

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from November 20, 2008 Meeting

Members Present:	Mary Jane Conboy 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 Andenye Chablitt-Clarke, MOHLTC	Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE
Council Staff Present:	Scott Barrett	Iris Biggar
Regrets:	Ron Brecher Lesbia Smith	Rod Holme
Guests:	Marius Marsh, MOE	Brian Gildner, MOE

1. Call to Order:

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

Adoption of November 20, 2008 Agenda:

The **November 20, 2008 agenda** was adopted by consensus.

Adoption of October 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

The **October 17, 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.

2. MOE Update on Initiatives and Activities:

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

- **Clean Water Act Environmental Registry postings:**
 - **Technical Rules: Assessment Report Policy** finalized November 20, 2008
 - **Definitions of Words and Expressions Used in the Act Regulation and Assessment Reports Regulation** finalized on November 6, 2008
- **Cosmetic ban of pesticides** Regulation Proposal Notice posted on the Environmental Registry on November 7, 2008
- **Municipal Drinking Water Licencing Program:**
 - Owners are required to submit an operational plan and applications for a licence and a DWWP to the MOE starting January 1, 2009.

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, supporting documents, funding, and the Risk Characterization Assessment Tool (RCAT).

Council Member Dr. Alex Hukowich also briefed the Council on the MOHLTC's **Medical Officer of Health training session** that was held on November 12, 2008.

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 Program Resource Manual”*

4. Standards Review:

Tritium:

The Council discussed the latest preliminary **confidential draft tritium report**. It was noted that the Council is awaiting a further CNSC report entitled “Health Effects of Tritium.

Action(s):

- *Working Group to meet to further develop the preliminary confidential draft report on tritium, as a result of the November 20, 2008 discussions, for presentation to the full Council at the December 19, 2008 Meeting*

Radiological Characteristics:

The Council discussed a draft advice letter on 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:

- Ramifications of recommending less stringent Standards
- Revoking Standards
- Incorporation of the Summation Rule
- Ramifications to Reg. 169
- Monitoring and Gross Alpha / Gross Beta Screening

Action(s):

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

Benzene:

The Council received a presentation on the “**Effects of Changing Benzene Drinking Water Standard on Site Condition Standards for Contaminated Sites**”, in regards to the **Benzene in Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*), which is awaiting CHE approval (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*).

It was noted that recommending a more stringent Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard for benzene would result in no change to the generic Site Condition Standard. However, there would be a change to the soil leaching (S-GW1) Site Condition Standard. Also of note is the fact that benzene is a very common substance in contaminated sites, as it is one of the main components of petroleum-based products.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to obtain Canadian Petroleum Products Institute (CPPI) comments from the “Benzene in Drinking Water” national consultation document*
- *Council to discuss benzene at the December 19, 2008 Meeting*

Chloral Hydrate, Potassium:

The **Chloral Hydrate in Drinking Water** (*Guidance Document*) and the **Guidance on Potassium from Potassium-based 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 **Chlorine in Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*) is now **CDW approved** and will soon 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*

5. Other Drinking Water Issues:

The Council heard a presentation on the Ministry of the Environment's Operator Training and Certification Program.

The Council also briefly discussed the next steps for the **Alternative Approaches to Disinfection Report**, which is under development.

Action(s):

- *Council Chair and Executive Assistant to meet with Council Member Peter Huck to discuss next steps on Alternative Approaches to Disinfection report*

Finally, Council Member Peter Huck briefed the Council on AWWA's Water Quality Technology Conference and Exposition, held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on November 16-20, 2008.

6. Administrative Items:

The Council Chair noted that the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's 2007-2008 Annual Report was released on October 21, 2008. Items highlighted to the Council included: the Financial Plans Regulation, the Water Taking Charge Regulation, the Wells Regulation, and mention of the good use of Information Postings to disseminate information, as in the case of the Council's advice on corrosion control and lead reduction in drinking water, which was posted on June 4, 2007.

Next Meeting(s):

- Friday, December 19, 2008 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3rd 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)
- Friday, April 17, 2009 (location to be determined)

7. Adjourn

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