

**TOWN OF MINTO****DATE:** September 27, 2018**REPORT TO:** Mayor Bridge and Members of Council**FROM:** Todd Rogers, DWQMS Coordinator, Lead Hand**SUBJECT:** Minto Water System Sampling Update

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**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:**

Since the Walkerton Inquiry of 2002 the Province has implemented an ever increasing regiment of programs to improve water systems. The Town and other Ontario municipalities have implemented Drinking Water Quality Management Systems through the years. Sampling and testing requirements became more and more stringent over time and continue to increase.

January 2018 the standard for arsenic was lowered from 0.025 mg/L to 0.01mg/L for arsenic in drink water. Under Reg. 170/03 section 13-5 if a test result exceeds half of the standard prescribed for the parameters in Schedule 2 of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard, the frequency of sampling and testing for that parameter under that section shall be increased so that at least one water sample is taken and tested every three months

Health Canada is considering instituting limits on Strontium in drinking water, the proposed maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) is 7mg/L. Currently Strontium is not a required substance to be tested for in Ontario, however during the upgrades to well 2 Harriston in 2016 samples showed concentrations exceeding that level. Please see the link below provides further information on Health Canada's strontium initiative in drinking water including limits, effects and possible treatment options.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/consultation-strontium-drinking-water/document.html>

September 5, 2017, weekly bacteriological samples for all systems were collected but did not make it to the Laboratory for analysis.

**COMMENTS:**

Health Canada closed public consultation July of 2018, and there has yet to be any direction from the province, but Minto Water is going to undertake sampling of all wells to develop a baseline and will advise council of any finding or updates from the MOECP.

Historic sample results for Clifford wells #1 and #4 both showed arsenic levels above the half of the newly set criteria. As a result quarterly samples are being collected at all three Clifford wells. To date the results for Well #1 range from 5.4ug/L to 6.5ug/L and Well #4 range from 7.4ug/L to 8.1ug/L. Sampling will continue and results monitored for any increasing trends.

September 5, 2017 samples did not make it to the laboratory. When discovered CAO Clerk and Acting Public Works Director Bill White and the MOECP were notified, and it is a requirement that Council be advised. Immediately corrective actions were put in place to ensure this could not happen again. System Inspection scores for 2018 will reflect the missed samples.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

At this time there is no financial consideration. In the future it is possible that there could be costs associated with sampling and treatment.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Council of the Town of Minto receives the Compliance Coordinators September 27, 2018 report Minto Water System Sampling Update.

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Todd Rogers  
Compliance Coordinator