



For Immediate Release

RE: Beachburg and Haley Drinking Water System Adverse Sodium Levels

Whitewater Region, Ontario – March 12, 2024

The Township of Whitewater Region became aware of a letter, dated February 8, 2024, that was sent to all physicians from the Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU), on the morning of February 12, 2024, following its publishing on social media. The letter to physicians was to advise their patients suffering from hypertension, congestive heart disease or patients that are on a reduced sodium diet of the sodium level exceedances from the Beachburg and Haley Drinking Water Systems (DWS).

Recent water samples were taken in Haley and Beachburg DWS revealed a sodium level greater than 20 mg/L.

	January 9, 2024	January 16, 2024
Haley DWS	69.1 mg/L	65.5 mg/L
Beachburg DWS	27.4 mg/L	24.7 mg/L

The Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 Regulation 170/03 requires the owner of a drinking water system and the operating authority for the system ensure that at least one water sample is taken every 60 months and tested for sodium. Regulation 170/03 also requires operators of drinking water systems to report sodium levels above 20 mg/L and take corrective action as directed by the medical officer of health.

The Renfrew County District Health Unit was notified of both adverse water quality incidents (AWQI) on January 16, 2024 and was updated of the resolutions when the re-sample results were obtained January 19, 2024.

On March 8, 2024, The RCDHU communicated to the Township’s Drinking Water System operator, Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA), with the corrective action to notify users of the systems of the sample results. OCWA received confirmation from RCDHU on March 12, 2024 that posting notice of the results to social media and the Township’s website would satisfy the notification requirements.

The Medical Officer of Health has instructed OCWA to inform residents of the adverse sodium level that are connected to the Beachburg and Haley Drinking Water Systems of these test results and provide following advice:

Sodium is a naturally occurring element in ground water, the source water for the Haley and Beachburg DWS, and an essential dietary element. For individuals who suffer from hypertension, chronic kidney disease or congestive heart failure restricting the daily intake of sodium is essential in managing their condition. It is important to be aware that by drinking water from these systems, may increase your daily sodium intake. If you have any health concerns pertaining to your daily sodium intake, please discuss with your health care provider.

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