

EXCERPT FROM MAY 1993 ISSUE OF CWWA Bulletin

THE TRIHALOMETHANE SAGA CONTINUES

Last month, the *Bulletin* reported that an announcement of the newly-approved revised Canadian guideline for trihalomethanes was imminent. In anticipation of that announcement, CWWA President Camille Charette communicated with Health and Welfare Canada's Monitoring and Criteria Division in a letter dated May 6, 1993. The text of President Charette's letter follows: -

"The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association viewed the trial consultation process for the proposed new trihalomethane guideline as a significant and positive step in bringing the "Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality" into the open. The lack of opportunity for participation by those responsible for guideline implementation has been a continuing source of concern to CWWA and its members.

CWWA, therefore, welcomed the opportunity to participate in the THM consultation process. We believe that our association's approach to preparing and submitting a response was both effective and responsible. We also believe that our response represented the Canada-wide consensus of municipal water suppliers.

Our response package was submitted in November 1992. The Federal-Provincial Subcommittee on Drinking Water approved a recommended IMAC for total trihalomethanes at its April 6/7 meeting in Ottawa. It is our understanding that this recommendation is subject to the approval of the Federal-Provincial Advisory Committee on Environmental and Occupational Health (meeting in May 1993).

Your original consultation package did not identify the process that might take place at this stage. We are somewhat disappointed that we have not received any official comments on our response package, although we understand that such is forthcoming. Of more significance to us and all Canadian municipal water supply agencies is the communication which takes place after the Advisory Committee makes a decision. Regardless of that decision, we believe that those agencies participating in the consultation process should be immediately provided with an applicable announcement.

We particularly wish to avoid repetition of past situations where municipalities had their first notification of an important water quality issue via the news media. The THM issue is so significant that we plan to transmit an announcement to all of our members within 24 hours of receiving notice from your department. "

CWWA has now been advised (May 19) that although a revised THM guideline has been approved by the Federal-Provincial Advisory Committee on Environmental and Occupational Health, an official and formal announcement is not possible at this time.

It is indeed unfortunate that defining such an important water quality parameter is being delayed in this fashion. The situation places the guideline-setting process in question, and in some cases, could adversely impact the planning process for new or expanded water treatment facilities.

Although the *Bulletin* is aware of the revised THM guideline, we are not authorized to inform our readers until the official announcement is made. Anyone urgently needing the information should contact their applicable provincial ministry.

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NEWS RELEASE

May 18, 1993

NEW WATER TREATMENT PUBLICATION FROM
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The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) announces the availability of a new publication, **WATER TREATMENT PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS**.

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"*Water Treatment Principles and Applications*" is priced at \$95.00 to CWWA members, \$120.00 to non-members (shipping/handling and GST extra).

THIS MANUAL IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH ONLY. A FRENCH LANGUAGE VERSION IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE LATE IN 1993.

For order forms, please telephone, fax or write to CWWA, 24 Clarence Street, 3rd Floor, Ottawa, ON, K1N 5P3, tel: (613) 238-5692; fax (613) 238-5193.

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The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association is an association of municipal water and sewage agencies across Canada, representing their common interests, and providing liaison in technical and governmental issues at a national level.