

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: March 27, 2024
To: Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee
From: Johnny Bowes, Manager of Environmental Services
Report Number: ITS24-005
Attachments: Stratford Schedule 22 – Annual Summary Report 2023

Title: 2023 Annual Water Summary Report to Council

Objective: To present the 2023 Water Summary Report to members of Council as per Ontario Regulation 170/03.

Background: The owner of a drinking water system shall ensure that, as per Ontario Regulation 170 (O. Reg. 170/03), a Water Summary Report is prepared no later than March 31 of the following year and presented to members of Municipal Council.

The Annual Water Quality Report regulatory requirement is to have the report available to the public by February 28 of each year. This report can be found on the City of Stratford website.

Analysis: This 2023 Water Summary Report serves as a comprehensive review of the performance of the drinking water system as it relates to regulations and criteria that fall under the municipal drinking water licensing program. It has been prepared in accordance with O. Reg. 170/03.

There were nine (9) Adverse Drinking Water Quality Incident (AWQI) reported during this reporting period. Eight (8) of the AWQI's were part of the City's mandated sodium and fluoride sampling that is required every 57 months. Groundwater sources in Stratford contain naturally occurring sodium and fluoride. Municipalities that have elevated levels of naturally occurring sodium and fluoride must take and report samples every 57 months and the most recent sampling requirement fell during this reporting period. Annual notices of the elevated levels are provided to property owners on their water bills as well as notifications on the Perth Huron Public Health website.

The other (1) AWQI was the result of Total Coliform (TC) presence in a water distribution sample that was reported to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). In accordance with the standard protocol, a resample was take at the

original sample point as well as one sample point upstream and downstream of the area. The resamples all passed and the AWQI was closed.

The City's current water taking practices are not having any negative effects on other wells or the environment. This analysis is based on a geotechnical third-party review of the City's annual monitoring well data.

The drinking water system received a 20 out of 654 non-compliance risk rating and as such, received 96.94% for the Final Inspection Rating from the MECP. The Ministry identified mainly administrative concerns, all of which were promptly addressed through corrective actions. The non-administrative items require retrofitting of existing water infrastructure at two of the wells. This work has also been completed and updates were sent to the MECP throughout the process.

Once received and approved by Council, the Summary Report will be posted on the City of Stratford website and will be available, in hard copy form, at the City Annex, Infrastructure and Development Services, 82 Erie Street, 3rd Floor.

The yearly operating and capital budgets have been developed to ensure that the necessary resources are available to meet the requirements of the Acts and Regulations.

Potentially, costs could be incurred by the City of Stratford if we did not meet the requirement to submit this report as the MECP would be required to retain experts at the City's expense to investigate the municipal drinking water system and raw water supply in order to allow us to continue to supply drinking water.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

There are no identified impacts to the current or future year operating budgets as a result of this report.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Developing our Resources

Optimizing Stratford's physical assets and digital resources. Planning a sustainable future for Stratford's resources and environment.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Sustainable Water

Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the 2023 Water Summary Report (COU24-030) be received for information to adhere to the compliance standards set out in Ontario Regulation 170/03.

Prepared by: Johnny Bowes, Manager of Environmental Services
Recommended by: Taylor Crinklaw, Director of Infrastructure Services
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer