
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report ENV-03-2019 Standard of Care for Drinking Water

For Consideration by Council in Committee on October 8, 2019



OBJECTIVE:

To provide Council with information and training on the standard of care and drinking water quality management standard.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report ENV-03-2019 Standard of Care for Drinking Water staff presentation be received as information;
2. AND THAT Haldimand County's Quality Management System Plan be endorsed;
3. AND THAT the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign any documents required confirming Haldimand County Council members have received the necessary training on the Haldimand County's Quality Management System Plan.

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Respectfully submitted: Philip Mete, P. Eng., General Manager of Public Works Operations

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As identified within the presentation "Providing Safe Municipal Drinking Water: Standard of Care", Section 19 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (2002) sets out the legal responsibilities and duties of persons who oversee municipal drinking water systems. These responsibilities and duties are commonly described as either "duty of care" or "standard of care". They apply to any person who exercises decision-making authority over a municipal drinking water system or who oversees the accredited operating authority of such a system.

The presentation also includes an overview of the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS) and Haldimand County's Quality Management System Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The "Providing Safe Municipal Drinking Water: Standard of Care" presentation was identified as an action item within the ENV-01-2019 Annual Water Quality Report which was brought forward at the February 26, 2019 Council in Committee.

An updated version of the standard of care guide that was provided at the February 26, 2019 CIC is attached (Attachment 1) to provide members of Council and Senior Management with the latest information with respect to their responsibilities under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

ANALYSIS:

The municipality as an Owner/Operating Authority of municipal drinking water systems has statutory 'duty of care' responsibilities to ensure their drinking water systems:

- Provide water that meets all prescribed drinking water quality standards;
- Operate in accordance with the act and its regulations, and are kept in a fit state of repair;
- Are appropriately staffed and supervised by qualified persons;
- Comply with all sampling, testing and monitoring requirements;
- Meet all reporting requirements.

The accompanying presentation outlines in more detail these responsibilities. A key point is that there is a shared responsibility that includes operations and supervisory staff, senior municipal officials, elected Council and officers of the Corporation.

The County has taken steps to ensure it is in full compliance with applicable legislation through processes such as employing the multi-barrier approach, regular monthly and quarterly meetings with our contract operators, optimizing operational approaches within our facilities, prioritized capital budget review, process and trend review, sampling and analysis and Haldimand County's Quality Management System Plan.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not Applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: Yes

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A guide for Members of Municipal Councils
2. Haldimand County's Quality Management System Plan (policy)