

The Honourable Laurel C. Broten  
Minister of the Environment  
12th Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

12/15/2005

Honourable Minister,

**Resolutions passed at the 2005 alPHa Annual General Meeting**

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On behalf of member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), I am writing today to introduce alPHa's most recent resolutions for anticipated follow-up and action by your ministry. Each is briefly described below and attached.

**A05-6, Expert Panel on Sound-Sorb**

The Report of the Experts Panel on Sound-Sorb was released in January, and among other recommendations, it urges that the "product formulation" exemption be removed so that it is subject to Certificates of Approval prior to its deposition: *"The Expert Panel is recommending that the bulk use of PFBs be handled under MOE Certificates of Approval for all steps of its life-cycle or by other legal instruments that can provide equal or better protection for both human health and the environment. The product formulation exemption should not be applied to Sound-Sorb" (p.9).*

**A05-11, Stormwater Management Ponds**

Standing water in even very small amounts serves as an ideal breeding site for species of mosquitoes that are known carriers of West Nile Virus. alPHa is therefore urging that the Ministry's Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual (2003) be revised to include reduction of mosquito breeding opportunities alongside protection of watercourses, water quality and aquatic diversity.

We look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience and will be pleased to assist in moving these issues forward.

Yours truly,



Linda Stewart,  
Executive Director

**Copy:** Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long Term Care  
Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario  
Honourable Harinder Takhar, Minister of Transportation (Resolution A05-11)  
Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Resolution A05-11)

**Encl.**

**2005 aPHa Resolution A05-6**

TITLE           **Expert Panel on Sound-Sorb**

SPONSOR:       Durham Region Health Department

**WHEREAS** Sound-Sorb is a material comprised of paper fibre biosolids (PFBs) and soil that is used to build sound and bullet attenuation berms for use at gun clubs in Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** the PFBs in Sound-Sorb are exempted from Ontario Regulation 347 (Waste Management) under the Environmental Protection Act; and

**WHEREAS** concerns have been raised by the public that these berms produce an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment; and

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) struck a panel of independent experts to review all available reports, studies and data on Sound-Sorb to determine whether or not it poses any adverse effects to human health and the environment when used for the intended purpose; and

**WHEREAS** the Experts Panel on Sound-Sorb submitted its report to the MOE on January 31, 2005 and its six recommendations included the following:

"Paper fibre biosolids should be controlled by Certificates of Approval or legal instruments that provide equal or better protection for human health and the environment at all the stages from its generation, through transport, composting and final use in the construction of berms..."

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** aPHa urges the Government of Ontario to act immediately to implement all the recommendations of its Experts Panel on Sound-Sorb as soon as possible; and

**AND FURTHER THAT** aPHa urges the Government of Ontario to act immediately to regulate and control the storage of paper fibre biosolids (PFBs), the manufacturing and land application of other related PFB products as soon as possible; and

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of the Environment and Health and Long-Term Care and Chief Medical Officer of Health are so advised.

**2005 aPHa Resolution A05-11**

TITLE            **Stormwater Management Ponds**

SPONSOR:       Durham Region Health Department

**WHEREAS** stormwater management ponds are designed to temporarily store collected stormwater runoff and release it at a controlled rate; and

**WHEREAS** the Central East Health Information Partnership and the Durham Region Health Department published the "West-Nile Virus Stormwater Management Pond Surveillance Study" in January 2004; and

**WHEREAS** the Study concluded that 'wet' stormwater management ponds can serve as effective grounds for the deposit, maturation and proliferation of West Nile virus (WNV) vector mosquitoes, particularly the Culex species and during the months of July to September; and

**WHEREAS** the Study also concluded the adequate maintenance of retention ponds, including the reduction or elimination of cattails, vegetation and pockets of standing water along the shoreline, would be a highly effective measure in reducing the presence of Culex larvae at these sites; and

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Ministry of the Environment published the document "Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual" in March 2003; and

**WHEREAS** the Manual has not been updated to prevent stormwater management ponds acting as breeding sites for WNV vector mosquitoes;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** aPHa urges the Government of Ontario to act immediately to update its Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual and/or related materials such that the prevention of the breeding of West Nile virus vector mosquitoes in wet stormwater management ponds is adequately addressed and continually updated as required; and

**AND FURTHER THAT** the updated Manual and/or related materials is widely disseminated to boards of health, land developers, municipalities and other key stakeholders; and

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of the Environment, Health and Long-Term Care and Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Chief Medical Officer of Health are so advised.