

**June 2006**

## **Technical Update**

**For Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems under O. Reg. 170/03**

---

Following public consultation, on June 5, 2006, O.Reg 169/03 was amended. The amendments revise or eliminate standards for parameters based on new health-related scientific information or which are now considered outdated by the scientific and technical community and by the Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards. This technical update describes Ontario's drinking water quality standards, for full details please see the regulation at:

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/030169\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/030169_e.htm)

## **Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards**

The standards for drinking water quality in Ontario are prescribed in O. Reg. 169/03 under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

O. Reg. 169/03 prescribes standards for 158 chemical/physical, microbiological and radiological parameters.

Background and supporting information to the standards can be found in *Technical Support Document for Ontario Drinking Water Standards, Objectives and Guidelines* (formerly known as the Ontario Drinking Water Standards) available on the ministry's Web site at [www.ene.gov.on.ca](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca). Supporting documentation for the standards is also available from Health Canada at

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/doc\\_sup-appui/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/doc_sup-appui/index_e.html)

The amended regulation has a revised and more stringent standard for trichloroethylene and eliminates standards for fecal coliforms, background colony counts and heterotrophic plate counts, parameters which are now considered outdated or which are no longer considered to be health-related by the scientific and technical community. Total coliforms and *E. coli* remain as the principal health indicators for the protection of drinking water.

For more information, contact:

Public Information Centre

Ministry of the Environment

135 St. Clair Avenue West

Toronto ON M4V 1P5

Tel: 1-800-565-4923 or (416) 325-4000

[www.ene.gov.on.ca](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca)

**PIBS 4478e17**