

Drinking Water Quality and Compliance Town of Biggar 2015

Introduction

The Water Security Agency and the Ministry of Environment requires that at least once each year waterworks owners provide notification to consumers of the quality of water produced and supplied as well as information on the performance of the waterworks in submitting samples as required by a Minister's Order or Permit to Operate a waterworks. The following is a summary of the Town of Biggar water quality and sample submission compliance record for the Jan. 1, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2015. This report was completed on Jan. 6, 2016. Readers should refer to Water Security Agency's [Municipal Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Guidelines, June 2015, EPB 502](#) for more information on minimum sample submission requirements and the meaning of type of sample. Permit requirements for a specific waterworks may require more sampling than outlined in the department's monitoring guidelines. If consumers need more information on the nature and significance of specific water tests, for example, "what is the significance of Selenium in a water supply", more detailed information is available from: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/index_e.html.

Water Quality Standards

Bacteriological Quality

Parameter/Location	Limit	Regular Samples Required	Regular Samples Submitted	# of Positive Regular Submitted (%)
Total Coliform	0 Organisms/100 mL	52	52	0
E. coli	0 Organisms/100 mL	52	52	0

Water Disinfection –

Chlorine Residual in Distribution System for Test Results Submitted with Bacteriological Samples

Parameter	Minimum Limit	Total Chlorine Residual Range	Free Chlorine Residual Range	# Tests Required	# Tests Submitted	# Adequate Chlorine (%)
Chlorine	0.1 mg/L free OR					
Residual	0.5 mg/L total	0.50-1.67mg/l	0.30-1.05mg/l	52	59	100%

Water Disinfection - Free Chlorine Residual for Water Entering Distribution System from Waterworks Records- From Water Treatment Plant Records

Parameter	Limit (mg/L)	Test Level Range	# Tests Performed	# Tests Not Meeting Requirements
Free Chlorine Residual	at least 0.1	0.28-1.52mg/l	365	0

A minimum of 0.1 milligrams per litre (mg/L) free chlorine residual is required for water entering the distribution system. Tests are normally performed on a daily basis by the waterworks operator and are to be recorded in operation records. This data includes the number of free chlorine residual tests performed, the overall range of free chlorine residual (highest and lowest recorded values) and the number of tests and percentage of results not meeting the minimum requirement of 0.1 mg/L free chlorine residual.

Turbidity – From Water Treatment Plant Records

Parameter	Limit (NTU)	Test Level Range	# Tests Not Meeting Requirements	Maximum Turbidity (NTU)	# Tests Required	# Tests Performed
Turbidity	1.0NTU	0.06-0.40	0	0.40 NTU	730	730

Chemical – Health Category

All waterworks serving less than 5000 persons are required to submit water samples for SE's Chemical Health category once every 2 years. The Chemical Health category includes analysis for arsenic, barium, boron, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, lead, nitrate, selenium and uranium.

The last sample for Chemical Health analysis was submitted on Oct. 20, 2015. Sample results indicated that the provincial drinking water quality standards were not exceeded.



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Parameter	Limit MAC(mg/L)	Limit IMAC (mg/L)	Sample Result(s)	# Samples Exceeding Limit	
Arsenic	0.010		0.0007	NIL	* Results expressed as average values for communities or waterworks that fluoridate drinking water supplies or those with elevated concentrations of fluoride or nitrates.
Barium	1.0		0.021	NIL	
Boron	5.0		0.08	NIL	
Cadmium	0.005		<0.0001	NIL	
Chromium	0.05		<0.0005	NIL	
Fluoride (avg*)	1.5		0.29	NIL	
Lead	0.01		0.0001	NIL	
Nitrate (avg.*)	45.0		<0.04	NIL	
Selenium	0.01		<0.0001	NIL	
Uranium	0.02		0.0063	NIL	

General Chemical

Parameter	Aesthetic Objectives * (mg/L)	Sample Results (average)	# Samples Required	# Samples Submitted
Alkalinity	500	379	1	1
Bicarbonate	No Objective	462	1	1
Calcium	No Objective	149	1	1
Carbonate	No Objective	<1	1	1
Chloride	250	16	1	1
Conductivity	No Objective	1030	1	1
Hardness	800	536	1	1
Magnesium	200	40	1	1
PH	No Objective	7.81	1	1
Sodium	300	17	1	1
Sulphate	500	200	1	1
Total dissolved Solids	1500	696	1	1

All waterworks serving less than 5000 persons are required to submit water samples for SE's General Chemical category once every two years if a ground water source and once per three months every second year if a surface water or blended surface/groundwater source. The General Chemical category includes analysis for alkalinity, bicarbonate, calcium, carbonate, chloride, conductivity, hardness (as CaCO₃), magnesium, sodium, sulphate and total dissolved solids.

The last sample for General Chemical analysis was required in 2015 and submitted on *Oct. 20, 2015*. Sample results indicated that there were no exceedences of the provincial aesthetic objectives for the General Chemical category.

*Objectives apply to certain characteristics of or substances found in water for human consumptive or hygienic use. The presence of these substances will affect the acceptance of water by consumers and/or interfere with the practice of supplying good quality water. Compliance with drinking water aesthetic objectives is not mandatory as these objectives are in the range where they do not constitute a health hazards. The aesthetic objectives for several parameters (including hardness as CaCO₃, magnesium, sodium and total dissolved solids) consider regional differences in drinking water sources and quality.

More information on water quality and sample submission performance may be obtained from:

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