



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: September 27, 2016

REPORT TO: Mayor Bridge and Members of Council

FROM: Todd Rogers

SUBJECT: MOECC Proposed Amendments

STRATEGIC PLAN:

11.2 Continue to operate water treatment and distribution with the highest standards of public safety in mind and according to Provincial requirements using highly trained Town staff, and maintain cross training and enhanced duties to assume responsibility for sewage collection and treatment facilities from Centre Wellington. Maintain both water and sewer facilities using qualified Town staff so long as it is cost effective and efficient to do so.

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change is proposing amendments to:

- O. Reg. 169/03 Ontario's Drinking Water Quality Standards and the Technical Support Document for Ontario Drinking Water Standards, Objectives and Guidelines;
- O. Reg. 170/03 Drinking Water Systems;
- O. Reg. 243/07 Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries;
- O. Reg. 248/03 Drinking Water Testing Services; and
- O. Reg. 128/04 Certification of Drinking Water System Operators and Water Quality

The Minister's Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards (the Advisory Council) has provided advice to the ministry, recommending the following changes to Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards, to take effect January 1, 2017:

1. Adopt three new standards based on new federal guidelines: Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard of 0.06 mg/L for Toluene based on new federal guidelines; Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard of 0.14 mg/L for Ethylbenzene; and Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard of 0.09 mg/L for Total Xylenes.
2. Revise two existing standards: Revise Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard of 0.01 mg/L to 0.05 mg/L for Selenium; and Revise Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard of 0.03 mg/L to a more stringent value of 0.01 mg/L for Tetrachloroethylene.
3. Remove the current Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard of 10 mg/L for Nitrate + Nitrite as this parameter is redundant since individual standards of 10 mg/L for nitrate and 1 mg/L for nitrite are maintained.
4. A new Aesthetic Objective of 0.015 mg/L is proposed for methyl t-butyl ether (MTBE); and Revise the Aesthetic Objectives for ethylbenzene and xylenes to 0.0016 mg/L, and 0.02 mg/L, respectively.

These changes to chemical testing are associated with increased lead testing requirements in schools and daycares, shorter time frames for water test results to be uploaded to the Ministry, and changes to rules for Operators in Training.

Operators in training are persons wishing to become certified to operate water systems in Ontario. The changes include getting rid of a Temporary OIT Certificate, extending valid OIT certificates from 16 to 36 months, and allow OIT's to operate limited systems under the care of an Operator in Charge or Overall Responsible Operator. These changes are consistent with other North American jurisdictions.

COMMENTS:

The tighter testing standard should not affect Minto as past sample result show our wells are below the proposed standards. The proposed new standards are parameters we have not tested in the past so until results are available the Town will not know the impact on its system if any.

Changes to the OIT Certificate can only help increase the number of people willing to move into this form of work. Changes ensure there is only on OIT certificate and extend the time during which an OIT can prepare for the complete the required course, gain the needed experience and complete the exam all within the 36 month period.

The proposed changes can be reviewed and commented on the Ontario Environmental Registry at <https://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTI5MjUw&statusId=MTk1ODMy&language=en>

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

At this time there is no financial consideration. In the future there will likely be an increase in sampling fees from the laboratory for testing for the extra parameters but at this time the lab has not determined what if any costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Town of Minto receives the Compliance Coordinators report regarding The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change proposed amendments for information.

Todd Rogers
Compliance Coordinator