

London District MOE and Elgin St. Thomas Public Health: S. 114 Order Consultation



Date: October 5, 2009

Richmond: Backgrounder

- Engineer's Evaluation states that the water supply is ground water under the influence of surface water.
- The supply has the associated risks of a ground water under the influence of surface water supply (parasitic, bacterial, viral) and inadequate treatment.
- The water for this system is collected into ring wells at the base of a gully after the water has flowed over animal waste and detritus which may be a source of the high nitrates.



Background Information

- Ground water under the influence of surface water supplies for this type of system must be designed to be capable of chemically assisted filtration and primary disinfection in accordance with the Ministry's "Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario."
- Several non-compliance issues indicating serious deficiencies with this water system, including sampling, source water protection, inadequate treatment and the reporting of adverse test results, were noted at the time of the initial inspection of the facility.
- These were serious infractions that could impact on the health of the residents.



Richmond: Chronology

- Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit issued a Drinking Water Advisory to this system on March 20, 2002 due to high nitrates
- In spring 2002, a Provincial Officer's Order (P233003) was issued by the Ministry of the Environment to the owners of the Richmond Water System to maintain a chlorine residual of 0.2. mg/L of free chlorine as per O. Reg. 459/00



Richmond: Chronology

- February of 2007 - Richmond Water Supply was first inspected under the SDWA as a result of an adverse water quality incident (AWQI) that occurred in the fall of 2006. The inspection report contained many required actions with timelines which were not met.
- May 16, 2007 - the Ministry and the Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health participated in a joint meeting to discuss area drinking water issues. At this time, the Manager of Public Health Protection for the Health Unit presented information about the Richmond community water system and the Health Unit and MOE discussed next steps.



Richmond: Chronology

- August 22, 2007 - Drinking Water Advisory to all system users was reissued by the Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health
- August 30, 2007 - Ministry and the local Health Unit attended an information session at the Richmond United Church
- September 21, 2007 - Ministry staff held discussions with the Manager of Health Protection at the local health unit. The local health unit was advised that a Provincial Officer's Order would be issued and if unsuccessful in obtaining regulatory compliance in key areas, the Ministry would consider alternate approaches such as ordering the Municipality of Bayham to take over the operation of the drinking water supply.



Richmond: Chronology

- October 1, 2007 - Ministry staff ordered the owner of the Richmond Community Water System to:
 - update the drinking-water system registration information to reflect pertinent changes to the profile and provide emergency contact information;
 - Provide the required minimum level of treatment as supported by the statement of a Professional Engineer;
 - Ensure that all operators and trained persons possess the required Limited Surface Water certification;
 - Ensure that no one other than a certified operator or water quality analyst conducts tests; and
 - Complete all microbiological and chemical sampling as required by legislation.



Richmond: Chronology

- October 9, 2007, the Municipality of Bayham confirmed that they were hired to operate the Richmond Communal Drinking Water System
- S.114 Director's Order would require the Township to assume responsibility for the operations and maintenance of the Richmond Community Water Supply Drinking Water System in order to protect the health and welfare of the system users.

