

REPORT General Committee

For Information

DATE:

May 19, 2009

REPORT TITLE: COMMUNITY LEAD TESTING PROGRAM, REGULATION 170/03

SCHEDULE 15.1

FROM:

Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Environment, Transportation

and Planning Services

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this report is to update the Regional Council on the status of the Community Lead Testing Program required in accordance with Schedule 15.1 of the Ontario Regulation 170/03 under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Three (3) rounds of testing for lead have been completed
- Peel's drinking water meets the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard for lead
- Application for relief from meeting the full regulatory requirements and sampling reduction for select groundwater systems
- Corrosion control plan not required at this time for Peel's water supplies

DISCUSSION

Background

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) amended the Ontario Regulation 170/03 and introduced the Community Lead Testing Program to enforce and maintain a plan for municipal drinking water system owners to reduce concentrations of lead in drinking water in Ontario.

The Program involves collection of private plumbing samples in addition to testing of municipal water supplies. Testing is conducted semi- annually, between December 15 and April 15 and between June 15 and October 15 of each year. The number of samples collected is dependant on the population serviced by each drinking water system. Peel is required to test 572 sites annually and collect over 2000 private plumbing samples.

The Community Lead Testing Program is a volunteer based program, whereby private plumbing owners may elect not to participate.

The results of the Community Lead Testing Program may be the basis for a municipality to implement a corrosion control plan. If greater than 10 percent of private plumbing samples exceed the standard in two out of three sampling rounds and in each of those two rounds at May 19, 2009

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least two samples exceed the standard for lead concentration, these drinking systems owners are required to prepare and submit a corrosion control plan to the MOE.

Program Implementation

An enhanced sampling and testing program for lead was established and a pool of volunteers attained to meet the regulatory requirements.

A comprehensive strategy to recruit the residents and business owners was implemented, focusing on areas of potentially higher risk of elevated lead levels in water based on the age of buildings and the age and type of the water mains. The recruitment methods included newspaper advertisements, news releases, cold-calling, road signs, staffing public events booths, and the regional web site. Despite these efforts, Peel staff were not able to secure the required number of participants relying on groundwater systems and during the second and third sampling rounds, a partial relief for four out of five communities tested was requested from the MOE. Going forward, Peel is mandated to collect half of the required number of samples outlined in the Regulation at the Caledon East, Alton-Caledon Village, Inglewood and Palgrave systems.

Also, Peel has requested an exemption from regulatory requirement to continue testing all its municipal groundwater supplies for lead under the Schedule 15.1, (O.Reg.170/03) based on the systems' relatively young age, the grid of installed PVC water mains, the ongoing enhanced water quality monitoring and the results of sampling for lead.

Program Results

To date, three (3) rounds of sampling and testing for lead have been completed. The overall test results determined that Peel's drinking water supplies meet the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard for lead. Of the 808 private taps sampled, only 13 exceeded the standard of 10 ppb (parts per billion), corresponding to less than 1.6 percent. The highest concentration of lead tested at 30.3 ppb, at a residence built in 1840. These 13 sites were suspected and some confirmed to have had a private service lead connection and lead solder.

Cheltenham private plumbing samples tested negative for lead in the first two rounds of sampling. Based on this, the Cheltenham water system qualified for a MOE reduced sampling program involving sampling and testing for lead every three years with reduced number of samples required.

Peel's community sampling and testing for lead concentration is as follows:

Drinking Water System	Number of Private Taps Sampled per Round (O.Reg.170/0 3 Requirement)	Sampling Round 1		Sampling Round 2		Sampling Round 3		Total	Total	
		# private taps sampled	# sites exceed	# private taps sampled	# sites exceed	# private taps sampled	# sites exceed	Number of Private Taps Sampled	Number of Private Taps exceeding ODWQS	Total % Exceed
South Peel (Mississauga, Brampton, Bolton)	110	127	3	119	3	125	0	371	6	1.6%
Alton- Caledon Village	44	46	1	34	2	27	0	107	3	2.8%
Inglewood	22	23	2	24	0	23	0	70	2	2.9%
Cheltenham	22	22	0	22	0	Not Tested	NA	44	0	0.0%
Caledon East	44	46	0	38	0	24	1	108	1	0.9%
Palgrave	44	44	1	37	0	27	0	108	1	0.9%
Peel Region Total	286	308	7	274	5	226	1	808	13	1.6%

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Corrosion Control Plan

Peel has established an ongoing enhanced water quality monitoring program. The chemical characteristics of the water supplies are not corrosive and do not cause the dissolution of lead in drinking water. Also, based on the results of the sampling rounds, Peel is not required to prepare a corrosion control plan for any of its drinking water systems.

CONCLUSION

To date, three rounds of sampling and testing for lead have been completed. The program participant recruitment methods have been found less successful in the second and third rounds than at the start up of the program.

The overall test results for Peel's drinking water supplies meet the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard for lead. 13 out of 808 private sites tested exceeded the standard of 10 ppb, corresponding to 1.6 percent.

Peel is not required to prepare a control corrosion control plan for any of its drinking water systems based on the results from the last three rounds of sampling for lead.

The pool of volunteers committed to the program did not indicate a significant degree of concerns and the interest in program participation has declined with every sampling round. As a result, a relief from regulatory requirement to test for lead was filed with the MOE for four out of five groundwater systems. Based on the negative test results for lead during the first two sampling rounds, Cheltenham system qualified for a reduced sampling program.

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