

2004 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A04-7

TITLE: Minimum Separation Distances from Sewage Systems to Wells and Surface Waters

SPONSOR: Board of Health for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit

WHEREAS effluent from private sewage systems may contain many human pathogens; and,

WHEREAS the risk of well contamination increases with proximity to sewage systems; and,

WHEREAS the risk of surface water contamination increases with proximity to sewage systems; and,

WHEREAS the Honourable Dennis O'Connor, in his Report of the Walkerton Inquiry, identified that for rural residents who drink untreated groundwater from wells, source protection is the only protection available; and,

WHEREAS current regulations under the Building Code Act do not establish a minimum separation between sewage systems and wells when repairing or replacing a sewage system;

WHEREAS these current regulations do not clearly define the terms "repair" and "replacement" of sewage systems;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) petition the Minister of Municipal Affairs to immediately amend the regulations governing the repair and replacement of sewage systems to include a clear definition of the "repair" and "replacement" of sewage systems and to require that the minimum separation to wells and surface water not be less than that required for newly constructed sewage systems.

Action from Conference: Moved: P. Heath (Peterborough)
Seconded: M. Pearson (Peterborough) Carried