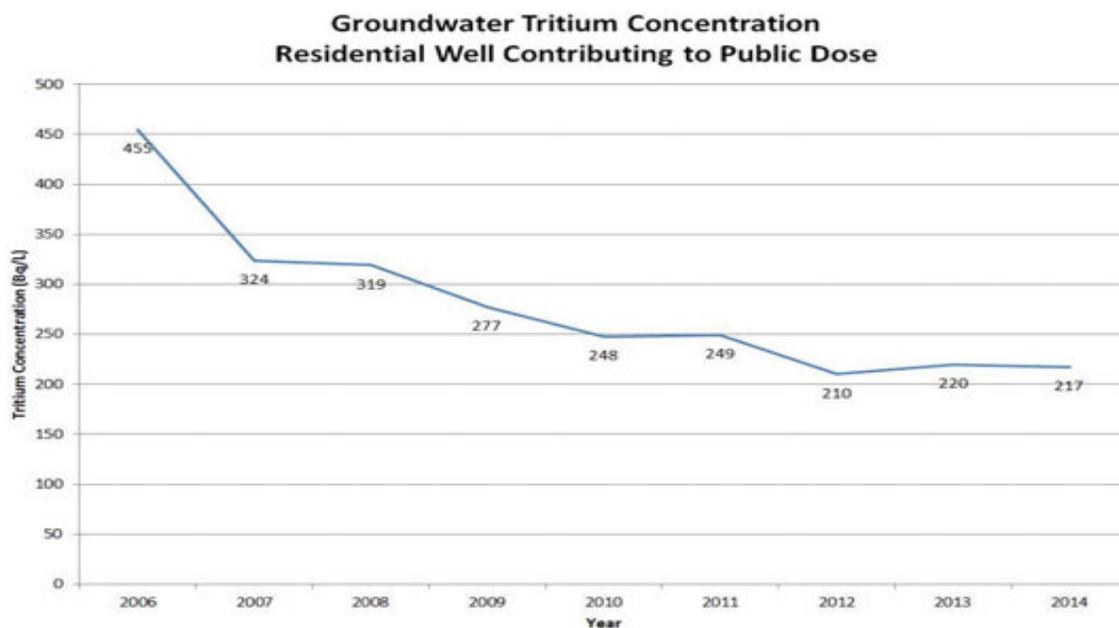


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Emergency sign manufacturer SRB has a record of high releases of radioactive tritium. Elevated levels have been measured in water, and consequently in biota, in the region of the SRB plant (SRB Technologies Annual Compliance and Performance Report, 2014).

Tritiated water (water containing a tritium atom in place of a hydrogen atom) is the most common compound containing the element. According to the SRB report, high levels of tritiated water have been found in area groundwater. Although levels fell during the past decade, the decline ceased in recent years, and levels remain 10 times greater than the 20 Bq/L level for drinking water recommended by the Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council (http://www.odwac.gov.on.ca/reports/052109_ODWAC_Tritium_Report.pdf).

Figure 4 from SRB ACR2014 (p60 in pdf)



Prevent Cancer Now recommends that:

- Any licence should be for a shorter period of time than 10 years. A longer term licence should hinge upon rigorous, routine monitoring of local groundwater demonstrating sustained decreases to tritium levels below 20 Bq/L for groundwater, as well as proportional decreases in maximum, median *and* mean levels measured in comprehensive sampling of native vegetation in the area. It will be necessary to improve tritium containment in order to achieve these goals.
- Residents continue to avoid drinking groundwater and not consume locally grown food.
- All residents be supplied with water with tritium levels below 20 Bq/L.
- Given the vagaries of groundwater migration, annual testing for tritium should be freely available for those not on municipal water.
- Worker and public education be conducted on an ongoing basis, particularly targeted at teenagers, and those wishing to start or with young families. The latter may consider re-locating, given evidence of risks of childhood leukaemia among those living close to tritium-emitting facilities.
- In the longer term, SRB should be moved to a more remote location.

Further, *Prevent Cancer Now* supports the detailed report and recommendations of *First Six Years*.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Sears PhD

Co-chair and science advisor, *Prevent Cancer Now*