

Drinking Water Quality and Compliance
Town Short Form – A Template for Annual Notice to Consumers

(Note: This short form may be used for communities or waterworks serving a population of less than 5000).

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 Oxbow water quality and sample submission compliance record for the year 2023 time period. This report was completed on May 15-2024. 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	Limit	Regular Samples Required	Regular Samples Submitted	# of Positive Regular Submitted (%)
Total Coliform	Zero organisms/100 mL	52	53	0
E. Coli	Zero organisms/100 mL	52	53	0
Background Bacteria	<200 organisms/100mL	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

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	# of Tests Required	# of Tests Submitted	% Adequate Chlorine
Chlorine Residual	0.1 mg/L free OR 0.5 mg/L total	0.52mg/L- 2.78mg/L	.08 mg/L- 1.76mg/L	52	53	98%(1 test)

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	# of Tests Performed	# Of Tests Not Meeting Requirements
Free Chlorine	Minimum 0.1 mg/L	0.10-6.56	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- leaving water treatment plant and entering distribution

Parameter	Limit NTU	Test Level Range	# of Tests Not Meeting Requirements	Maximum Turbidity (NTU)	# of Tests Required	# of Tests Performed
Turbidity	1.00	0.08-4.67	62	1.00	365	365

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 March 21-2023. Sample results indicated that the provincial drinking water quality standards were not exceeded.

Parameter	Limit MAC	Units	Limit IMAC	Units	Sample Result (s)	Units	# of Samples Exceeding Limit	*Results expressed as average values for communities or waterworks that fluoridate drinking water supplies or those with elevated concentrations of fluoride or nitrates.
Arsenic	<10.0	µg/L			.50	µg/L	0	
Barium	1.0	mg/L			35.6	µg/L	0	
Boron	<5.0	mg/L			0.30	mg/L	0	
Bromate	10.0	µg/L			Not tested	µg/L	0	
Cadmium	<5.0	µg/L			<0.15	µg/L	0	
Chlorate	1.0	mg/L			Not tested	mg/L	0	
Chlorite	1.0	mg/L			Not tested	mg/L	0	
Chromium	<50.0	µg/L			<0.19	µg/L	0	
Flouride (avg. *)	<1.5	mg/L			0.19	mg/L	0	
Lead	<10	µg/L			<0.07	µg/L	0	
Nitrate (avg. *)	<45.0	mg/L			0.2	mg/L	0	
Selenium	<10.0	µg/L			<1.13	µg/L	0	
Uranium	<20.0	µg/L			4.8	µg/L	0	

Chemical – Trihalomethanes (THMs)and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)

Parameter	Limit (mg/L)	Sample Result (average)	Units (mg/L or µg/L)	# of Samples Required	# of Samples Submitted
Trihalomethanes	100	175	µg/L	4 (1 every 3 months)	3
Haloacetic Acid	80	57	µg/L	4 (1 every 3 months)	3

Note: Only water supplies derived from surface water or groundwater under the influence of surface water are required to monitor for THMs and HAAs. Waterworks using groundwater sources beyond the influence of surface water do not need to report THMs or HAAs since sampling/analysis will not likely have been performed unless otherwise noted in the waterworks permit to operate.



General Chemical

Parameter	Aesthetic Objective (mg/L)	Sample Results (average)	Units (mg/L or µg/L)	# of Samples Required	# of Samples Submitted
Alkalinity	<500	412	mg/L CaCO ₃	1	1
Bicarbonate	No Objective	503	mg/L	1	1
Calcium	No Objective	116	mg/L	1	1
Carbonate	No Objective	0	mg/L	1	1
Chloride	<250	74.2	mg/L	1	1
Conductivity	<2300	1581	µS/cm	1	1
Hardness	<800	504	mg/L CaCO ₃	1	1
Magnesium	<200	52	mg/L	1	1
pH	7.0-10.5	7.5	pH Units	1	1
Sodium	<300	142	mg/L	1	1
Sulphate	<500	364.9	mg/L	1	1
Total Dissolved Solids	<1500	1269	mg/L	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 the total dissolved solids.

The last sample for General Chemical analysis was required in 2023 and submitted on March 21-2023. 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 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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 Ministry of
 Environment

