



Environment and Labour

## PROCEDURE

## BOIL WATER ADVISORIES - POSTING ON WEBSITE

Approved by: Kim MacNeil

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Version Control: New Procedure

### Introduction

Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (NSEL) has been tracking boil water advisories since October 2000, when new regulations regarding public drinking water supplies came into effect. Information regarding the number of boil water advisories is routinely requested and disclosed. To improve access to information that may assist Nova Scotians and other interested parties make informed decisions about their health, the boil water advisory list will be posted on the website in accordance with the following procedures.

### Municipal Public Drinking Water Supplies

All boil water advisories for "approved water supplies" are to be posted on the department's website. An "approved water supply" means a public drinking water supply that holds a municipal water works approval issued under the *Activities Designation Regulations* made pursuant to the *Environment Act* for the collection, production, treatment, storage, supply or distribution of potable, piped water to the public. Small stand-alone supplies that serve a municipal building (e.g. well serving a community centre) are typically "registered" not "approved" supplies. These small stand-alone supplies should be captured per the registered public drinking water supply section.

Complete the EIMAS Water Report Form within 24 hours of issuing the boil water advisory and forward to the boil water advisory circulation list for your district and head office. Please include the word "municipal" with the facility name on the EIMAS Water Report Form to facilitate the posting of these boils on the website.

As EIMAS Water Report Forms may be disclosed to the public, pertinent information should be easy to identify and background information should be limited to what is necessary to make the situation clear.

Note to Web Posting Coordinator - All municipal boil water advisories are to be posted on the website.

#### Registered Public Drinking Water Supplies

All boil water advisories for "registered water supplies" are to be posted on the department's website. A "registered water supply" means a public drinking water supply that holds a registration with NSEL under the *Water and Wastewater Facilities and Public Drinking Water Supplies Regulations* made pursuant to the *Environment Act* for the collection, production, treatment, storage, supply or distribution of potable, piped water to the public. Examples of registered water supplies include: trailer parks, apartment buildings, rural developments, schools, day cares, nursing homes, industrial or commercial buildings, eating establishments, hotels, motels, recreational facilities, campgrounds, etc. that are not connected to a municipal water works.

Complete the EIMAS Water Report Form within 24 hours of issuing the boil water advisory and forward to the boil water advisory circulation list for your district and head office.

As EIMAS Water Report Forms may be disclosed to the public, pertinent information should be easy to identify and background information should be limited to what is necessary to make the situation clear.

Note to Web Posting Coordinator - All registered boil water advisories are to be posted on the website.

#### Removal of Boil Water Advisory

Once the boil water advisory is removed (municipal and registered), update the EIMAS Water Report Form within 24 hours of the removal and forward the updated EIMAS Water Report Form to the boil water advisory circulation list for your district and head office.

Note to Web Posting Coordinator - Post removal date on website and maintain on list for one week. Delete removals from list after one week.

Audit Requirements

All boil water advisory removals for registered public drinking water supplies are to be inspected and sampled for bacteriological water quality within 30 days of the removal date. Based on the sample results, the following procedures will apply.

1. If the audit sample indicates the presence of total coliform or *E.coli*, re-issue the boil water advisory and proceed directly to require the owner prepare and submit an action plan for supplementary corrective action in accordance with the *Procedure: Public Drinking Water Supplies - Operational Bulletin for Addressing Water Quality Exceedences*. Complete the EIMAS Water Report Form within 24 hours of re-issuing the boil water advisory and forward to the boil water advisory circulation list for your district and head office. Note audit sample results in the comments section. Continue with normal follow-up per the *Procedure: Registered Public Drinking Water Supplies - Operational Bulletin for Addressing Water Quality Exceedences*.

Note for Web Posting Coordinator - This boil water advisory is to be posted on the website per audit report.

2. If the audit sample indicates the absence of total coliform and *E.coli*, document results and close the inspection file.

Dated:

June 15/07

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Dated:

June 18/07

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