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**For Information**

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**REPORT TITLE: 2019 Annual Drinking Water Systems Summary Report**

**FROM: Andrew Farr, Acting Commissioner of Public Works**

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**OBJECTIVE**

To provide an update on the status of regulatory compliance for the Region's drinking water systems under Ontario Regulation 170/03 (O.Reg.170/03) of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Schedule 22 of O.Reg.170/03 under *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* requires drinking water system owners to prepare a Summary Report for the Municipality which must be presented to Regional Council by March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- Region of Peel fulfilled compliance requirements of *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, its Regulations, and the terms and conditions of all Approvals, Licences and Permits for the municipal water systems, with the exception of the administrative and operational conditions summarized in Appendix I, which did not adversely impact the quality of the drinking water supply.
- Region of Peel demonstrates provision of high-quality drinking water with excellent performance scores in the 2019 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks inspection program.
- The Region of Peel is committed to the ongoing provision of high-quality drinking water to its customers and to maintain compliance with all applicable legislative requirements

**DISCUSSION**

**1. Background**

Under Schedule 22 of O.Reg.170/03, the owner of a municipal drinking water system must prepare a Summary Report for the Municipality and present it to Regional Council by March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The report must disclose the standing of compliance with the terms and conditions of Approvals, Licences, Permits and the requirements of the *Act*, and its Regulations. The regulatory requirements that the drinking water system failed to meet must be summarized, and the measures taken to correct these failures described.

Under the *Act*, through compliance and enforcement regulation, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (the Ministry) has an oversight role in protecting municipal drinking water in Ontario. The Ministry is responsible for inspecting all municipal residential drinking water systems annually to confirm system owners and operating authorities comply with the regulatory mandates. All inspection findings are consolidated into an inspection report, scored and issued to the drinking water system owner.

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Ministry inspection framework includes voluntary correction of non-compliance findings and when needed, an escalated approach with issuance of a formal order to correct the problem. Ultimately, lack of response to the order or engagement in significant non-compliant activities may result in conviction.

### **2. Statement of Compliance with the Requirements of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002***

The *Act* sets out enforceable requirements and expectations for drinking water system owners to ensure protection of public health and prevention of drinking-water health hazards through controls of water systems, routine monitoring and water testing as well as procedural adherence.

The Region regularly assesses existing and potential hazardous situations facing our drinking water systems, identifying corrective measures and ranking events according to consequence or severity of outcomes.

Occasionally, operational, data collection and process documentation errors may result in non-compliance with the legislation; however, posing no or minimal risk to the safety of drinking water supply and integrity of water systems. The Region's response to all events is consistent in that, the root cause of the problem is examined, an immediate problem-solving approach is applied, and where required, improvements that require longer-term planning are implemented to prevent an event from reoccurring.

In 2019, the Region of Peel demonstrated compliance with the legislative requirements except for the administrative and operational events summarized in Appendix I.

These occurrences were not associated with the safety of drinking water supplied to the consumers and these were rated with low risk to the overall performance of water systems as presented through the inspections.

Review of 2019 water volumes pumped, and water flow rates demonstrated the capability of the drinking water systems to meet the existing and future demand.

### **3. 2019 Water Quality Reports**

O.Reg.170/03 under the *Act* prescribes stringent mandatory requirements to monitor, test and to report drinking water quality information. Every year, a water quality report must be prepared for the preceding calendar year that identifies details regarding the overall quality of drinking water supply, events of adverse test results, and corrective action taken. The report must also be made available to the public by February 28<sup>th</sup> of each year.

As required, 2019 Water Quality Reports have been prepared for each of Peel's drinking water system and made available to the public; for on-line viewing on the Region of Peel website ([www.peelregion.ca/pw/water/quality/reports/](http://www.peelregion.ca/pw/water/quality/reports/)). Alternatively, a paper copy of the reports can be obtained upon request.

2019 reports include the results from our Community Lead Testing Program, prescribed by O.Reg.170/03. Since 2008, when the program was first established, 24 rounds of testing were completed, results of which indicate no elevated lead level concern in the Region's water supplies.

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All annual reports confirm that the Region of Peel has maintained its commitment to provide high quality drinking water to the consumers throughout the reporting period.

### 4. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Annual Inspections

Every year, all five (5) municipal drinking water systems in the Region undergo an extensive inspection by the Ministry. These routine inspections verify that the Region meets sampling, testing and treatment standards, staff competency requirements, and that Peel operates its water systems in compliance with provincial legislation.

In addition, Region staff have established routine compliance checks at its drinking water systems, which help identify any inconsistencies to help maintain compliance. Significant findings and self-declared non-compliance events are corrected immediately and reported to the Ministry and the Medical Officer of Health, which promotes transparency with the province and the local Public Health Unit.

The Ministry inspection for the 2019 year is still underway for one of the Region's water treatment plants. Inspection results received to date, listed in the table below, have demonstrated an excellent rating.

Drinking Water System / Water Works	2019 Ministry Inspection Rating
Caledon Village – Alton	100%
Palgrave – Caledon East	100%
Cheltenham	97.73%
Inglewood	97.38%
Arthur P. Kennedy Water Treatment Plant	<sup>a</sup>
Lorne Park Water Treatment Plant	95.72%
South Peel Distribution	99.15%

<sup>a</sup> The Ministry Inspection is still underway for the Arthur P. Kennedy Water Treatment Plant.

Based on the timing of this report, a summary of all inspection ratings will be presented to Council within the water and wastewater regulatory programs update in late spring 2020. This update will also include a summary of wastewater annual performance reports, which are being prepared for submission to the Ministry by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

The Region of Peel maintained compliance with the terms and conditions of all Approvals, Licences, Permits and the *Act* and its Regulations except for the non-health related events summarized in the attached Appendix I. These events did not compromise the integrity of the drinking water supply or public health, and appropriate action was taken, and control measures implemented to prevent reoccurrence of the events.

The Region of Peel is committed to the ongoing provision of high-quality drinking water to its customers and to maintain compliance with all applicable legislative requirements, including maintenance of its accreditation to Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

## APPENDICES

Appendix I – Summary of Operational and Administrative Non-Compliance Events 2019

## 2019 Annual Drinking Water Systems Summary Report

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Justyna Burkiewicz, Manager, Regulatory Compliance, Water and Wastewater Divisions, Ext. 4494, justyna.burkiewicz@peelregion.ca.*

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*Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:*

Department Commissioner and Division Director.

Final approval is by the Interim Chief Administrative Officer.



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N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer