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Subject: THE WALKERTON INQUIRY - Part II Information - July 3-5 Implicatio
ns of Public a
Date: Thu, 28 Jun 2001 15:05:22 -0400

Hello all; Attached is the link to the Walkerton Inquiry Site, Part II.
Click on the july 4-5 expert meeting and you will see the agenda, location,
and the two comissioned papers in adobe formate. They are huge things so use
your discretion. Also the paper from CELA, CUPE and OPSEU should be upthere.
Let's meet at Ryerson's international conference centre, 240 Jarvis, where
the meeting is being held. There is a cafateria on the main floor. If we
meet at 9am it will give us almost an hour to caucus. Ron

http://www.walkertoninquiry.com/part2info/july4/index.html
<<THE WALKERTON INQUIRY - Part II Information - July 3-5 Implications of
Public and Private Operation for the Safety of Drinking Water.url>>

DRAFT

THE WALKERTON INQUIRY

Expert Meeting on:
Implications of Public and Private Operation on the Safety of Drinking Water

July 4 and 5, 2001
Coffee from 09:30
Meeting 10:00 - 16:00

LOCATION

Ryerson University
International Conference Centre
240 Jarvis Street
Toronto

Chair: Ronald Foerster

AGENDA

A. Review of Process and Conduct of the Meeting (Chair)

B. Introduction of Participants (all)

C. Review of Scope of the Meeting (Chair)

- A reminder that the Commissioner's mandate is to focus on issues related to the safety of drinking water. Consequently, the focus of the public versus private debate should also be on safety. It is recognized that there can be both direct and indirect impacts on safety. As examples of indirect impacts, safety could be affected by such factors as availability of capital and accountability of actors. The effects of public versus private in relation to such factors will also be discussed as they pertain to safety.

D. Performance of Public and Private Systems

- Evidence of impacts of public and private systems on drinking water safety.

E. Public Systems

(1) A discussion of the characteristics of publicly owned and/or operated systems and the implications, both positive and negative, for drinking water safety. The discussion will cover such factors as:

- Public accountability
- Organizational culture
- Transparency
- Potential for political interference
- Ability to deal with long term planning
- Ability to build and finance infrastructure
- Constraints/incentives to adopt new technologies and approaches
- Social equity
- Role in water conservation and the broader environmental context
- Potential conflict between the regulator and the operator

(2) In relation to the weaknesses identified, what programs or structures can be put into place to correct them?

F. Private Systems

A discussion of the same two issues as above but in relation to Private Systems.

G. Assuring Safety in a Mixed System

Given the political nature of the public versus private debate it is probably wise, to the extent this is possible, to plan for a reality that includes both public and private operators (and possibly owners).

- What government structures are needed to cover both structures?
- The discussion will include the role of the following:

- Keeping strategy and policy development responsibilities as a government function
- Licensing
- Accreditation
- Government oversight
- Enforcement
- Back-up/Emergency capabilities