



**Subject: Port Colborne Distribution System 2020 Annual Summary Report**

**To: Council**

**From: Public Works Department**

Report Number: 2021-70

Meeting Date: March 22, 2021

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**Recommendation:**

That Public Works Department Report 2021-70, prepared in accordance with O.Reg. 170/03, be received for information.

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**Purpose:**

This report has been prepared in accordance with Schedule 22 "Summary Reports for Municipalities", of O.Reg. 170/03, under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* (SDWA).

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**Background:**

The *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* and associated O.Reg. 170/03 (Drinking Water Systems), dictate the City's legislated reporting requirements with respect to the Port Colborne Distribution System (PCDS). Section 11 of O.Reg. 170/03 details the information to be included in the annual report, as well as the deadline (February 28) for preparing the report. Additionally, this section details that the public must be notified that the report is ready and available, that the report must be made available free of charge and how the report must be made available. The reports are posted to the City's website, with copies available at the Engineering and Operations Centre located at 1 Killaly Street West. Notification of report completion is posted to the City's website and advertised in City Hall News.

The contents of this report to Council are, as indicated above, dictated by Schedule 22 of O.Reg. 170/03. The regulation states:

22-2(2) The report must,

- (a) List the requirements of the Act, the regulations, the system's approval, drinking water works permit, municipal drinking water licence, and any orders applicable to the system that were not met at any time during the period covered by the report; and
- (b) for each requirement referred to in clause (a) that was not met, specify the duration of the failure and the measures that were taken to correct the failure

22-2(3) The report must also include the following information for the purpose of enabling the owner of the system to assess the capability of the system to meet existing and planned uses of the system:

1. A summary of the quantities and flow rates of the water supplied during the period covered by the report, including monthly average and maximum daily flows
2. A comparison of the summary referred to in paragraph 1 to the rated capacity and flow rates approved in the system's approval, drinking water works permit or municipal drinking water license, or if the system is receiving all of its water from another system under an agreement pursuant to subsection 5(4), to the flow rates specified in the written agreement.

A list of the Acts and Regulations that apply to the Port Colborne Distribution System have been provided in Appendix A. The regulated report requirements are discussed in section 3 below.

On December 31, 2012, Section 19 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, also known as the Statutory Standard of Care clause, came into force. In part, Section 19(1) requires "every person who oversees the accredited operating authority and every person who exercises decision making authority over the system" to:

- (a) exercise the level of care, diligence and skill... that a reasonably prudent person would be expected to exercise in a similar situation; and
- (b) act honestly, competently and with integrity, with a view to ensuring the protection and safety of the users of the municipal drinking water system

It is important to note that "Failure to comply with section 19 of the SDWA is an offence and could result in the prosecution of an individual, corporation, or both." This report not only meets the regulated reporting requirements, but also ensures Council is informed and helps meet Standard of Care responsibilities.

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## Discussion:

The Annual Drinking Water Quality Report was prepared on February 19, 2021, meeting the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline. A copy of the Report is provided in Appendix B. The Report

has been posted to the City website and notification of the report's availability was published in the March 2021 edition of City Hall News.

Results from 2020 sampling, testing and monitoring activities, as detailed in the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (*Appendix B*), indicate that there were two (2) reportable adverse water quality incidents (AWQIs) in 2020.

One of the AWQIs was due to a low free chlorine level ( $<0.05$  mg/L) in the distribution system. For this instance, nearby hydrants were immediately flushed to restore the free chlorine levels to at least 0.20 mg/L, and this area was monitored more frequently and flushed as required to maintain adequate free chlorine levels.

The second AWQI was in reference to microbiological adverse samples. Total Coliforms were detected in one sample. Follow up samples indicated that the water was microbiologically safe.

In both instances, the AWQIs were reported as required to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and to Public Health, and corrective actions were completed to the satisfaction of all parties.

Although there were reportable AWQIs in 2020, at no time was the safety of the drinking water in Port Colborne compromised, nor were any orders issued by MECP against the system.

The City does not measure the quantities and flow rates of water within the distribution system. This information is provided to the City in the Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant Annual Summary Report prepared by the Region's Water and Wastewater Services Division. According to the Region's Summary Report, provided in Appendix C, the WTP is operating, on average, at 19% of capacity, and has sufficient capacity to meet the City's long-term growth demands.

The water distribution system meets present needs but will require upgrades and extensions to satisfy growth demands as they are identified. Council previously received the results of the Water Infrastructure Need Study in Engineering and Operations Report #2014-31, which recommended future capital improvement projects. These recommendations, together with the outcomes from the annual Infrastructure Review form the basis for future watermain builds and replacements.

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## Conclusion:

Under Schedule 22 of O.Reg. 170/03, it is a requirement that Council be presented with the Annual Summary Report, summarizing the water quality results from the previous calendar year by March 31. Therefore, submission of this report will ensure the City has met this requirement.

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**Appendices:**

- a. Port Colborne Distribution System Applicable Acts and Regulations
- b. 2020 Port Colborne Distribution System Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
- c. 2020 Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant Annual Summary Report

Respectfully submitted,

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**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.