



This factsheet is the second of a series intended to inform waterworks owners, managers and operators about provincial regulation of planning, building and operating a waterworks.

Waterworks regulated by Saskatchewan Environment that supply water intended or used for human consumption must meet stricter drinking water quality standards for turbidity, protozoa, virus and chemicals.

Some waterworks will need to undertake facility improvements or equipment upgrades or operating changes.

## Drinking Water Regulation in Saskatchewan Part 2

### Major Changes in Required Quality of Saskatchewan Drinking Water

On December 5<sup>th</sup> 2002 The Water Regulations 2002 came into effect. This legislation required that facilities regulated by Saskatchewan Environment (SE) supplying water intended or used for human consumption must meet stricter drinking water quality standards for turbidity, protozoa, virus and chemicals. The owners of facilities regulated by Saskatchewan Environment were previously informed of these new requirements, and this factsheet serves as a reminder that your regulated drinking water quality must meet these stricter standards. The Water Regulations 2002 call for phasing in the new standards over time as follows:

For waterworks serving less than 5,000 persons;

- new turbidity, protozoa and virus standards must be met by December 5<sup>th</sup> 2008
- new chemical standards must be met by December 5<sup>th</sup> 2010

For waterworks serving 5,000 or more persons;

- new turbidity, protozoa and virus standards must be met by December 5<sup>th</sup> 2006
- new chemical standards must be met by December 5<sup>th</sup> 2008

The new turbidity, protozoa and virus standards are applied to all regulated waterworks supplying water intended or used for human consumption. Maximum acceptable levels of drinking water turbidity vary based on the type of source water (either surface water or true groundwater), turbidity of the source water, type of treatment plant and other variables. Please refer to Section 33 in your copy of The Water Regulations 2002 for detailed information on the new turbidity, protozoa and virus standards. The Water Regulations 2002 is on the internet at <http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/environment/protection/water/e10-21r1.pdf> and is also available from the Environmental Project Officer assigned to your facility.

The new chemical standards are applied to all regulated waterworks supplying water intended or used for human consumption. Please refer to Section 34 in your copy of The Water Regulations 2002 for detailed information on the new chemical standards. Again, The Water Regulations 2002 is on the internet at <http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/environment/protection/water/e10-21r1.pdf> and is also available from the Environmental Project Officer assigned to your facility.

### How Will These Changes Impact Our Water Facilities?

Some waterworks will need to undertake facility improvements or equipment upgrades or operating changes to make drinking water that meets the new stricter turbidity, protozoa, virus and chemical standards. Designing and implementing these new improvements requires advance planning by the facility owner. Some waterworks that have completed recent upgrades will already be operating under the new turbidity, protozoa, virus and chemical standards.

### Why Are These Changes Being Implemented?

The primary reason for the stricter drinking water standards is to safeguard the health and safety of Saskatchewan's people. Water treatment technology advances allow new drinking water standards to be met.

### Do Very Small Facilities Need to Meet the New Quality Standards?

Yes, the requirement to meet the new standards applies to all waterworks regulated by SE that supply water intended or used for human consumption.

### We Are Just Getting Started – What Do We Do First?

First, determine if you do meet the new standards. Secondly, design and build infrastructure or undertake operational action needed to ensure you meet the standards. Professional assistance is available from Consulting Engineers to help determine if your facility will meet the new standards and what new infrastructure may be required.

