



SUMMARY OF BEST PRACTICE ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides a summary of all best practice issues identified during the inspection period. Details pertaining to these items can be found in the body of the inspection report. Best Management Practices are recommendations and not mandatory requirements, but may lead to safe drinking water for the consumer.

In the interest of continuous improvement in the interim, it is recommended that owners and operators develop an awareness of the following practices and consider measures to implement them so that all drinking water systems continuously improve their processes.

1. The following issues were also noted during the inspection:

Best Management Practices and Recommendations are provided by the ministry to improve the owner/operator's ability to protect public health and ensure continuous improvements in the overall operation and maintenance of the drinking water system.

During the inspection, it was found that a plan for continuous improvement in overall operations and maintenance has been enhanced through regular strategic process evaluations conducted by the Owner/Operating Authority.

The Owner/Operating Authority has been committed to the implementation of continuous improvements in the overall operation and maintenance of the drinking water system.

Recommendation:

1/ It is very important for the Owner to be aware of the following provisions in the Safe Drinking Water Act of their roles and responsibilities under the Standard of Care for Municipal Drinking Water Systems section 19 proclaimed in May 2007 that will come into force on December 31, 2012.

Please reference "Taking Care of your Drinking Water; A Guide For Members of Municipal Council" at the following link:

http://www.portal.gov.on.ca/drinkingwater/dw_el_prd_043831.pdf

2/ The Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich should continue the ongoing development and implementation of a comprehensive operations/maintenance manual and record keeping program.

Detailed operations manuals are essential for the safe and reliable operation of any facility. By maintaining comprehensive detailed operations manuals and maintenance records, the owner/operator may realize multiple benefits such as efficiency in:

- responding to adverse water quality issues
- reducing operational cost; after hour call-outs and emergency response
- reducing the possibility of interrupted water services
- reducing the possibility of water system contamination
- providing historic data and trending
- increasing the knowledge of facility operators
- increasing awareness to problematic equipment breakdowns
- identifying the need for staff training relevant to the systems being operated
- provide critical information regarding budgeting for operations; staffing; capital cost etc.
- identifying any deficiencies with the current operations of the facility or distribution system.

3/ It should be noted that the Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich currently qualifies to conduct sampling as per Schedule 15, 1-5, (10) which states: "When the requirements for taking samples set out in clauses (3) (a) and (b) and subsection (8) cease to apply under subsection (9) to a drinking water system, the owner of the drinking water system and the operating authority for the system shall ensure that samples are taken as described in clause (3) (c), in accordance with subsection 15,1-7 (2),

(a) to test for total alkalinity and for pH during each of the periods described in subsection (5) in every 12-month period; and

(Samples for pH and alkalinity must be collected during each 12 month sampling period (i.e. December 15 – April 15 and June 15 – October 15) based on the population served by the system and the number of distribution locations required under the "reduced" sampling table included in O. Reg. 170/03 section 15.1-5 of Schedule 15).

(b) to test for lead during each of the periods described in subsection (5) in every third 12-month period."

(Samples for lead must be collected every third 12 month period (i.e. December 15 – April 15 and June 15 – October 15) based on population and the number of distribution locations referenced in the "reduced" sampling table included in O. Reg. 170/03 section 15.1-5 of Schedule 15).