

## Drinking Water Quality and Compliance

### Town Short Form – A Template for Annual Notice to Consumers

(Note: This short form may be used for communities or waterworks serving a population of less than 5000).

#### Introduction

The Water Security Agency and the Ministry of Environment requires that at least once each year waterworks owners provide notification to consumers of the quality of water produced and supplied as well as information on the performance of the waterworks in submitting samples as required by a Minister's Order or Permit to Operate a waterworks. The following is a summary of the Town of Birch Hills water quality and sample submission compliance record for the calendar year 2025 time period. This report was completed on January 12, 2026 (*must be completed before June 30 each year on a calendar year-based reporting frequency*). Readers should refer to Water Security Agency's Municipal Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Guidelines, June 2015, EPB 502 for more information on minimum sample submission requirements and the meaning of type of sample. Permit requirements for specific waterworks may require more sampling than outlined in the department's monitoring guidelines. If consumers need more information on the nature and significance of specific water tests, for example, "what is the significance of Selenium in a water supply", more detailed information is available from: [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/index_e.html).

#### Water Quality Standards

##### Bacteriological Quality

Parameter/Location	Limit	Regular Samples Required	Regular Samples Submitted	# of Positive Regular Submitted (%)
Total Coliform	0 Organisms/100 mL	52	52	0%
E. coli	0 Organisms/100 mL	52	52	0%
Background Bacteria	Less than 200/100 mL			

##### Water Disinfection –

##### Chlorine Residual in Distribution System for Test Results Submitted with Bacteriological Samples

Parameter	Minimum Limit	Total Chlorine Residual Range	Free Chlorine Residual Range	# Tests Required	# Tests Submitted	# Adequate Chlorine (%)
Chlorine Residual	0.1 mg/L free OR 0.5 mg/L total	1.12 - 2.02	0.88 – 1.84	52	52	100%

##### Water Disinfection - Free Chlorine Residual for Water Entering Distribution System from Waterworks Records- From Water Treatment Plant Records

Parameter	Limit (mg/L)	Test Level Range	# Tests Performed	# Tests Not Meeting Requirements
Free Chlorine Residual	at least 0.1	0.91 – 1.90	365	0

A minimum of 0.1 milligrams per litre (mg/L) free chlorine residual is required for water entering the distribution system. Tests are normally performed on a daily basis by the waterworks operator and are to be recorded in operation records. This data includes the number of free chlorine residual tests performed, the overall range of free chlorine residual (highest and lowest recorded values) and the number of tests and percentage of results not meeting the minimum requirement of 0.1 mg/L free chlorine residual.

##### Turbidity – From Water Treatment Plant Records

Parameter	Limit # Tests (NTU)	Test Level Range	# Tests Not Meeting Requirements	Maximum Turbidity (NTU)	# Tests Required	# Tests Performed
Turbidity	.1	0.013 – 0.017	0	0.017	Continuous	Continuous

##### Chemical – Health Category

All waterworks serving less than 5000 persons are required to submit water samples for SE's Chemical Health category once every year. The Chemical Health category includes analysis for arsenic, barium, boron, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, lead, nitrate, selenium and uranium.



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The last sample for Chemical Health analysis was submitted on **May 28, 2025**. Sample results indicated that the provincial drinking water quality standards were not exceeded.

Parameter	Limit MAC(mg/L)	Limit IMAC (mg/L)	Sample Result(s)	# Samples Exceeding Limit	
Arsenic	0.010		<0.00010	0	* Results expressed as average values for communities or waterworks that fluoridate drinking water supplies or those with elevated concentrations of fluoride or nitrates.
Barium	1.0		0.00032	0	
Boron		5.0	0.030	0	
Bromate	0.01		NA	0	
Cadmium	0.005		<0.0000050	0	
Chlorate	1.0		NA	0	
Chlorite	1.0		NA	0	
Chromium	0.05		<0.00050	0	
Fluoride (avg*)	1.5		<0.020	0	
Lead	0.01		<0.000050	0	
Nitrate (avg.*)	45.0		0.054	0	
Selenium	0.01		<0.000050	0	
Uranium	0.02		<0.000010	0	

#### Chemical – Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)

Parameter	THMs Limit (mg/L)	Sample Result (average)	# Samples Required	# Samples Submitted
Trihalomethanes	0.1	0.00355	4 (1 every 3 months)	4
Haloacetic Acids	0.08	<0.005	4 (1 every 3 months)	4

*Note: Only water supplies derived from surface water or groundwater under the influence of surface water are required to monitor for THMs and HAAs.*

#### General Chemical

Parameter	Aesthetic Objectives * (mg/L)	Sample Results (average)	# Samples Required	# Samples Submitted
Alkalinity	500	21.3	1	1
Bicarbonate	No Objective	26.0	1	1
Calcium	No Objective	0.230	1	1
Carbonate	No Objective	<0.6	1	1
Chloride	250	2.04	1	1
Conductivity	No Objective	67.5	1	1
Hardness	800	0.76	1	1
Magnesium	200	0.0486	1	1
PH	No Objective	7.55	1	1
Sodium	300	10.3	1	1
Sulphate	500	<0.30	1	1
Total dissolved solids	1500	25.8	1	1

All waterworks serving less than 5000 persons are required to submit water samples for SE's General Chemical category once every year if a ground water source and once per year if a surface water or blended surface/groundwater source. The General Chemical category includes analysis for alkalinity, bicarbonate, calcium, carbonate, chloride, conductivity, hardness (as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), magnesium, sodium, sulphate and total dissolved solids.

The last sample for General Chemical analysis was required in and submitted on **May 28, 2025**. Sample results indicated that there were no exceedences of the provincial aesthetic objectives for the General Chemical category.

\*Objectives apply to certain characteristics of or substances found in water for human consumptive or hygienic use. The presence of these substances will affect the acceptance of water by consumers and/or interfere with the practice of supplying good quality water. Compliance with drinking water aesthetic objectives is not mandatory as these objectives are in the range where they do not constitute a health hazards. The aesthetic objectives for several parameters (including hardness as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , magnesium, sodium and total dissolved solids) consider regional differences in drinking water sources and quality.

**More information on water quality and sample submission performance may be obtained from:**  
Town of Birch Hills



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