

*Sarah*

MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE

FROM: TOBY VIGOD

RE: CELA WATER COMMITTEE  
- Meeting July 8, 1985

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On July 8th, I attended the first CELA Water Committee meeting. Anne Wordsworth, Sarah Miller, Kate Davies and myself were present. We discussed a number of issues relating to water quality. We noted that Pearse Commission would, in all likelihood, be coming out with its report in September recommending more provincial power. We discussed the fact that water quality and The Safe Drinking Water Act was not part of the Liberal/NDP deal.

We decided to prepare a water protection strategy or manifesto for Ontario. The emphasis will be on surface water quality protection. It was decided that the main focus would be on point source dischargers and that that would be divided into industrial dischargers and municipal dischargers. The focus will be on the need for enforceable water quality regulations. As well, we discussed a number of strategies to pursue with Dale Martin at City Hall.

Industrial Sources

The rationale for water quality regulations should be developed by looking at the recent Canada-Ontario report of industrial dischargers. Approximately one-half of the companies on the Great Lakes are still not in compliance. As well, a number of the control orders have been weakened over the past few years and even then, companies may still not be in compliance. We must attack the closed shop negotiations between industry and the government regarding control orders and note that there should be public input into control orders. The bottom line is that the objective in the MOE Blue Book should be put into regulations. We should check that these follow the IJC objectives. We should then recommend an increased role for the public in setting standards. As well, zones of non-compliance (i.e. mixing zones) should be removed. These zones have never been clearly delineated and industry can claim anything right now as a mixing zone. We should have both short-term and long-term objectives in our manifesto. We may want to refer this to the Resources Development Committee of the Legislature. We can also note that the guidelines have been in the Blue Book for ten years and industry hasn't even met them, although they have been well aware of the numbers for a long time.

## Sewage Treatment Plants

There is a model sewer by-law currently under review. Metro also has a by-law which Kate thinks is somewhat more stringent than the model sewer by-law. The by-law deals with discharges into the sewer system. As well, there are also discharges into receiving waters through storm sewers. Presently, about 80 companies in Metro have arrangements regarding their sewer discharge. The numbers in the by-law are not protective of the ecosystem. Each company must have a manhole cover for access by Metro Works to monitor discharges. We should be pressing for more municipal inspectors. There are three types of sewers - storm, combination, and sanitary. Presently, combination and sanitary are treated. The sewer separation programme may mean that a smaller portion of storm sewage will be treated. Apparently, Metro has a good record in prosecuting companies under the by-law, but may only do so as if it is a clear violation. We should advocate higher fines and greater enforcement. Presently, the sewage treatment plant uses a biological system of treatment. The next step up is activated carbon treatment.

There is an Environment Canada waste water treatment group at CCIW in Hamilton. Ann knows someone in this group. We should suggest to Dale Martin that he get a speaker from this group to talk about applying the research to Toronto. We should advocate strengthening of the model by-law and making it a statutory by-law. As well, we should add a clause that there be no dilution to meet the requirements.

## Sediments

According to the sediments study, there is mercury lake-wide. We need more offshore monitoring. Kate believes there are some mercury maps of Lake Ontario sediments. The westerly intake at the Island is over heavily polluted sediments. Apparently Metro has \$30 million extra for research. Ann suggested they make the Island's infiltration system an experimental station and test our water for mutagenicity and try out other treatment methods. Sarah suggested that the Island plant should be closed. Kate says the intakes were above the lake bottom and that they have been inspected twice a year and no sediment shift has been indicated.

Storm sewers are a problem for the Don and Humber and as well there is old landfill on these rivers.

Dale should ensure that the sewage treatment plant's effluent are tested for the same parameters as drinking water. Gordon Craig has done a study of eight sewage treatment plants for the Ministry of the Environment. He is now with the Beak Consultants. He didn't test for pesticides and apparently ranked various

factors and then compared them, which, according to Kate, is a no-no.

Regarding health effects studies, Kate indicated that Michigan has done some studies and she will send copies to us. I told people about my discussion with Gilbertson. He suggested that studies be done of the fishermen who live in the Isle of Quinte. Kate and Doug Hallett are working on a study of contaminants in food. They have a \$10,000.00 grant and have hired a student to do a literature review. They are studying seven chemicals, including PCBs, DDT, mirex, mercury and cadmium. PCBs of up to 130 ppb were found in the breastmilk of women living in the Niagara Region. There is also the study of a cadaver in Kingston. IJC Health Effects Committee has not recommended epidemiological studies. A Yale group did some work for them. We should also get the WHO standards.

Our next meeting will be August 12 at 4:00 p.m. at CELA offices.

In summary, we will push for water quality standards and concentrate on point-source discharges, both industrial and municipal. As well, we will talk about The Safe Drinking Water Act. The sewage treatment strategy including pre-treatment charges and investigation we will pursue with Dale Martin on July 16th.