

For Immediate Release  
June 22, 2005

## **ONTARIO CONSULTS ON IMPROVING DRINKING WATER REGULATION** *Clearer, More Flexible Rules Would Safeguard Drinking Water; Reduce Costs*

TORONTO — The McGuinty government is taking another step to further protect Ontario's drinking water by proposing amendments to Ontario Regulation 170, Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky announced today.

“We are continuing our efforts to safeguard drinking water by making the rules for drinking water systems more workable,” Dombrowsky said. “Now we are improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the rules for the municipal and private systems that provide water to our homes and to facilities that take care of our children, the sick and the elderly.”

Ontario Regulation 170/03 applies to municipal and private systems that provide water to year-round residential developments. It also regulates systems serving designated facilities such as schools, day cares, health centres or social care facilities. The proposed amendments address concerns raised through extensive stakeholder consultation, including concerns about costs associated with systems serving mobile home parks and rural subdivisions, and small municipal residential systems.

The proposed amendments have been posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights registry for 90 days for public comment.

“We are committed to protecting Ontario's drinking water in accordance with the recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry,” said Dombrowsky. “We are delivering a feasible approach that maintains the high level of public health protection that Ontarians deserve.”

-30-

Contacts:  
Art Chamberlain  
Minister's Office  
(416) 314-5139

John Steele  
Ministry of the Environment  
(416) 314-6666

*Disponible en français*

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