, life-time risk for all Radionuclides be presented and made transparent in the Guideline Document.

*Action(s):*

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on the Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water Document for deliberation at a future Council Meeting in 2008*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for an Alpha / Beta Screening Protocols presentation for a future Council Meeting in 2008*

Benzene:

The Council was updated on the progress of the Benzene **in Drinking Water Document** was approved by CDW (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*). Of note are the continuing discussions about a value of 1 µg/L versus a value of 5 µg/L.

*Action(s):*

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on Benzene in Drinking Water Document for a future Council Meeting in 2008*

## **5. Other Drinking Water Issues:**

### **Drinking Water Surveillance Program:**

The Council received a presentation on the Ministry of the Environment's **Drinking Water Surveillance Program**. It was noted that the DWSP is very unique in that quality assurance / quality control of the database is high due to MOE's ownership of the entire program.

Some of the discussion revolved around the following:

- Reporting of AWQI in DWSP samples
- Obligations under Reg. 248 for DWSP samples  
(Expanding and clarifying Section 5: Research and Method Development)
- Regulatory monitoring versus DWSP sampling for research purposes
- Place-based monitoring as a tool to streamline parameter lists

## **6. Administrative Items:**

### Other Council Working Group Updates:

The Chair updated the Council on the progress of several other Council Working Groups:

- Alternatives to Disinfection Working Group:
  - Work continues on a 2008 Symposium
  - Speakers have been invited
  - RFP to be developed in early 2008
  - Working Group to meet in early 2008 to discuss next steps
  
- Reg. 248 Working Group:
  - Schedule early 2008 meeting with MOE LaSB staff to discuss outstanding concerns
  
- DWQMS Working Group:
  - Schedule early 2008 meeting with MOE Licencing staff to discuss outstanding concerns
  
- Surrogates Working Group:
  - RFP / RFS to be developed in early 2008
  - Working Group to meet early 2008 to discuss next steps, timing

### Private Well Management:

Work continues on seeking out information around well ownership and management, including:

- Obtaining an example of a new well owner package, as distributed by well drillers
- Seeking out MOE communications for existing / older / abandoned well owners

### **Next Meeting(s):**

- January 18, 2008 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Training Room “B”)
- February 15, 2008 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Training Room “B”)
- March 14, 2008 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Training Room “B”)
- April 18, 2008 (location to be determined)
- May 23, 2008 (location to be determined)

## **7. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:30 p.m.