THE WALKERTON INQUIRY

The Honourable Dennis R. O'Connor, Commissioner

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Notice to Parties in Part 2 regarding some additional items for consideration at Public Hearing Number 6

The agenda for the upcoming Public Hearing on Drinking Water Standards, Treatment, Distribution and Monitoring has been circulated and posted to the web. The proposed recommendations from the Parties who have asked to participate in the hearing have also been posted. All Parties who will be participating are strongly encouraged to read all of the proposed recommendations, as the Commissioner may solicit your thoughts on any of them.

The Commissioner may also seek your views on the following issues. Parties or members of the public who will not be participating in this Public Hearing may comment on these points in writing or during subsequent Hearings.

1. **The standard-setting process**:
   a. How can transparency be improved?
   b. Are risk management principles appropriately applied?
   c. What is the outlook for effective standards for protozoa and other microbes?
   d. How should quality management standards, and process or hardware standards, be developed?

2. **Management of technology**:
   a. Is there a need to regulate materials coming into contact with drinking water, and if so, who should do it?
   b. How is the introduction of novel technologies best balanced, within a regulated system, with diligence about safety?
   c. Is MOE's capacity to assess new technologies adequate? What level of in-house assessment capacity can realistically be sustained?
   d. Are testing and certification procedures in respected jurisdictions recognized in Ontario?
   e. Would a quality management approach plus engineering approval of designs obviate detailed-level Certificates of Approval? Would licensing still require a facility-level approval by MOE?
   f. Treatment regimes sometimes depend on whether a groundwater source is under the direct influence of surface water. Should a definition be added to regulations, and if so, what should it be?

3. **Advances in technology**
   a. Are there emerging or foreseeable improvements in technology that will lower risk or prices or both? Anything especially helpful for small systems?
   b. What can we expect from novel disinfection techniques, such as membranes, ultraviolet radiation, and ozonation?

c. Are there circumstances under which a chlorine residual in a (small) distribution system can be safely dispensed with?
d. Is there an adequate R&D capacity for drinking water technologies in Canada? What roles should we expect MOE labs, federal (NRC, Environment Canada) labs, AWWARF, industry, and consulting engineers to play? What mechanisms are there for piloting and evaluating new technologies in Ontario?

4. **Measurement and monitoring**:
   a. Do current protocols for sampling lead to an accurate characterization of water quality throughout treatment and distribution systems?
   b. Is the present scheme optimal across system size ranges?
   c. Are discrepancies between standard methods for sampling and those prescribed in Ontario appropriate?
   d. What merit is there in total coliform monitoring as opposed to using heterotrophic plate count monitoring for distribution system integrity?
   e. Why retain fecal coliform monitoring given the improvements in *E. coli* measurement?
   f. What is the rationale for current monitoring requirements for trace chemicals?
   g. To what degree can on-line process controls substitute for batch sampling?
   h. Is the Ontario proposal for boil-water advisories consistent with current methods for detecting *E. coli*?

5. **Small systems**:
   a. Given the variety of cases at the small end of the spectrum, is the present two-class regulatory system adequate?
   b. Are there treatment and measurement techniques available that can lower the burden of compliance for small systems, however defined?
   c. What is the state of the art in remote on-line monitoring for the purposes of quality assurance in small systems? How reliable and cost-effective are SCADA systems?
   d. Can the monitoring requirements of O.R. 459-00 be safely modified for small systems, and if so, how?

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