

## *Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from October 17, 2008 Meeting*

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

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

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m., and noted several items of interest to the Council:

- **Robert Andrews has resigned from the Council**, effective October 16, 2008, after 4 years of commendable service.
- The **Chair was involved as an interviewer for the position of ADM of Drinking Water Management Division** / Chief Drinking Water Inspector.
- Results of the seven-year long **Walkerton Health Study** were recently released.
- An article in “Municipal Liability Risk Management” regarding an MOE court case that debates the **MOE standards-setting and risk assessment processes**.

### **Adoption of October 17, 2008 Agenda:**

**October 17, 2008 agenda** was adopted by consensus.

### **Adoption of September 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes:**

The **September 12, 2008 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 on Initiatives and Activities:**

The Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member updated the Council on a few items:

- The **Toxics Reduction Strategy** Environmental Registry posting is closed, but there are plans for consultation sessions in the future.
- The **Water and Sewage Design Guidelines** are ready to be posted as final on the Environmental Registry as living documents.

### **3. MOHLTC Update on Initiatives and Activities:**

The MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member briefed the Council on the progress of the **Small Drinking Water Systems Program**, in terms of timing, new regulations, training, stakeholders, funding, and the Risk Characterization Assessment Tool (RCAT).

Following the transfer of responsibility of small drinking water systems to MOHLTC on December 1, 2008, requirements mirroring those found in O. Reg. 252/05 made under the SDWA for small drinking water systems would apply to these systems under a “transition” regulation under the HPPA. Current requirements pertaining to small drinking water systems would continue under this transitional regulation until the system receives an initial site-specific risk assessment. New systems will first be subject to the “transition” regulation, which will exist for 30 months from December 1, 2008.

Upon completion of the initial site-specific risk assessment, a binding directive would be issued to the system owner at which point the small drinking water system would become subject to the requirements of the “permanent” regulation under the HPPA and would have to meet the requirements for the system as issued in the directive.

*Action(s):*

- *MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member to provide the Council with the following documentation, once available:*
  - *“Operation of Small Drinking Water Systems Manual”, and “Small Drinking Water Systems Inspection Program Resource Manual”*
  - *Ontario Public Health Standards for Safe Water and protocol(s) related to the Small Drinking Water System Program*
  - *Information about Directive Guidance Document that will be posted on the Environmental Registry*
  - *The letter that was distributed to all health units that showed the allocation of funding by health unit for SDWS*

#### 4. Standards Review:

##### Tritium:

The Chair discussed the progress of the **tritium working group**, which last met on September 30, 2008, to discuss the preliminary draft report structure and content.

It was noted that Health Canada's Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water Guideline Technical Document now notes that removal or reduction of tritium from either municipal or residential scale treatment is not feasible.

Also of note is that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is supposed to be releasing 2 documents on tritium soon. One deals with the health effects of tritium, and the other deals with tritium doses.

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

- *Working Group to meet to further develop the preliminary draft report on tritium, for presentation to the full Council at the November 20, 2008 Meeting*

##### Benzene:

The Council received a presentation on the **Benzene in Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*), which is CDW approved (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*)

It was noted that **contaminated site clean-up criteria** are derived from the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards, so the **rationale for accepting 5 µg/L** when the **health-based level was calculated to be 1 µg/L** was discussed.

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

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to investigate the consequences that a benzene Standard of 1 µg/L might have on contaminated site clean-up criteria, for discussion at the November 20, 2008 Meeting*

##### Radiological Characteristics:

The Council discussed the **Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*) that is currently with CHE for final approval. (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*)

The points of discussion were around **how to best monitor for radiological parameters in Ontario**, and **whether the Council should endorse the new and revised Guideline MACs** and recommend they be changed in Reg. 169.

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

- *Council Executive Assistant to develop draft advice letter to the Minister of the Environment on Radiological Characteristics, for presentation and discussion at a future Meeting*

Chloral Hydrate, Potassium:

The Council learned that the **Chloral Hydrate in Drinking Water** (*Guidance Document*) and **Guidance on Potassium from Water Softeners** (*Guidance Document*), are now both **CHE approved** (*Both Council Standards Review Stage 5*).

*Action(s):*

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to provide Council Executive Assistant with the final Chloral Hydrate and Potassium Documents*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for presentations on Chloral Hydrate and Potassium Documents for Council deliberation at future Meetings*

Chlorine:

The Council learned that the **Chlorine in Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*) is now **CDW approved** and will be submitted to CHE for final approval (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*).

*Action(s):*

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

Other Standards:

The Council received updates on some other Guidelines and Guidance Documents, including: **Corrosion Control, BDCM, NDMA, fluoride, and MCPA.**

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

The Council briefly discussed the **Ministry of the Environment's responses to the two Reg. 903 questions** asked at the last Meeting:

1. Is there a correlation between new well drillings and increases in public health unit microbiological testing?
2. Does any document capture the chlorine residual test(s) required for new well construction?

*Action(s):*

- *Council to re-visit the questions and the Ministry of the Environment's responses at a future Meeting*

The Council discussed the success of the **Alternative Approaches to Disinfection Symposium** held on September 22 and 23, 2008. It was noted that the report is currently being written and should be finalized by the end of October, 2008.

*Action(s):*

- *Council to discuss report on Alternative Approaches to Disinfection in terms of next steps, at a future Meeting*

**6. Administrative Items:**

Council Member Michèle Giddings briefed the Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian National Drinking Water Conference that was held in Quebec City, from October 4-7, 2008. The focus of the convention was on small systems, and six Council Members attended.

*Action(s):*

- *Council Member Michèle Giddings to send abstracts from the National Drinking Water Convention to the Executive Assistant for Council reference*

The Council's Executive Assistant briefed the Council on the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Conference and Tradeshow that was held in Niagara Falls, from October 6-9, 2008.

The Chair noted that the Council's **2007-2008 Annual Report** was delivered to the Minister of the Environment on October 16, 2008, and will be publicly released at his discretion.

**Next Meeting(s):**

It was noted that the Minister wrote the Council's Executive Assistant, to express his interest in attending a future Council meeting, but requested that some alternate (non-Friday) dates be considered, in order to accommodate constituency day. To this end, some future Council meetings have been re-scheduled for Thursdays, one day earlier than is usual.

- Thursday, November 20, 2008 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Training Room "B")
- Friday, December 19, 2008 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Training Room "B")
- Thursday, January 15, 2009 (location to be determined)
- Thursday, February 12, 2009 (location to be determined)
- Friday, March 20, 2009 (location to be determined)

**7. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 2:30 p.m.