



Staff Report

Report To: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer

From: **Don Giberson, Director of Infrastructure & Development**
Shawn Young, Manager of Environmental Services

Date: December 6 2021

Report: ESD.21.27

Subject: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
2021 Inspection Report South Huron Water
Distribution System

Recommendations:

That South Huron Council receive the report from Don Giberson, Director of Infrastructure and Development and Shawn Young, Manager of Environmental Services RE: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks 2021 Inspection Report South Huron Water Distribution System.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to notify Council of results of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks inspection of the South Huron Drinking Water System and to mitigate the liability of those in an oversight role by ensuring that all Members of Council are kept informed.

Background and Analysis:

Under the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) carries out annual inspections of municipal drinking water systems. The Standard of Care provision of the *Safe Drinking Water Act* creates obligations for individuals who exercise decision-making authority over municipal drinking water systems. To mitigate the liability for Members of Council, each Member should be properly informed regarding the

state of the drinking water system. This includes requesting a copy of the annual Ministry inspection report and reviewing the findings. More information about this Standard of Care provision can be found in *"Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A guide for members of municipal council"* found on the Drinking Water Ontario website at www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater

The Ministry carried out an inspection of the South Huron Water Distribution System between September 1, 2021 and October 14, 2021. The inspection covers the period from August 2020 to August 2021.

The onsite portion of this inspection was carried out on September 1, 2021 with COVID 19 safety protocols utilized, such as masking and physical distancing. The inspection involved an interview with Shawn Young, Manager of Environmental Services, and Water System ORO, by our previous MECP Provincial Officer, Paul TerSteege. The onsite inspection was followed up with the provision of digital copies of documents, such as our MDWL#054-101, DWWP#054-201, MECP-Form 1's, MECP-Form 2's issued during the inspection period, O&M Manual, operational logbooks, certification records, Licensed Operator records, SCADA reports, microbiological/chemical lab results and AWQI reports. Similar to the previous year, this inspection took longer to complete than any normal year due to the COVID19 pandemic.

The focus of this inspection was to confirm compliance with Provincial Legislation, as well as evaluating conformance with Ministry drinking water related policies and guidelines during the inspection period. The Ministry has a comprehensive approach to inspection of drinking water systems that focuses on source, treatment and distribution components of the system as well as best management practices. The South Huron Inspection Report is based on a stand-alone distribution system that receives treated water from another regulated system, the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System (LHPWSS). The report contains all elements required to assess compliance issues and to ensure that the system was being properly operated and managed.

The Municipality received the final Inspection Report on October 21, 2021. The South Huron Water Distribution System was found to be in regulatory compliance. There are no outstanding non-compliance issues, no best practices recommended and no follow up actions required.

The Inspection Report noted one adverse bacteriological sample result (Total Coliform) of 1 CFU/100mL. The chlorine residual was 1.0 mg/L and the resample was within the regulatory limit of 0 CFU/100mL. All regulatory reporting protocols were followed, and associated documentation (AWQI) filed with the Ministry. The adverse sample was most likely a result of laboratory error. Electronic logbooks were also noted in the Inspection report and Staff

are investigating digital logbook software compatible with our existing SCADA software.

The Inspection Report also noted during the past and current inspection that the Director and Manager have worked collaboratively to address needs and concerns of the system. One challenge, which is not necessarily unique to South Huron, is that field operators have found they have encountered extra work arising from the current pandemic and from the installation of fiberoptic infrastructure. The management team is very mindful of the challenges, additional workload and stress during the pandemic and will continue to provide support to the frontline staff during these very trying times.

A copy of the full inspection report is attached, and a copy will be posted for public viewing on the Municipal Web site.

In order to measure individual inspection results, the Ministry has established an inspection compliance risk framework based on the principles of the Inspection, Investigation & Enforcement Secretariat. The Inspection Rating Record is included as an appendix to the inspection report. This provides the Ministry, the system owner and the local Public Health Unit with a quantitative measure of the drinking water system's annual inspection and regulated water quality testing performance. IRR ratings are published (for the previous inspection year) in the Ministry's Chief Drinking Water Inspectors' Annual Report.

Due to a Ministry software issue, the MECP were unable to provide an Inspection Rating Report for the South Huron Water Distribution System inspection. However, the Ministry were able to confirm by email that based on the Inspection Report our Inspection Risk Rating was **0.00%** and our Final Inspection Rating was **100.00%**

The South Huron Drinking Water System continues to achieve excellent inspection results, with low Risk Ratings and high Inspection Ratings. This is the 13th consecutive year that South Huron has achieved the highest percentile inspection rating (top 5%) and the 11th time that South Huron has achieved a 100% inspection rating.

These results are only possible with the extraordinarily dedicated, competent frontline staff and unwavering support of Council.

Operational Considerations:

This report is provided for information purposes and there were no alternatives considered.

South Huron's Strategic Plan:

Section 6.2.2 of the Municipality of South Huron 2015- 2019 Strategic Plan identifies key objectives that are reflective of the collective perspectives of the strategic planning process.

The recommendations and actions outlined in this report are reflective of the following strategic objectives:

- ✓ Administrative Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Increased Communications and Municipal Leadership
- ✓ Transparent, Accountable and Collaborative Governance
- ✓ Dedicated Economic Development Effort

Financial Impact:

There are no financial implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Legal Impact:

There are no legal implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Staffing Impact:

There are no staffing implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Communication Actions:

Results of the Ministry inspection of the drinking water system will be communicated by social media, municipal web site and print media via the HUB.

Policies/Legislation:

1. Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 32
2. Ontario Regulation 128/04 - Certification of Drinking Water System Operators
3. Ontario Regulation 169/03 - Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards
4. Ontario Regulation 170/03 - Drinking Water Systems
5. Ontario Regulation 188/07 - Licensing of Municipal Drinking Water Systems

Consultation:

Shawn Young Manager of Environmental Services and Drinking Water System "Over-All-Responsible Operator".

Related Documents:

1. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks SOUTH HURON DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM Inspection Report #1-45572738

Respectfully submitted,

Don Giberson, Director of Infrastructure & Development

AND

Shawn Young, Manager of Environmental Services