

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Neil Chisholm
Certification Officer
Certification and Licensing Programs Office
40 St. Clair Avenue West
3rd floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1M2

Dear Mr. Chisholm,

RE: ERO 019-3513 Proposed amendments to drinking water operator and water quality analyst certification regulation to address impacts of emergencies

The City of Guelph (City) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to drinking water operator and water quality analyst certification regulation to address impacts of emergencies.

The City has a keen interest in the efforts of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) specific changes to [O. Reg. 128/04: Certification of Drinking Water System Operators and Water Quality Analysts](#) made under the [Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 32](#).

The City's comments on the proposed amendments to drinking water operator and water quality analyst certification regulations are described below:

Emergencies

- The City supports adding a definition of emergency to the regulation and also supports the exceptional situations that could trigger the use of the proposed emergency. The City also supports extending the drinking water operator's certificate or water quality analyst's certificate for up to 12 months, if needed, to help systems focus on emergency response. In this case, the City also agrees with extending the maximum duration of temporary certificate renewals from 6 months to up to 12 months and postponing completion of mandatory training.
- The City also supports allowing owners and operating authorities to temporarily employ certain knowledgeable, experienced, but non-certified personnel to operate a drinking water subsystem to help ensure its continuity of operations in emergency situations
- Further clarification would be helpful in the case where a local emergency is declared by the Mayor of the municipality. In this case, clarifying the proposed process defined by the MECP to enact the emergency declaration process would be beneficial for a locally declared emergency.

- The City's water operators are CUPE members and the proposed changes would conflict with the City's collective agreement. It is recommended that the MECP engage CUPE National to gain an understanding of possible conflicts with collective agreements in these types of situations.
- The City agrees that substitute personnel who would be performing water testing be trained by a certified operator, work under the supervision of a certified operator and immediately inform the supervising operator of the test results.

Proposed strike and lock-out related amendments

- The City supports the formalization and clarification of the process through which an owner or operating authority of a drinking water subsystem may request the Ministry Director's direction to allow a temporary exemption from operator certification related requirements during a strike or lock-out.
- Additional time for the deadline for initial submission of the strike-plan would be helpful to allow for proper implementation of the strike-plan.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rose, General Manager

Environmental Services, **Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise**

City of Guelph

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