




Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARD 11 and 12
COMMITTEE DATE: June 19, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Clarification of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) - Verbal Update (Item 7.1 - Airport Implementation Task Force - May 27, 2013) (PED11223(a)) (Ward 11 and 12)	
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SIGNATURE: 	

Information:

Staff wish to clarify the verbal information provided to the Airport Implementation Task Force at their May 27, 2013 meeting. Staff relayed information to the Airport Implementation Task Force which was provided by Mr. Geoffrey Knapper, M.A., District Manager, Hamilton West Central Region, Ontario Ministry of the Environment. On June 13, 2013, Mr. Knapper sent an e-mail to City staff advising that "unfortunately he was misinformed" by his Ministry staff with regard to the PFOS contamination and Fish Advisory information for the Binbrook Reservoir (Lake Niapenco).

Mr. Knapper has provided updated information regarding these issues from Mr. Satyendra Bhavsar, Ph.D., P.Eng., Research Scientist, Ministry of the Environment, Sport Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program, Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Branch.

On June 13, 2013 at 12:28 p.m., Bhavsar, Satyendra (ENE) wrote:

"...The updated fish consumption advisories issued for Binbrook Reservoir in the 2013-2014 Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish is a result of incorporation of new data collected in 2012. The advisory benchmarks for PFOS and mercury have remained unchanged compared to the 2011-2012 edition of the Guide.

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Fish consumption advisories are generated for individual contaminants; however, related contaminants (e.g., dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs) are considered as a group. The final advisories are based on the most restrictive contaminant(s). Current restrictive Binbrook advisories are due to elevated PFOS levels, except those for 45-65cm Northern Pike (sensitive population) and 30-35cm Brown Bullhead which are due to mercury.

I am very glad to hear again that the Guide has been a helpful public document. We understand that in certain situations it would be more useful to provide information on which contaminant(s) is(are) causing restrictive advisories as opposed to the generalized list of contaminants that were tested. At this time, incorporation of such a change would require an update to all the advisory tables in the Guide and is not feasible. However, we strive to provide improved services to the public, and have been looking into possible approaches to incorporate this information in the future.

... Advisories for Channel Catfish have been issued at more restrictive 2 (general) and 0 (sensitive) meals per month instead of 4 meals per month to account for variation in elevated PFOS levels.”

In order to avoid confusion in the future, City staff will not rely on verbal updates from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment but refer only to written documentation from the Ministry. Any further requests for information from Council or the public, respecting PFOS and Fish Advisory at the Binbrook Reservoir, should also be directed to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment

In addition, updated information on these issues can be found on the following websites:
http://www.npca.ca/wp-content/uploads/Binbrook_Factsheet_Final.pdf
<http://www.downloads.ene.gov.on.ca/files/fishguide/en/advisories/LAKE43077948.html>

GP/mah