



Toronto **Cancer Prevention** Coalition

April 4, 2012

VIA Fax (416) 314-7337

The Honourable Jim Bradley
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON
M7A 2T5

Dear Mr. Bradley,

Re: Implementation of the May 21, 2009 report on the Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council on the Drinking Water Standard for Tritium

We are writing to you as co-Chairs of the Occupational and Environmental Working Group of the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition about an opportunity for health protection and cancer prevention that has been under consideration by successive Ministers of the Environment since May of 2009. This is when the report of the Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council on the Drinking Water Standard for Tritium was released following on public hearings held in February 2007. Our Working Group, as well as Toronto's Medical Officer of Health Dr. David McKeown, have advocated that this standard be reviewed to reduce the unnecessarily high level of exposure allowed by the current standard.

In the February 2007 hearings of ODWAC the Canadian Nuclear Association stated that the proposed lower Tritium standard to 20 Becquerels per litre from 7,000 BQ/L is routinely achieved now in drinking water without significant cost to the nuclear power industry. The ODWAC report provides rationale for their recommendation to support the revision of the standard to 20BQ/L as follows:

- the standard relates to health effects from long term chronic exposure,
- is within the range considered by the Council for a 10 to the minus 6 risk level,
- is based on a running annual risk average, and,
- Is achievable in drinking water without significant cost to the Canadian Nuclear Association.

We urge you not to delay action on a health protection standard that is currently comfortably achievable in Ontario. Last year the world witnessed a nuclear catastrophe which resulted in far ranging contamination by radio nuclides. Our current standard which allows for excessive exposures to tritium in drinking water raises serious concerns about what health protections would be made available to Ontarians should a similar catastrophe occur closer to home.

Yours truly,
Co-Chairs of the Occupational and Environmental Working Group of the Toronto
Cancer Prevention Coalition



Ken Bondy
National Coordinator
Canadian Auto Workers-TCA Canada
205 Placer Court
Toronto, ON. M2H 3H9
Direct: 416 495-3792
1-800-268-5763
Fax: 416 495-3785
Ken.Bondy@caw.ca



Sarah Miller
Senior Policy Researcher
Canadian Environmental Law Association
130 Spadina Avenue Suite 301
Toronto, ON. M5V 2L4
416 960-2284 ex 213
Fax 416 960-9392
millers@lao.on.ca