



Subject: Port Colborne Distribution System Annual Inspection

To: Council

From: Engineering and Operations Department

Report Number: 2021-48

Meeting Date: February 22, 2021

Recommendation:

That Engineering and Operations Department Report 2021-48 be received for information.

Purpose:

This report was prepared to inform Council of the results of the most recent inspection of the Port Colborne Distribution System, performed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Background:

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has a rigorous and comprehensive inspection program for municipal residential drinking water systems. As such, the Port Colborne Distribution System (PCDS) is subject to an annual inspection. The inspections can be “announced” or “unannounced” and are usually conducted in a three-year cycle. In year one and two, the Ministry is required to do announced inspections, where staff are provided with one to two weeks notice and can ensure all the relevant information and personnel are made available. In year three of the cycle, the Ministry performs an “unannounced” inspection, where staff are provided with one to two days notice.

Additionally, inspections can be “focused” or “detailed”. Focused inspections include activities, such as sampling, logs and operator certification and are largely limited to the most important regulatory requirements from the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, associated regulations and the City’s Municipal Drinking Water Licence and Drinking Water Works Permit. Drinking water systems are selected for focused inspections if they were found to have no deficiencies over the past three years.

If a system qualifies for focused inspections, the Ministry requires every fourth inspection to be detailed. Detailed inspections cover all elements of a focused inspection and also analyze the operation of the water system more comprehensively with particular attention on Best Management Practices.

Discussion:

The 2020-21 inspection was an unannounced, detailed inspection covering the period from September 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020. The Inspector from the MECP, Niagara District Office met with Darlene Suddard, Environmental Compliance Supervisor on November 25, 2020 to deliver the documentation request and to visit the bulk water stations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the remainder of the inspection was conducted remotely.

An official Inspection Report, detailing any findings and the City's Inspection Rating was issued on February 1, 2021; a copy of the inspection is provided in the Appendix.

The Inspector did not find any regulatory non-compliances during the inspection period; nor were any improvement recommendations provided.

Once an inspection is completed, the Inspector generates an Inspection Rating for the drinking water system; for the ninth year in a row, the Port Colborne Distribution System was awarded a rating of 100%.

Water Department Staff are committed to continuing to provide safe drinking water to all homes and businesses and will use their ongoing training, professional experience and the recommendations and findings from the Inspection Report to improve day-to-day operations and recordkeeping.

Conclusion:

It is a requirement under the Standard of Care Clause (Section 19 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002), that Council, as the Owner of the PCDS, be provided with the information necessary to make decisions that could affect the water system. Providing Council with the inspection results ensures Council is informed and helps meet Standard of Care responsibilities.

Appendices:

- a. Port Colborne Distribution System 2020-21 MECP Inspection Report

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Suddard
Environmental Compliance Supervisor
905-835-2900 x256
Darlene.Suddard@portcolborne.ca

Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.