DRAFT

THE WALKERTON INQUIRY

Expert Meeting on:

Drinking Water Providers in Ontario

June 13, 14, 15, 2001
Coffee from 09:30
Meeting 10:00 – 16:00

LOCATION

19th Floor Boardroom
180 Dundas Street West
Toronto, ON

Chair: Steve Hrudey

AGENDA

A. Process and conduct of the meeting (Chair)

B. Introduction of participants (all)

C. Review of scope of the meeting (Chair)

The central question is:

> What are the most effective means to insure that the procedures that we know can achieve safe drinking water are, in fact, consistently and rigorously followed by every party who is directly involved in providing drinking water?

D. Agenda

Several key elements (Table 1) have been identified elsewhere as providing the basis for a comprehensive framework for managing drinking water quality to insure the protection of public health. This framework seeks to emphasize total quality management and prevention of water quality problems.

Table 1: ***Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality*** (NHMRC 2001)

1. Commitment to Drinking Water Quality Management *Drinking Water Quality Policy* *Requirements* *Partnership Agencies*	**7. Employee Awareness and Training** *Employee Awareness and Involvement* *Employee Training*
2. Assessment of the Drinking Water Supply System *Water Supply System Analysis* *Review of Water Quality Data* *Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment*	**8. Community Involvement and Awareness** *Community Consultation* *Communication*
3. Planning – Preventive Strategies for Drinking Water Quality Management *Multiple Barriers* *Critical Control Points*	**9. Research and Development** *Investigative Studies and Research Monitoring* *Validation of Processes* *Design of Equipment*
4. Implementation – Operational Procedures and Process Control *Operational Procedures* *Equipment Capabity* *Materials and Chemicals* *Operational Monitoring* *Operational Preventive and Corrective Action*	**10. Documentation and Reporting** *Documentation and Records Management* *Reporting*
5. Verification of Drinking Water Quality *Drinking Water Quality Monitoring* *Consumer Satisfaction* *Short-term Evaluation of Results* *Corrective Action*	**11. Evaluation and Audit** *Long-term Evaluation of Results* *Drinking Water Quality Management Audit*
6. Incident and Emergency Response *Communication* *Incident and Emergency Response Protocols*	**12. Review and Continual Improvement** *Senior Executive Review* *Water Quality Improvement Plan*

Elements 1 through 6 have been addressed to varying degrees in Expert Meetings 1 to 7. Element 8 has been addressed in Expert Meeting 8 (*Public Involvement in Drinking Water, June 5-6*). Elements 7, 9, 10, 11 & 12 Table 1 are the primary focus for this meeting, but other items may be addressed as the need arises.

The main questions:

(1) What mechanisms or approaches offer the most promise to deliver these sorts of elements for a comprehensive water quality management framework in Ontario?

(2) Is a scheme of accreditation by a standards body followed by licensing by government the best way of achieving consistent high quality, or are there better alternatives?
(3) How should accreditation or its equivalent be arranged, how quickly can a scheme be put in place, who needs to do what, and what transitional arrangements might be necessary?
(4) How do we assure that the aspirations for total quality management that are expressed in these approaches are universally implemented across the wide spectrum of system types and capabilities in Ontario?
(5) What should be the critical terms in a license to operate a water supply (and sewage treatment) "business" in Ontario. Is it sufficient to specify term, water taking limits, effluent quality limits, performance standards and accreditation, or does MOE need to continue with the technology-specific approvals in current Certificates of Approval?
(6) Can any of this be applied to very small or private systems? If so, what and how?

Additional questions:

The main questions will address the core of what needs to be addressed, but to insure comprehensiveness, the following issues should be addressed if time will allow and these points are not covered in earlier discussions. For each of the identified elements of a comprehensive water quality management framework we can ask for:

- small (<1000 population served),
- medium (1,000 to <100,000) and
- large (>100,000) drinking water systems:

1. What are the obvious deficiencies and gaps in providing the essential components of each element in Ontario?
2. What are the best means for resolving those deficiencies?
3. Are these means proven or under critical evaluation elsewhere?
4. Who should take the lead in developing the proposed resolution?
5. Who are the other key players if any who should be involved?
6. Are there additional elements that are important for Ontario that are not adequately reflected in Table 1?

E. Relevant Issue Papers and Submissions (see www.walkertoninquiry.com)

Commissioned Papers

CH2M Hill and Diamond Management Institute. *A total quality water management system for Ontario: the model water utility*

R.L. Martin, M.A. Archer and L. Brill. *Why do people and organizations produce the opposite of what they intend?*

Strategic Alternatives. *Governance and methods of service delivery for water and sewage systems.*

Dobell, R., *Social risk, political rationality and official responsibility: risk management in context.*

Krewski, D., J. Balbus, D. Butler-Jones, C. Haas, J. Isaac-Renton, K. Roberts and M. Sinclair, *Managing health risks from drinking water.*

Pagel, J. E. *Laboratory overview.*

Sancton and T. Janik. *Provincial-local relations relating to drinking water*.

Submissions from Parties with Standing

Association of Local Public Health Agencies. *Ensuring drinking water quality in Ontario – a framework.*

Chiefs of Ontario. *Drinking water in Ontario First Nation communities: present challenges and future directions for on-reserve water treatment in Ontario*.

Canadian Environmental Defence Fund. *Local stories: Citizen action to ensure safe drinking water in Ontario*

Canadian Environmental Defence Fund. *Transparency, reporting and accountability: a comparative overview between Ontario and the United States about the public's right-to-know about drinking water*, Canadian Environmental Defence Fund

Canadian Environmental Law Association - *Tragedy on tap: why Ontario needs a Safe Drinking Water Act*

Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association. *Safety of drinking water supplying off-reserve aboriginal peoples in Ontario*

Ontario Municipal Water Association. (background docs)

Professional Engineers of Ontario. *The roles and responsibilities of professional engineers in the provision of safe drinking water*.

Public Submissions

Malec , H.J., *Designing a safe water system for Ontario*, public submission to The Walkerton Inquiry, Toronto, March 2001

Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association. *Drinking water management in Ontario: a brief history*.

Standards Council of Canada, Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories, and the Canadian Council of Independent Laboratories. *Accreditation of laboratories in Canada with a focus on drinking water testing laboratories*

Other Key References

Rizak et al. *Framework for management of drinking water quality*. Working Party of the Drinking Water Review Coordinating Committee, National Health and Medical Research Council. Australia.
(You may see the public consultation document at:
http://www.health.gov.au/hfs/nhmrc/advice/pdf/waterqly.pdf)