

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from February 20, 2009 Meeting

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

1. Call to Order:

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

The Chair noted upcoming **meetings** with the **Assistant Deputy Minister** of the **Environmental Sciences and Standards Division**, and the **Chief Drinking Water Inspector**.

Adoption of February 20, 2009 Agenda:

The **February 20, 2009 agenda** was adopted by consensus.

Adoption of January 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

The **January 15, 2009 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 Council discussed some items of interest, including:

- **Reg. 903 Guidance Manual** (Water Well Supplies) Stakeholder Consultation
- **Toxics Strategy**
- **Corrosion Control Guidance Document**
- **Operational Plan** submissions under the **DWQMS**
- **City of Toronto Lead Sampling Results**
- **Washington, DC Blood Lead Level Study**
- **Clean Water Act Activities**

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**, and a presentation on a **Site-Specific Risk Assessment case scenario, using the Risk Characterization Tool (RCAT)** was given.

Action(s):

- *MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member to provide the Council's Executive Assistant with a list of recommendations that the RCAT Tool could suggest*

4. Standards Review:

Tritium:

The Chair briefed the Council on the progress being made on the preliminary **confidential draft tritium report**.

Radiological Characteristics:

Health Canada's **Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water (Guideline Document)** is currently with CHE for final approval, and the Council's latest **draft advice letter** was discussed, and several advice options were tabled.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to update advice letter for Council discussion at the March 20, 2009 Meeting*

Benzene:

The **Benzene in Drinking Water (Guideline Document)** is with CHE for final approval, and a **draft advice letter** was presented and discussed.

Action(s):

- *Council to re-visit the ramifications of a more stringent benzene Standard for drinking water on the Site Condition Standards for Contaminated Sites*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to investigate and report back to the Council on Ontario laboratory detection limits and practicable quantification limits for benzene*

Also discussed was the concept of **formalizing the Council's own process for recommending the setting of drinking water Standards in Ontario**. It was noted that the Council could use benzene as a test case, or wait until the process is developed before making recommendations on benzene and other upcoming Standards.

Potassium:

The **Guidance on Potassium from Potassium-based Water Softeners** (*Guidance Document*) is now CHE approved, and **has been published by Health Canada.**

It was agreed, by consensus that no **further action was required on Potassium**, since the guidance applies only to potassium-based water softeners, and potassium intake from drinking water is well below the level at which adverse health effects may occur. As such, the Council determined that an Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard would not be appropriate, and that the Council would not need to provide advice to the Minister of the Environment.

Chloral Hydrate:

The **Chloral Hydrate in Drinking Water** (*Guidance Document*) is now CHE approved, and **has been published by Health Canada.**

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for presentation on Chloral Hydrate for Council deliberation at a future Meeting*

Haloacetic Acids, Chlorite and Chlorate:

The **Haloacetic Acids, and Chlorite and Chlorate Guideline Technical Documents** are now both CHE approved, and **have been published by Health Canada.**

The Council previously transmitted its **advice on Haloacetic Acids** to the Minister of the Environment, on July 27, 2006 and July 29, 2008.

The Council previously transmitted its **advice on Chlorite and Chlorate** to the Minister of the Environment, on August 23, 2008.

Chlorine, Corrosion Control:

The **Chlorine in Drinking Water** and the **Corrosion Control in Drinking Water Distribution Systems** (*Guideline Documents*) are **both CDW approved** and are expected to be forwarded to CHE for final approval soon.

The Council previously transmitted its **advice on corrosion control (and lead reduction)** to the Minister of the Environment, on May 31, 2007, and July 6, 2007.

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 Health Canada documents at various stages of development include: Fluoride, BDCM (to be rescinded), Carbon Tetrachloride, NDMA, Lead, MCPA, and protozoa and enteric viruses.

5. Other Drinking Water Issues:

Council Member Peter Huck updated the Council on the progress of the **Alternatives to Disinfection Symposium report**.

Action(s):

- *Council Member Peter Huck to continue to edit draft report for discussion at a future Council Meeting*

The **Ministry of the Environment's "Drinking Water Ontario" portal** (<http://www.ontario.ca/ONT/portal51/drinkingwater>) was next discussed in terms of content, layout, and accuracy of information.

6. Administrative Items:

Council Membership and renewals was next discussed. It was noted that 4 positions are up for renewal this year. As well, there are also 2 vacancies.

Action(s):

- *Members to provide Chair with possible names of individuals that may be interested in Council Membership*

Next Meeting(s):

- Friday, March 20, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room "B")
- Friday, April 17, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room "B")
- Friday, May 22, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room "B")
- Friday, June 19, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room "B")
- Friday July 17, 2009 (Venue to be announced)

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 2:45 p.m.