

June 2006

## Technical Update

### For Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems under O. Reg. 170/03

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Following public consultation, on June 5, 2006, O. Reg. 170/03 was amended. These technical amendments are designed to safeguard the quality of Ontario's drinking water, while making the regulation more workable and affordable for owners and operators of municipal and non-municipal year round residential drinking water systems and systems serving designated facilities. They also add clarity and flexibility to the testing and operational regimes set out in O. Reg. 170/03. For full details, please see:

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/030170\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/030170_e.htm)

## Municipal Drinking Water Systems under O. Reg. 170/03

The Drinking Water Systems Regulation (O. Reg. 170/03), made under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, came into effect June 1, 2003 and was most recently amended on June 5, 2006. O. Reg. 170/03 now sets out requirements for two categories of municipal residential drinking water systems as well as for non-municipal year round residential systems and all other systems that serve designated facilities. The specific requirements for each category of system differ depending on the size and population served situation. O. Reg. 170/03 no longer applies to municipal non-residential systems that do not serve designated facilities. These systems are now regulated under O. Reg. 252/05 (Non-Residential and Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential Systems that Do Not Serve Designated Facilities).

- **Large Municipal Residential:** A municipal drinking water system that serves a major residential development of 101 or more private residences.
- **Small Municipal Residential:** A municipal drinking water system that serves a major residential development of 100 or less private residences.
- **Municipal Non-residential Systems Serving Designated Facilities:** A designated facility provides water to a susceptible population such as children, the elderly, or those with medical conditions (see "definitions" below) – Municipal non-residential systems serving designated facilities should refer to the guide titled *A Guide for Owners and Operators of Non-Residential and Seasonal Residential Drinking Water Systems That Serve Designated Facilities* for a description of the requirements that apply to the system.

**Note:** Under O. Reg. 172/03, the definition of a municipal residential system includes any drinking water system that serves a major residential development and is established after June 1, 2003 under an agreement with a municipality pursuant to Part VI of the *Planning Act*, if the agreement provides that the ownership of the system may be transferred to a municipality or a municipal service board or a corporation established under the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

## Definitions

**Major Residential Development** (defined in the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*): Major residential development means a development of six or more private residences on one or more properties.

**Private Residence** (meaning prescribed O. Reg. 171/03 made under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*): For the purposes of the definition of “private residence” in subsection 2 (1) of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, a private residence is a dwelling place occupied for an extended period of time by the same persons, if,

- the residents have a reasonable expectation of privacy,
- food preparation, personal hygiene, and sleeping accommodations are not communal in nature, and
- any use of the dwelling place by a resident for a home occupation, trade, business, profession or craft is secondary to the use of the dwelling place as a residence and does not use more than 25 per cent of the indoor floor area.

**Designated Facility** (defined in O. Reg. 170/03) means:

- a children and youth care facility,
- a children’s camp,
- a delivery agent care facility,
- a health care facility,
- a school or private school,
- a social care facility, or
- a university, a college of applied arts and technology, or an institution with authority to grant degrees.

**For more information, contact:**

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