

DRAFT

The Walkerton Inquiry

Expert Meeting on:
Protection of Drinking Water Sources

May 3-4, 2001
Coffee from 09:30
Meeting 10:00 to 16:00

NOTE NEW LOCATION

Due to the anticipated size of this meeting, it will be held in

Ryerson University
Jorgenson Hall Room A250
380 Victoria Street
Toronto, ON

A map of Ryerson Campus is available at
<http://www.ryerson.ca/map/campus.html>

Chairs: Ronald Foerster & James Van Loon

AGENDA

- A. Introduction of Participants (all).
- B. Review of Process and Conduct of the Meeting (chair).
- C. Review of Scope for the Meeting (chair)
- D. Importance of Source Protection
 - As part of a multi-barrier approach.
- E. Responsibility for Source Protection
 - How should responsibility for the protection of drinking water sources be apportioned among the governments?
 - Role for the federal government?

F. Appropriate Scale for Management of Drinking Water Sources

- What is the appropriate geographic scale for the management of drinking water sources?
- Do groundwater and surface water sources require different management scales?

G. Water Quantity in Ontario

- Is source quantity a drinking water issue in Ontario by and large?
- What quantity issues may be faced in more local areas?
- Are meaningful responses needed or possible regarding concerns about global warming?
- What measures are available to ensure sufficient quantity in areas facing shortages?

H. Drinking Water Sources

- The Ontario Water Resources Act recognizes two types of water source – ground water and surface water. Is there a need to recognize ‘Ground Water Under the Influence of Surface Water’ as in some other jurisdictions?
- How to define groundwater under the influence?

I. Threats to Water Sources

- What are the threats to water sources? Water treatment plants, septic systems, abandoned wells, agriculture, industrial sources, others?

J. Source Protection Planning I

- Results of the Workshop on municipal groundwater protection strategies presented by Dr. Emil Frind and Dr. David Rudolph of the University of Waterloo.

K. Source Protection Planning II

- Key players
- Roles and responsibilities
- Mechanisms for interagency coordination
- Information needs
 - i. Nature and state of water sources
 - 1. Sustainable use levels
 - 2. Baseline quality and variability
 - ii. Pollutant source inventories and locations
 - iii. Sensitive areas
- Source monitoring needs
- What key information is currently unavailable – future research needs?

L. Available Tools For Protection of Drinking Water Sources

- Planning tools
- Water use restrictions
- Voluntary vs. regulated approaches
- Are different tools required for point and non-point sources of pollutants? For surface and groundwater sources of water? For chemical and biological contaminants?