

# Drinking Water Quality Management System



## **MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER SYSTEM - LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW**

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As a stakeholder (developer/land owner, consultant or contractor) working on infrastructure that is part of, or will become part of, the Region of Peel's municipal drinking water system, this document serves to inform you of applicable provincial legislative and regulatory requirements in accordance with the municipal drinking water licensing program approvals framework.

### **STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS**

The Region of Peel operates its drinking water systems in compliance with provincial legislation, including the [Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002](#) (SDWA) and its supporting regulations. The SDWA is the principal legislation regulating the treatment and distribution of drinking water in Ontario; imposing a statutory Standard of Care for system owners and operating bodies, defining water quality standards, operator training and certification, accreditation and licensing of water system operating authorities and water testing laboratories, water sampling, testing and monitoring requirements, adverse water quality reporting and corrective actions as well as water system inspections and enforcement by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC).

### **Municipal Drinking Water Licensing Program**

The [Municipal Drinking Water Licensing Program](#), implemented by the MOECC under the SDWA, requires municipal drinking water systems owners to be licensed to operate and operating authorities to establish and maintain a Quality Management System (QMS) accredited to the [Drinking Water Quality Management Standard \(DWQMS\)](#). The Region of Peel has been successfully maintaining operating authority Full Scope DWQMS accreditation status since first awarded in 2011.

The Municipal Drinking Water Licence (MDWL) is comprised of five components:

- **Drinking Water Works Permit (DWWP)**  
A permit describing the drinking water system which focuses on the physical and technical capabilities of the system and gives authority to establish or alter a drinking water system without approval from the MOECC. Peel holds valid DWWPs for all its drinking water systems.
- **Permit to Take Water (PTTW)**  
A valid permit to take water issued under the [Ontario Water Resources Act, 1990](#) specifying the approved rate of source water taking. Peel holds valid PTTWs for all its drinking water systems.

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- **Operational Plan**

Defines and documents the QMS for Peel's drinking water systems in accordance with the requirements of the DWQMS. The Operational Plan outlines the policy commitments and associated procedures, responsibilities and evaluation measures that ensure drinking water quality and safety in all processes for water treatment and distribution, from source to tap.

- **Accredited Operating Authority**

At all times, an accredited operating authority must be in charge of the drinking water systems. Continuance of accreditation is based on comprehensive third party audits of the QMS and periodic review of the Operational Plan.

- **Financial Plan**

The Financial Plan under Ontario Regulation 453/07 which is approved by Municipal Council outlines a long term strategy to ensure the financial sustainability of drinking water systems. The plan provides analysis of capital and operating needs, a review of current and forecasted demands and supply and consideration of available funding sources. The Plan is updated every 5 years.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES**

Drinking water system operation and alteration is governed by the MDWL and DWWP conditions, applicable acts, regulations, codes of practice, and standards which places responsibilities on the Region of Peel and are relevant to the projects you undertake and vary depending on the scope of work. The legal owner of any part of the drinking water system or any person authorized to carry out work on the drinking water system is expected to comply with the following:

- ! Only persons holding a valid MOECC approved operator's certification can operate a municipal drinking water system
- ! No work associated with or operation of the drinking water system shall permit the discharge of a contaminant into the natural environment that causes or is likely to cause an adverse effect. Some discharges of water from the drinking water system associated with the maintenance and repair of the system are approved with prior notification to the MOECC. The Region of Peel must be informed of all planned and emergency discharges to ensure compliance and to protect the environment.

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- ! Conditions specific to the drinking water system alteration, include:
- watermain replacement, addition and system extension (new development),
  - minor modifications to the water system components such as water and chemical feed pumps, instrumentation, coagulant systems, chemical storage tanks, etc.,
  - addition, replacement or modification to equipment with emission to air, including stand-by power generators, scrubbers and venting equipment, etc..

The appropriate approvals must be in place prior to commencement of work to construct or alter the drinking water system. The Region has the authority to approve most of the system alteration projects through the DWWP by completing the [MOECC mandated forms \(Form 1, Form 2 and Form 3\)](#).

Where works cannot be approved by the Region, a formal application for approval to the MOECC must be submitted.

- ! It is required that changes to the drinking water systems are documented and system drawings/plans updated to reflect the modification within 12 months of the completed work.
- ! It is also required that all parts of the drinking water system in contact with drinking water that are added, modified, replaced, extended and those taken out of service for inspection or repair are disinfected in accordance to the applicable [AWWA](#) Standards prior to being placed in service.
- ! All chemicals and materials used in the alteration and operation of the drinking water system that come into contact with drinking water must meet the applicable standards set by AWWA and the ANSI safety criteria standards NSF/60, NSF/61 and NSF/372. Exemptions to this condition apply for some components including:
- Pipe and pipe fittings that meet AWWA specifications made from ductile and cast iron, PVC, fibre and/or steel wire reinforced cement pipe or HDPE
  - Articles made from stainless steel, glass, HDPW or Teflon, cement mortar for watermain lining, gaskets made from NSF approved materials, and
  - Food grade oils and lubricants

The Region of Peel may be contacted for a full list of the components exempt from compliance with this condition.

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## Disclaimer

While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy and completeness, this document provides an overview of legal requirements and is intended for general guidance on approvals provisions and does not replace or supersede provincial legislation, applicable regulations, licences, or permits. Since these requirements are subject to change, please check back periodically for updates.

**The Region of Peel's QMS does not change or impact current contracts and agreements. It conveys the commitment to quality, safe drinking water supply and we ask for your support in endorsing this commitment with your high quality standards.**

More information on the precise duties governing drinking water system owners and operating authorities can be found at the [MOECC website](#). Copies of licences and permits referenced in this document may be obtained from the Region of Peel upon request. Any queries regarding this document should be raised with the Region of Peel Water Quality and Compliance staff via email at [DWQMS@peelregion.ca](mailto:DWQMS@peelregion.ca) or via telephone at 905-791-7800, ext. 4685.