

THE WALKERTON INQUIRY



The Honourable Dennis R. O'Connor, Commissioner

180 Dundas Street West, 22nd Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8

Tel: Toronto Area (416) 326-4498
Outside Toronto 1-877-543-8598
Fax: (416) 327-8782

LA COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE WALKERTON

L'honorable Dennis R. O'Connor, Commissaire

180 rue Dundas Ouest, 22 étage
Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8

Tél: Région de Toronto (416) 326-4498
À l'extérieur de Toronto 1-877-543-8598
Télé: (416) 327-8782

NOTICE TO PARTIES IN PART 2 **Anticipated Participation in Expert Meetings**

The following provides further clarification as to how parties in Part 2 will participate in the expert meetings in Part 2.

As you are no doubt aware, there will be both expert meetings and public hearings in Part 2. Both are open to the public. Both will provide an opportunity for parties to orally present their positions on relevant issues, and, in the case of the public hearings, to respond to questions from the Commissioner. The Commissioner will chair the public hearings and may attend and observe experts meetings as his schedule permits.

It is important to bear in mind that the expert meetings and public hearings are only one of the ways for parties to present their positions. In the course of Part 2, the bulk of the information presented to the Commissioner will be in writing. The Commissioner will receive and review the Issue Papers commissioned by the Inquiry, the papers and other written submissions submitted by parties in Part 2, and notes of the expert meetings. These documents will inform the public hearings in Part 2 and will be a critical part of the information on which the Commissioner will make his recommendations. We therefore encourage everyone to present their views to the Commission, and to respond to the positions of others, in writing.

The Commissioner will chair all of the Part 2 public hearings and town hall meetings. Both the public hearings and town hall meetings will be transcribed. To make the process transparent, the Issue papers, papers and other written submissions from parties in Part 2, notes of the expert meetings, and transcripts of the public hearings and town hall meetings, will be published on the internet.

The expert meetings are intended to be a forum for the discussion of issues relating to the safety of drinking water. Their purpose is to refine issues that have been presented in writing in anticipation of the public hearings. The responsibility of the Chair of the expert meeting is to encourage and direct the discussion so that a wide range of relevant views may be presented in an open, thorough and expeditious way. The discussion will

Walkerton

220 Trillium Court, P.O. Box 789, Bldg. 3, Unit 4, Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0
220 Cour Trillium, C.P. 789, édifice 3, pièce 4, Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0
4706 (fac.)

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(519) 881-3936 (tel.) (519) 881-4706 (fax)
(519) 881-3936 (tel.) (519) 881-

be recorded and summarized by rapporteurs whose reports will be posted on the internet. The meetings will be open to the public and anyone is welcome to observe the discussion.

The process would become unwieldy if all the parties in Part 2 participated in all the expert meetings. It is intended that the authors of Issue Papers and parties who have prepared a paper should participate in the relevant expert meeting. In addition, it is proposed that some other parties be invited to participate in order to obtain the full range of views and expertise.

In light of this, it is proposed that Part 2 parties will participate in the expert meetings according to the attached chart entitled “Anticipated Participation in Expert Meetings in Part 2”. To make the process manageable, each party or group of parties (as classified on the columns on the chart) is asked to have no more than two persons actively participate in a meeting.

Please keep in mind that, if you are not present at an expert meeting, you will still have the opportunity to respond to the positions taken by others at the meeting by reading the notes of the meeting and by submitting your views in writing. In some cases, you will also have the opportunity to highlight your position and respond to questions from the Commissioner at the subsequent public hearing.

If you are not satisfied with the proposed process or your allotted participation for the expert meetings, please contact James Van Loon, either in writing or by telephone (416-314-7274), as soon as possible. If you are not satisfied with the resolution that you reach with Inquiry staff, then you may arrange a conference call with the Commissioner to discuss your concerns.

The Commissioner wishes to ensure that all parties have a full opportunity to participate in Part 2 and to make their views known by way of written submissions and/ or oral presentation. The present schedule includes 11 expert meetings, 11 public hearings, and nine town hall meetings, totaling of 55 days of meetings, in Part 2. It is intended that this will provide the opportunity for a full and thorough discussion of the relevant issues. However, if anyone feels that additional time is required they should provide their written comments to the Commissioner at the earliest opportunity.