APPROVAL OF FOOD PREMISES

Connected to a Water System on a Long Term/Seasonal Public Notification

The following guideline is for use by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) when a food premises application is received and the proposed facility is connected to a community water system operating under a **long-term or seasonal Water Quality Advisory or Boil Water Notice**.

The Food Premises Regulation requires a facility to be connected to a source of potable water and approval should be withheld for new facilities until the water supplied to the facility is considered potable.

Approved point-of-entry treatment (PoE) systems can be considered as an option to render the water potable. Prior to consideration of a point-of-entry treatment system, consultation should be conducted with the EHO responsible for the system supplying water to the facility to determine if there is any reason why they would not recommend a permit be issued for a food facility on this water system.

Legislation

EHOs reviewing an application, which proposes a water treatment system in order to render the water potable, should consider the following:

> *Water supplies for human consumption, food preparation or sanitation and other domestic uses must be free of pathogenic micro-organisms, their indicators and any drinking water health hazards. In addition, the water should have acceptable colour, odour and taste.*

The DWPA definition must also be considered:

> ***"potable water" means water provided by a domestic water system that:***
>
> ***(a) meets the standards prescribed by regulation, and***
>
> ***(b) is safe to drink and fit for domestic purposes without further treatment.***

Surface or GARP Sources

Water supply systems using surface water or groundwater at risk of containing pathogens must be disinfected in accordance with the provincial *Drinking Water Treatment Objectives (Microbiological) for Surface Water Suppliers in BC* and the *Drinking Water Treatment Objectives (Microbiological) for Ground Water Supplies in BC*.

Review

As part of the food premises application, the operator must submit sufficient information for the EHO to determine if the proposed treatment will provide potable water for human consumption, food preparation and sanitation purposes.

This includes:

- Water source type (ground, surface water).
- Data on chemical, physical and bacteriological source water quality (such as UV transmittance, turbidity).
- Schematic layout and specifications of equipment used, for example, size and capacity of filters, type and make of ultraviolet disinfection systems, size and type of water pipes, etc.
- Description of where the equipment is located on the property and in the building.
- Quality assurance plan including a proposal for monitoring and record keeping, emergency response plan, and maintenance checklist.

A Public Health Engineer can assist in determining if the proposed treatment will provide adequate disinfection/ treatment. A construction permit is not required for treatment installation and a water permit is not issued for the facility.

Approval

If approval to operate is granted, place a Condition of Permit on the food premises permit. For food stores or food processors, a letter should be written outlining requirements of operation by the EHO. Include:

- Water treatment is a requirement of operation (specify treatment required).
- Limitations the EHO places on the use of the water in food preparation or type of food preparation.
- Maintenance and operations records for the water treatment system be available for review by the EHO.
- Sampling to be conducted on the water system to assist in monitoring.

A water requisition should be created once the facility is approved for operation. The sample water results should be entered into the data system and linked to the facility.

Note: During emergency events such as flooding or fires the approved point-of-use or point-of-entry water treatment device being used to treat water may not be satisfactory to eliminate the water quality concern. The EHO may have to restrict operation in these situations. Refer to HP-FS 9011.

Resources:

Drinking Water Treatment Objectives (Microbiological) for Surface Water Supplies in BC

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/surfacewater-treatment-objectives.pdf

Drinking Water Treatment Objectives (Microbiological) for Ground Water Supplies in BC.

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/documents/ground_water_treatment_objectives_nov2015.pdf