

PART II UPDATE - OCTOBER 18, 2000

INTRODUCTION

As announced previously, Part II of the Inquiry will proceed concurrently with Part I. In order to keep the public and those with standing in Part II informed about events relevant to Part II, we will be publishing periodic updates on our website. This will be the principal means of sharing information for Part II and those with standing should check this page regularly.

1. Part II Study List

The Commission has received a number of thoughtful and helpful comments from participants in Part II of the Inquiry relating to the Study List published on our website on August 17, 2000.

The Commission is in the process of amending the Study List to reflect a number of the comments received and an updated list will be published on our website within the next week to ten days. At that time we will also be publishing the names of the authors who have been engaged to date to perform studies. This information will be updated regularly.

2. The Nature of the Issue Papers

The comments we have received from some of the participants in Part II suggest the need for clarification about the nature of the Issue Papers being prepared for the Commission. Some participants were under the impression that the Issue Papers, after they have been circulated for comments and finalized, will constitute the "conclusions" or the position of the Commissioner on the issues in question. This is not the case.

The Issue Papers are intended, for each of the topics on the study list, to be well researched, thoughtful and objective papers, which lay out the history of events, frame issues and set out the existing practice in Ontario as well as best practices in other jurisdictions throughout the world. While the authors of the Issue Papers will undoubtedly make judgements and recommendations

about public policy, such judgements and recommendations will be independent of the Commissioner and will not necessarily be the same as the ultimate recommendations of the Commissioner.

While some of the observations or recommendations contained in the Issue Papers may be uncontroversial, it is recognized that many will be subject to different points of view. In regard to such issues, it is the hope of the Commission that the Issue Papers will serve to prompt debate. Issue Paper authors are, therefore, being instructed to take a balanced approach and to reflect the diversity of opinion that exists on many of the issues. Intervenors are encouraged to indicate to us in advance if they think there are important points of view which we feel should be included in the scope of the Issue Papers.

The Part II process includes a number of opportunities for those with standing in Part II, as well as the public at large, to provide input on the issues. Specifically:

- (i) Any person or group who knows at this point that they have a unique perspective on an issue related to the safety of drinking water in Ontario, may prepare a paper on that issue at any time. The Commission will publish the paper on its website for review by all with an interest in the topic. Participants should feel free to submit papers related to the safety of drinking water, even if the specific topic is not on the Study List.
- (ii) Those with standing in Part II, and any member of the public, may also wait until the relevant Issue Paper is published in draft and then submit a response, possibly including a paper, in regard to that topic.
- (iii) In some cases the Research Advisory Panel will convene informal meetings among the authors of Issue Papers and those who have an interest and expertise in a particular area. The purpose of such meetings will be to ensure that those with

different views have an opportunity to make their positions clear to each other and where possible narrow any differences.

- (iv) There will also be a series of public meetings at which the authors of the relevant Issue Papers, those with standing and other members of the public invited by the Commission can discuss their perspectives and make their respective positions clear. These meetings will take place before the Commissioner.

These opportunities for input by those with standing and by the public are critical elements in the Part II process. The Commissioner is interested in hearing from as many different interests and perspectives as is reasonably possible. All information obtained will be taken into consideration prior to the Commissioner making any final recommendations on a particular subject matter.

3. Funding

It is recognized that some of those with standing in Part II of the Inquiry may require financial assistance with respect to their Part II papers or submissions. Those with standing in Part II who require funding should submit their funding proposals to the Commission (to the attention of Dr. Harry Swain) as soon as possible. It is recognized that, in some cases, parties may not now know the extent of their participation and, thus, may not be able to make a meaningful funding proposal at this time. For example, we are aware that a number of parties are waiting to review the draft Issue Papers, before deciding how best to participate. Those parties should wait until that time to submit a proposal. On the other hand, some parties may already have well developed ideas about their proposed submissions. If such parties require funding, they are encouraged to make their proposals to the Commission at this time. It should be noted that Part II funding proposals can be amended at a later date. For more information with respect to funding, please see the Funding Rules published in the "Legal Information" section of our website.

4. Schedule

While a detailed schedule with respect to Part II has not been worked out, we are able to provide the following information with respect to the schedule.

- (i) Draft Issue Papers are to be submitted to the Commission starting in December 2000 and will be published on our website within two to three weeks of receipt.
- (ii) It is anticipated that there will be a break in the Part I proceedings between the middle of January and February 19, 2001. It is hoped that some topics on the Study List may be ready for Public Meetings during the week of February 12, 2001. It is recognized that this may be too soon to have Public Meetings on certain topics. The meetings will only be held if there has been reasonable time for participants to prepare responses to Issue Papers.
- (iii) Beginning the week of February 19, it is anticipated that the Part I hearings will run three weeks on and one week off. The off weeks will be available for Public Meetings. These include the weeks of March 19, March 26, April 9 and April 30, 2001.

Dates for the Public Meetings are tentative and may change having regard to the completion of the Issue Papers and the schedule for Part I hearings. We will provide notice of changes on our website.

Once the Issue Papers have been published in draft and we have had an opportunity to consult with those who have standing in Part II we will announce the dates of Public Meetings for specific topics.