

# Potable Water Regulation: Regulatory Approach for Micro Waterworks Updates

## Background

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) regulates waterworks systems in Alberta under the [Potable Water Regulation \(PWR\)](#) of the [Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act](#) (EPEA) and the [Standards & Guidelines for Municipal Waterworks, Wastewater and Storm Drainage Systems](#) (Municipal Standard). The Municipal Standard requires municipal waterworks systems to have treatment process redundancies to ensure continuous production of safe drinking water for complex distribution systems and large populations. However, the requirements and financial cost of having these multiple redundant treatment poses significant challenges for much smaller micro waterworks systems which do not encounter similar situations.

## Proposed Change

Enable the implementation of a new approach to regulating micro waterworks, which includes:

- a standard specifically for micro waterworks systems
  - With the introduction of a new standard, these systems would still be designed and operated in a way that is protective of human health.
  - The draft **Standards for Micro Waterworks Systems** would include a more size and risk proportionate set of design, performance, operational, monitoring and reporting requirements for micro waterworks.
- a new code of practice
  - Those systems that are subject to this standard would be regulated consistently through a new code of practice.
  - Examples of a code of practice like that proposed include:
    - [Code of Practice for Waterworks Systems Using High Quality Groundwater](#)
    - [Code of Practice for a Waterworks System Consisting Solely of a Water Distribution System](#)

## Purpose of the Change

This standard would allow micro waterworks systems to be effective at providing safe drinking water and enable them to safeguard public health, while managing some of the treatment, financial and capacity challenges uniquely experienced by owners and operators of these systems as compared to municipal waterworks.

## Who is affected?

Micro Waterworks Systems, for the purpose of the new Standard, are considered to be waterworks systems that typically serve approximately 300 people or less, and would use pre-engineered, commercially available treatment units.

## How would waterworks be affected?

- Currently, all waterworks systems are required to comply with the Municipal Standard, regardless of size and population served.
- The proposed **Standards for Micro Waterworks Systems** would:
  - Require use of recognized third party certified equipment only, to ensure system quality and function.
  - Allow systems to be installed without professional engineer involvement.
  - Allow systems to use an alternative water supply when necessary instead of requiring continuous production (including equipment redundancy to manage for outages).
  - Allow treatment systems to be operated by operators with training specific to the equipment associated with these systems.

## Where can I learn more?

### For more information contact:

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