

## *Ministerial Technical Advisory Committee on Turbidity and Microbial Risk*

March 12, 2008

Honourable George Abbott  
Minister of Health  
Parliament Buildings  
P.O. Box 9050 STN. PROV. GOVT.  
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9E2

Honourable George Abbott:

Enclosed is our final report of *Turbidity and Microbial Risk in Drinking Water* addressing:

- 1) A review of the risk assessment and risk communication issues concerning public notification of drinking water risks in British Columbia;
- 2) The scientific relationships between turbidity in raw water supplies and microbial human health risk in finished drinking water;
- 3) Advice and recommendations on scientific-based approaches to protect Public Health through advisory mechanisms, to help guide future policy.

Report sections consider: *risk assessment* (i.e., turbidity and other indicators for pathogen risk), *risk communication* (i.e., the role of advisories in drinking water risk management) and *risk management* (i.e., advice and direction to manage risks to tolerable levels).

The seven questions, posed as Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Committee, are addressed throughout the report as well as in a separate section (*Analysis, Advice and Recommendations*) near the end of the report.

Technical Advisory Committee members welcomed the opportunity to provide our advice to you and hope that you will find this useful for securing the safety of B.C. drinking water supplies..

Sincerely,



Martin J. Allen, PhD



Ronald W. Brecher, PhD, DABT, CChem



Ray Copes, MD, MSc



Steve E. Hrudey, FRSC, FSRA, PhD, DSc(Eng), PEng  
TAC Chair



Pierre Payment, PhD

Enclosure: Final Report