Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

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Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

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Ontario

April 15, 2026

The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington
111 Erie Street
Leamington, ON
N8H 2Z9

Attention: Mr. Nelson Carvalho, Supervisor of Water Works
Ms. Shannon Belleau, Manager of Environmental Services

Re: Leamington Distribution System - Union Ds, Inspection Report (DWS# 220004992)
Inspection conducted on February 26, 2026

Dear Ms. Belleau and Mr. Carvalho,

Enclosed is the report on the 2025-26 inspection of the Leamington Drinking Water System (DWS# 220004992) and the corresponding Inspection Rating Report (IRR) and Risk Methodology document.

Section 19 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Standard of Care) creates a number of obligations for individuals who exercise decision-making authority over municipal drinking water systems. Please be aware that the Ministry has encouraged such individuals, particularly municipal councillors, to take steps to be better informed about the drinking water systems over which they have decision-making authority. These steps could include asking for a copy of this inspection report and a review of its findings. Further information about Section 19 can be found in "Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A Guide for Members of Municipal Councils" on the Drinking Water Ontario website at https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/taking-care-your-drinking-water-guide-members-municipal-councils.

The IRR is a summarized quantitative measure of the drinking water system's annual inspection and is published in the Ministry's Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual Report. The Risk Methodology document describes the risk rating methodology which has been applied to the findings of the Ministry's municipal residential drinking water system inspection results.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the rating, please contact Mark Smith, Water Compliance Supervisor, at 519-317-8116.

Yours truly,

M. Morgan

Meghan Morgan
Water Compliance Officer
London District Office
Meghan.Morgan@ontario.ca

cc. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Essex Region Conservation Authority

Ontario

LEAMINGTON DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (UNION DS)
Physical Address: , ,

INSPECTION REPORT

System Number:	220004992
Entity:	CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEAMINGTON
Inspection Start Date:	February 24, 2026
Site Inspection Date:	February 26, 2026
Inspection End Date:	April 10, 2026
Inspected By:	Meghan Morgan
Badge #:	1315

M. Morgan

_____
(signature)

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This unannounced, focused inspection was conducted to confirm compliance with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) legislation and conformance with ministry drinking water policies and guidelines.

Scope

The ministry utilizes a comprehensive, multi-barrier approach in the inspection of water systems that focuses on the source, treatment, and distribution components as well as management and the operation of the system.

The inspection of the drinking water system included both the physical inspection of the component parts of the system listed in section 4 "Systems Components" of the report and the review of data and documents associated with the operation of the drinking water system during the review period.

This drinking water system is subject to the legislative requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 (SDWA) and regulations made therein, including Ontario Regulation 170/03, "Drinking Water Systems" (O. Reg. 170/03). This inspection has been conducted pursuant to Section 81 of the SDWA.

This inspection report does not suggest that all applicable legislation and regulations were evaluated. It remains the responsibility of the owner to ensure compliance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

Facility Contacts and Dates

The drinking water system is owned and operated by The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington. Certified operators with the Municipality of Leamington perform system maintenance and repairs, certified operators with OCWA perform regular sampling.

The system serves an estimated population of 31,000 and is categorized as a Large Municipal Residential System. Information reviewed for this inspection covered the time period of January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

The Water Compliance Officer (WCO) met with Shannon Belleau, Manager of Environmental Services with the Municipality of Leamington and Nelson Carvalho, Supervisor of Water Works Services with the Municipality of Leamington. The required inspection documentation was provided by the two contacts listed above, in addition to Sandra Reaume, Process and Compliance Technician with OCWA for the Union Water Supply System.

Systems/Components

The Leamington Distribution System - Union DS only manages the distribution of water from the donor system. Primary and secondary disinfection is undertaken by another regulated drinking water system which provides treated water to this drinking water system.

Treated water is received from The Union Water Supply System (UWSS) (DWS#210000853). The Leamington 1500 m3 elevated tank, and the 6800 m3 Albuna tower (located in Kingsville at the municipal boundary) are owned by Union Water Supply System Inc. and are not included within the scope of this inspection. The two elevated storage structures maintain distribution system pressure and are controlled and monitored from the UWSS. No outstations were visited as part of this inspection.

The Leamington Distribution System - Union DS has an interconnect to the Stoney Point Drinking Water System in the Town of Lakeshore at Hwy. 77 and County Road 8. This valve is closed at all times and is only opened in an emergency. There is an interconnect to the Kingsville system at County Rd 14, this valve is closed and only opened during an emergency. There are also two interconnects to the Wheatley system along the East boundary of the Leamington distribution system.

The UWSS is inspected separately from this drinking water system.

Permissions/Approvals

This drinking water system was subject to specific conditions contained within the following permissions and/or approvals (please note this list is not exhaustive) at the time of the inspection in addition to the requirements of the SDWA and its regulations:

Municipal Drinking Water Licence (MDWL) #033-201, Issue #6, dated June 27, 2024
Drinking Water Works Permit (DWWP) #033-201, Issue #6, dated June 27, 2024

NON-COMPLIANCE

This should not be construed as a confirmation of full compliance with all potential applicable legal requirements. These inspection findings are limited to the components and/or activities that were assessed, and the legislative framework(s) that were applied. It remains the responsibility of the owner to ensure compliance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions related to this inspection, please contact the signed Provincial Officer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This should not be construed as a confirmation of full conformance with all potential applicable BMPs. These inspection findings are limited to the components and/or activities that were assessed, and the legislative framework(s) that were applied. It remains the responsibility of the owner to ensure compliance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions related to this inspection, please contact the signed Provincial Officer.

INSPECTION DETAILS

This section includes all questions that were assessed during the inspection.

Ministry Program: DRINKING WATER | **Regulated Activity:** DW Municipal Residential

Question ID	DWMR1020001	**Question Type**	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | 31 | (1);

Question:
Were Form 1 documents prepared as required?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Form 1 documents were prepared as required.

The owner/operating authority completed three (3) "Form 1 – Record of Watermains Authorized as a Future Alteration" documents for the addition or replacement of watermains on portions of Sherk Street, Margaret Street, Audrey Street Jane Street and Claire Street, new watermain on portions of John Street with replacement of water services and one new fire hydrant, and new watermain on Maxon Avenue, Sherman Street, James Street and Wigle Street along with replacement of 43 water services and nine new fire hydrants.

Question ID	DWMR1025001	**Question Type**	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | 31 | (1);

Question:
Were all parts of the drinking water system that came in contact with drinking water disinfected in accordance with a procedure listed in Schedule B of the Drinking Water Works Permit?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
All parts of the drinking water system were disinfected as required.

As part of this inspection the owner/operating authority provided disinfection documents associated with watermain maintenance/repair work completed during this inspection period. According to documentation submitted, the owner/operating authority ensured that all approved disinfection procedures were correctly and accurately followed and documented following any activities that may have led to contamination.

Question ID	DWMR1033001	**Question Type**	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 7-2 | (3); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 7-2 | (4);

Question:
Was secondary disinfectant residual tested as required for the large municipal residential distribution system?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Secondary disinfectant residual was tested as required.

Ontario Regulation 170/03, Schedule 7-2 requires the owner/operating authority of a large municipal residential system that provides secondary disinfection to ensure that at least seven distribution samples are taken each week and tested immediately for free chlorine residual. At least four of the samples must be taken on one day of the week, and at least three samples must be taken on a second day of the week, at least 48 hours after the samples taken on the first day.

Records reviewed for this inspection period indicate the owner/operating authority collected a minimum of four (4) grab samples at the beginning of the week and a minimum of three (3) grab samples at least 48hrs after the first set of samples collected.

Question ID	DWMR1099001	**Question Type**	Information

Legislative Requirement(s):
Not Applicable

Question:
Do records show that water provided by the drinking water system met the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Records showed that not all water sample results met the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

AWQI #168892 -- One test result of 3cfu/100ml total coliforms was reported when taking routine bacteriological samples in the distribution system on July 7, 2025. All other samples taken the same day had a test result of zero total coliforms. The free chlorine residual at the time of sampling was satisfactory. A precautionary Boil Water Advisory (BWA) was issued by the Medical Officer of Health, notices were hand delivered to 50 residences.

Corrective actions were taken in accordance with Ontario Regulation 170/03 and the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit which included flushing and taking two sets of resamples upstream, downstream and at original AWQI location on July 9, 2025 and July 10, 2025, these samples were tested for microbiological parameters. Resample results for July 9 samples came back with test results of zero total coliforms, however; resample results for July 10 samples came back with test results of 1cfu/100ml total coliforms from the upstream hydrant sample point resulting in AWQI #168937.

Resamples taken July 11, 2025 for AWQI #168937 came back with test results of 1cfu/100ml total coliforms from the same upstream hydrant sample point resulting in AWQI #168959.

Two sets of resamples taken upstream, downstream and at original AWQI location on July 12, 2025 and July 13, 2025 came back with test results of zero total coliforms.

The precautionary BWA was lifted and notices were hand-delivered door-to-door on July 14, 2025.

Question ID	DWMR1081001	Question Type	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 10-2 | (1); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 10-2 | (2); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 10-2 | (3);

Question:
Were distribution microbiological sampling requirements prescribed by Schedule 10-2 of O. Reg. 170/03 for large municipal residential systems met?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Distribution microbiological sampling requirements were met.

Ontario Regulation 170/03 - Schedule 10-2 stipulates that distribution water samples are required to be collected for testing every week within the frequency prescribed by the Regulation. Based on the service population the owner/operating authority is required to take a minimum of 39 distribution samples every month. Every distribution system sample must be analyzed for: E.coli; total coliforms; and 25% of the required samples must be tested for general bacteria population expressed as colony counts on a heterotrophic plate count. A review of the records for the inspection period indicate the number of microbiological samples collected ranged from 40-50 per month.

Question ID	DWMR1096001	Question Type	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 6-3 | (1);

Question:
Did records confirm that chlorine residual tests were conducted at the same time and location as microbiological samples?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Records confirmed that chlorine residual tests were conducted as required.

Question ID	DWMR1086001	Question Type	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6.1 | (1); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6.1 | (2); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6.1 | (3); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6.1 | (4); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6.1 | (5); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6.1 | (6);

Question:
Were haloacetic acid sampling requirements prescribed by Schedule 13-6 of O. Reg. 170/03 met?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Haloacetic acid sampling requirements were met.

Haloacetic Acid samples are required to be collected and tested each calendar quarter from the distribution system in accordance with Schedule 13-6.1 of O.Reg. 170/03 with the frequency stipulated in Schedule 6-1.1(4), and shall be taken from a point in the drinking water system's distribution system that is likely to have an elevated potential for the formation of haloacetic acids. A review of sample records for the inspection period indicated that this requirement has been met and the Rolling Annual Average (RAA) of the test results was below the standard. Samples were taken on the following dates: January 6, 2025, April 1, 2025, July 7, 2025 and October 6, 2025.

Question ID	DWMR1087001	**Question Type**	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6 | (1); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6 | (2); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6 | (3); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6 | (4); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6 | (5); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 13-6 | (6);

Question:
Were trihalomethane sampling requirements prescribed by Schedule 13-6 of O. Reg. 170/03 met?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Trihalomethane sampling requirements were met.

Trihalomethane samples are required to be collected and tested each calendar quarter from the distribution system in accordance with Schedule 13-6 of O.Reg. 170/03 with the frequency stipulated in Schedule 6-1.1(4), and shall be taken from a point in the drinking water system's distribution system that is likely to have an elevated potential for the formation of trihalomethanes. A review of sample records for the inspection period indicated that this requirement has been met and the Rolling Annual Average (RAA) of the test results was below the standard. Samples were taken on the following dates: January 6, 2025, April 1, 2025, July 7, 2025 and October 6, 2025.

Question ID	DWMR1104001	**Question Type**	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 16-6 | (1); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 16-6 | (2); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 16-6 | (3); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 16-6 | (3.1); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 16-6 | (3.2); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 16-6 | (4); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 16-6 | (5); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 16-6 | (6);

Question:
Were immediate verbal notification requirements for adverse water quality incidents met?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Immediate verbal notification requirements for adverse water quality incidents were met.

MECP Spills Action Centre (SAC) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) received verbal notification on July 8, 2025. Verbal notification was completed immediately after the lab results were obtained by the operating authority.

Question ID	DWMR1101001	Question Type	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-1; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-10 | (1); SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-11; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-12; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-13; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-14; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-2; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-3; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-4; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-5; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-6; SDWA | O. Reg. 170/03 | 17-9;

Question:
For large municipal residential systems, were corrective actions, including any steps directed by the Medical Officer of Health, taken to address adverse conditions?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Corrective actions were taken to address adverse conditions.

Resampling was performed as required for a microbiological adverse water quality incident.

Question ID	DWMR1114001	Question Type	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | 31 | (1);

Question:
Did the owner have evidence that, when required, all legal owners associated with the drinking water system were notified of the requirements of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence and Drinking Water Works Permit?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
The owner had evidence that the required notifications were made.

The owner provided copies of letters provided to legal owners associated with the drinking water system (ie. Owners of water infrastructure within unassumed municipal subdivisions) which notify the owners of the requirements of the MDWL and the DWWP.

Question ID	DWMR1045001	Question Type	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | 31 | (1);

Question:
Did the owner update the document describing the distribution components within 12 months

of completion of alterations to the system in accordance with the Drinking Water Works Permit?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
The owner had up-to-date documents describing the distribution components.

The operating authority advised that they update the mapping, kilometers of watermain and number of hydrants in the operational plan.

Question ID	DWMR1054001	**Question Type**	Information

Legislative Requirement(s):
Not Applicable

Question:
Was an agreement in place that satisfied the requirements prescribed by subsection 5(4) of O. Reg. 170/03?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
The agreement in place did not satisfy the requirements prescribed by subsection 5(4) of O. Reg. 170/03.

The owner is in the process of drafting an agreement to satisfy the requirements.

Question ID	DWMR1060001	**Question Type**	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | 31 | (1);

Question:
Did the operations and maintenance manual(s) meet the requirements of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
The operations and maintenance manual(s) met the requirements of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence.

Municipal Drinking Water Licence #033-101 – Issue #6, Section 16 of Schedule B outlines the minimum requirements for the Operation and Maintenance Manual. A review of the Operation and Maintenance Manual and numerous Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) submitted by the operating authority indicate that the manual and SOPs contain the required information including but not limited to; contingency plans, procedures to deal with emergencies and procedures for dealing with complaints associated with the drinking water system.

Question ID	DWMR1071001	**Question Type**	BMP

Legislative Requirement(s):
Not Applicable

Question:
Did the owner provide security measures to protect components of the drinking water system?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
The owner provided security measures to protect components of the drinking water system.

The owner advised that sample stations and autoflushers are kept locked, with only certified operators having access to the keys.

Question ID	DWMR1073001	Question Type	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 128/04 | 23 | (1);

Question:
Was an overall responsible operator designated for all subsystems which comprise the drinking water system?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
An overall responsible operator was designated for all subsystem.

Ontario Regulation 128/04 s.23(1) states that the owner or operating authority of a municipal residential subsystem shall designate as overall responsible operator of the subsystem an operator who holds a certificate for that type of subsystem and that is of the same class as or higher than the class of that subsystem. The owner/operating authority currently employ several operators qualified to act as the overall responsible operator for the drinking water system to ensure sufficient coverage in the event of an absence.

Question ID	DWMR1074001	Question Type	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 128/04 | 25 | (1);

Question:
Were operators-in-charge designated for all subsystems which comprise the drinking water system?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
Operators-in-charge were designated for all subsystems.

Question ID	DWMR1075001	Question Type	Legislative

Legislative Requirement(s):
SDWA | O. Reg. 128/04 | 22;

Question:
Were all operators certified as required?

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):
All operators were certified as required.

Stakeholder References

Key Reference and Guidance Material for Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems

Many useful materials are available to help you operate your drinking water system. Below is a list of key materials owners and operators of municipal residential drinking water systems frequently use.

To access these materials online click on their titles in the table below or use your web browser to search for their titles. Contact the Ministry if you need assistance or have questions at 1-866-793-2588 or waterforms@ontario.ca.

For more information on Ontario's drinking water visit www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater



PUBLICATION TITLE	PUBLICATION NUMBER
FORMS: Drinking Water System Profile Information Laboratory Services Notification Adverse Test Result Notification	 012-2149E 012-2148E 012-4444E
Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A Guide for Members of Municipal Councils	Website
Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario	Website
Strategies for Minimizing the Disinfection Products Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids	Website
Filtration Processes Technical Bulletin	Website
Ultraviolet Disinfection Technical Bulletin	Website
Guide for Applying for Drinking Water Works Permit Amendments, & License Amendments	Website
Certification Guide for Operators and Water Quality Analysts	Website
Guide to Drinking Water Operator Training Requirements	9802E
Community Sampling and Testing for Lead: Standard and Reduced Sampling and Eligibility for Exemption	Website
Drinking Water System Contact List	7128E01
Ontario's Drinking Water Quality Management Standard - Pocket Guide	Website
Watermain Disinfection Procedure	Website
List of Licensed Laboratories	Website

Ontario

Principaux guides et documents de référence sur les réseaux résidentiels municipaux d'eau potable

De nombreux documents utiles peuvent vous aider à exploiter votre réseau d'eau potable. Vous trouverez ci-après une liste de documents que les propriétaires et exploitants de réseaux résidentiels municipaux d'eau potable utilisent fréquemment. Pour accéder à ces documents en ligne, cliquez sur leur titre dans le tableau ci-dessous ou faites une recherche à l'aide de votre navigateur Web. Communiquez avec le ministère au 1-866-793-2588, ou encore à waterforms@ontario.ca si vous avez des questions ou besoin d'aide.



Pour plus de renseignements sur l'eau potable en Ontario, consultez le site www.ontario.ca/eaupotable

TITRE DE LA PUBLICATION	NUMÉRO DE PUBLICATION
Renseignements sur le profil du réseau d'eau potable Avis de demande de services de laboratoire Avis de résultats d'analyse insatisfaisants et de règlement des problèmes	012-2149F 012-2148F 012-4444F
Prendre soin de votre eau potable - Un guide destiné aux membres des conseils municipaux	Site Web
Marche à suivre pour désinfecter l'eau portable en Ontario	Site Web
Stratégies pour minimiser les trihalométhanes et les acides haloacétiques de sous-produits de désinfection	Site Web
Filtration Processes Technical Bulletin (en anglais seulement)	Site Web
Ultraviolet Disinfection Technical Bulletin (en anglais seulement)	Site Web
Guide de présentation d'une demande de modification du permis d'aménagement de station de production d'eau potable	Site Web
Guide sur l'accréditation des exploitants de réseaux d'eau potable et des analystes de la qualité de l'eau de réseaux d'eau potable	Site Web
Guide sur les exigences relatives à la formation des exploitants de réseaux d'eau potable	9802F
Échantillonnage et analyse du plomb dans les collectivités : échantillonnage normalisé ou réduit et admissibilité à l'exemption	Site Web
Liste des personnes-ressources du réseau d'eau potable	Site Web
L'eau potable en Ontario - Norme de gestion de la qualité - Guide de poche	Site Web
Procédure de désinfection des conduites principales	Site Web
Laboratoires autorisés	Site Web

Ontario

Inspection Rating Record and Inspection Risk Methodology

APPLICATION OF THE RISK METHODOLOGY USED FOR MEASURING MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL DRINKING WATER SYSTEM INSPECTION RESULTS



The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has a rigorous and comprehensive inspection program for municipal residential drinking water systems (MRDWS). Its objective is to determine the compliance of MRDWS with requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act and associated regulations. It is the responsibility of the municipal residential drinking water system owner to ensure their drinking water systems are in compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

This document describes the risk rating methodology, which has been applied to the findings of the Ministry's MRDWS inspection results since fiscal year 2008-09. The primary goals of this assessment are to encourage ongoing improvement of these systems and to establish a way to measure this progress.

MOE reviews the risk rating methodology every three years.

The Ministry's Municipal Residential Drinking Water Inspection Protocol contains up to 14 inspection modules and consists of approximately 120 regulatory questions. Those protocol questions are also linked to definitive guidance that ministry inspectors use when conducting MRDWS inspections.

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The questions address a wide range of regulatory issues, from administrative procedures to drinking water quality monitoring. The inspection protocol also contains a number of non-regulatory questions.

A team of drinking water specialists in the ministry assessed each of the inspection protocol regulatory questions to determine the risk (not complying with the regulation) to the delivery of safe drinking water. This assessment was based on established provincial risk assessment principles, with each question receiving a risk rating referred to as the Question Risk Rating. Based on the number of areas where a system is deemed to be non-compliant during the inspection, and the significance of these areas to administrative, environmental, and health consequences, a risk-based inspection rating is calculated by the ministry for each drinking water system.

It is important to be aware that an inspection rating less than 100 per cent does not mean the drinking water from the system is unsafe. It shows areas where a system's operation can improve. The ministry works with owners and operators of systems to make sure they know what they need to do to achieve full compliance.

The inspection rating reflects the inspection results of the specific drinking water system for the reporting year. Since the methodology is applied consistently over a period of years, it serves as a comparative measure both provincially and in relation to the individual system. Both the drinking water system and the public are able to track the performance over time, which encourages continuous improvement and allows systems to identify specific areas requiring attention.

The ministry's annual inspection program is an important aspect of our drinking water safety net. The ministry and its partners share a common commitment to excellence and we continue to work toward the goal of 100 per cent regulatory compliance.

Determining Potential to Compromise the Delivery of Safe Water

The risk management approach used for MRDWS is aligned with the Government of Ontario's Risk Management Framework. Risk management is a systematic approach to identifying potential hazards, understanding the likelihood and consequences of the hazards, and taking steps to reduce their risk if necessary and as appropriate.

The Risk Management Framework provides a formula to be used in the determination of risk:

RISK = LIKELIHOOD × CONSEQUENCE
(of the consequence)

Every regulatory question in the inspection protocol possesses a likelihood value (L) for an assigned consequence value (C) as described in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.

TABLE 1:

Likelihood of Consequence Occurring	Likelihood Value
0% - 0.99% (Possible but Highly Unlikely)	L = 0
1 – 10% (Unlikely)	L = 1
11 – 49% (Possible)	L = 2
50 – 89% (Likely)	L = 3
90 – 100% (Almost Certain)	L = 4

TABLE 2:

Consequence	Consequence Value
Medium Administrative Consequence	C = 1
Major Administrative Consequence	C = 2
Minor Environmental Consequence	C = 3
Minor Health Consequence	C = 4
Medium Environmental Consequence	C = 5
Major Environmental Consequence	C = 6
Medium Health Consequence	C = 7
Major Health Consequence	C = 8

The consequence values (0 through 8) are selected to align with other risk-based programs and projects currently under development or in use within the ministry as outlined in **Table 2**.

The Question Risk Rating for each regulatory inspection question is derived from an evaluation of every identified consequence and its corresponding likelihood of occurrence:

- All levels of consequence are evaluated for their potential to occur
- Greatest of all the combinations is selected.

The Question Risk Rating quantifies the risk of non-compliance of each question relative to the others. Questions with higher values are those with a potentially more significant impact on drinking water safety and a higher likelihood of occurrence. The highest possible value would be 32 (4×8) and the lowest would be 0 (0×1).

Table 3 presents a sample question showing the risk rating determination process.

TABLE 3:

Does the Operator in Charge ensure that the equipment and processes are monitored, inspected and evaluated?							
Risk = Likelihood × Consequence							
C=1	C=2	C=3	C=4	C=5	C=6	C=7	C=8
Medium Administrative Consequence	**Major** Administrative Consequence	**Minor** Environmental Consequence	**Minor** Health Consequence	**Medium** Environmental Consequence	**Major** Environmental Consequence	**Medium** Health Consequence	**Major** Health Consequence
L=4 (Almost Certain)	L=1 (Unlikely	L=2 (Possible)	L=3 (Likely)	L=3 (Likely)	L=1 (Unlikely	L=3 (Likely)	L=2 (Possible)
R=4	**R=2**	**R=6**	**R=12**	**R=15**	**R=6**	**R=21**	**R=16**

Application of the Methodology to Inspection Results

Based on the results of a MRDWS inspection, an overall inspection risk rating is calculated. During an inspection, inspectors answer the questions related to regulatory compliance and input their "yes", "no" or "not applicable" responses into the Ministry's Laboratory and Waterworks Inspection System (LWIS) database. A "no" response indicates non-compliance. The maximum number of regulatory questions asked by an inspector varies by: system (i.e., distribution, stand-alone); type of inspection (i.e., focused, detailed); and source type (i.e., groundwater, surface water).

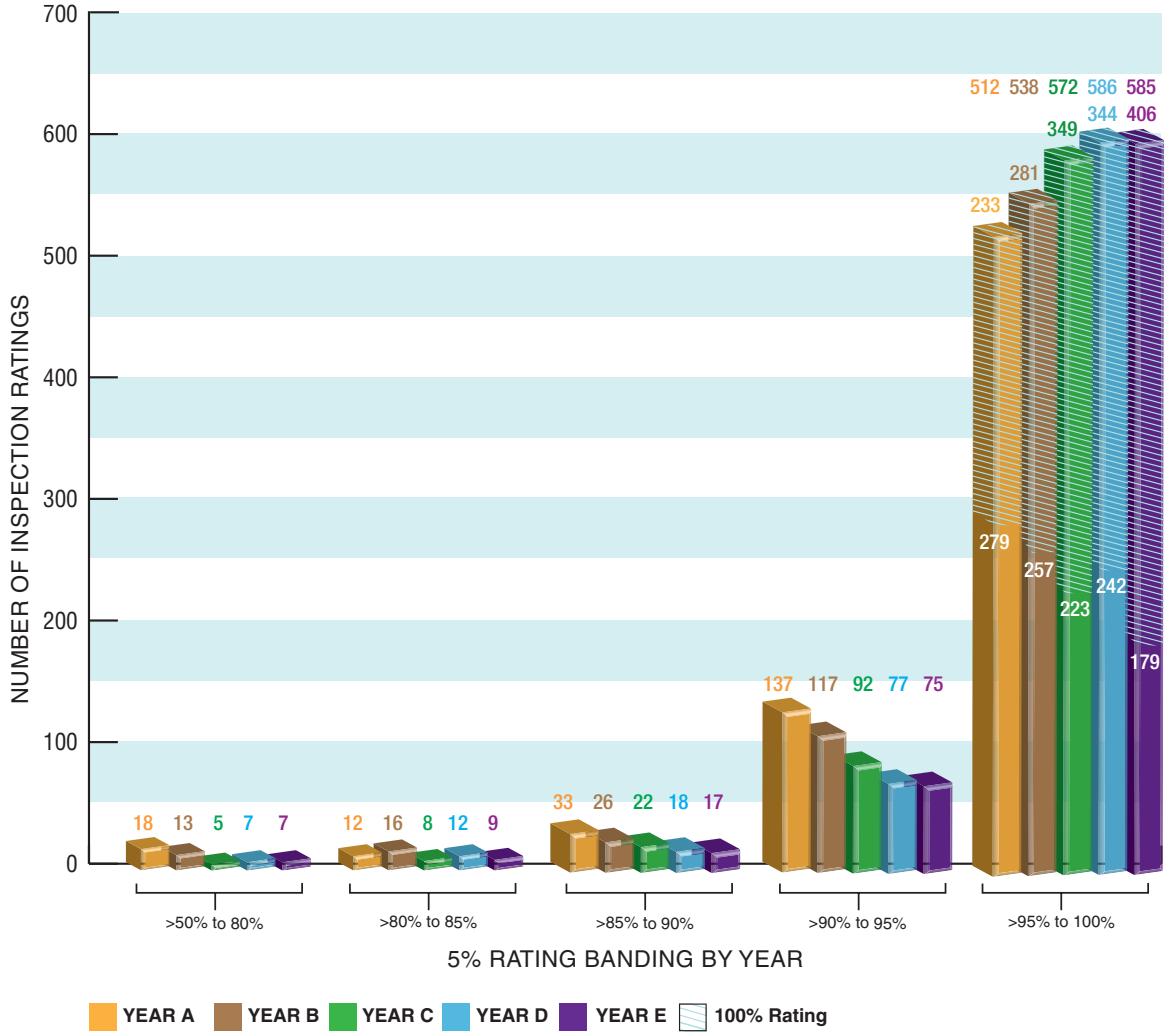
The risk ratings of all non-compliant answers are summed and divided by the sum of the risk ratings of all questions asked (maximum question rating). The resulting inspection risk rating (as a percentage) is subtracted from 100 per cent to arrive at the final inspection rating.

Application of the Methodology for Public Reporting

The individual MRDWS Total Inspection Ratings are published with the ministry's Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual Report.

Figure 1 presents the distribution of MRDWS ratings for a sample of annual inspections. Individual drinking water systems can compare against all the other inspected facilities over a period of inspection years.

Figure 1: Year Over Year Distribution of MRDWS Ratings



Reporting Results to MRDWS Owners/Operators

A summary of inspection findings for each system is generated in the form of an Inspection Rating Record (IRR). The findings are grouped into the 14 possible modules of the inspection protocol, which would provide the system owner/operator with information on the areas where they need to improve. The 14 modules are:

1. Source
2. Permit to Take Water
3. Capacity Assessment
4. Treatment Processes
5. Process Wastewater
6. Distribution System
7. Operations Manuals
8. Logbooks
9. Contingency and Emergency Planning
10. Consumer Relations
11. Certification and Training
12. Water Quality Monitoring
13. Reporting, Notification and Corrective Actions
14. Other Inspection Findings

For further information, please visit **www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater**

DWS Name:	LEAMINGTON DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (UNION DS)
DWS Number:	220004992
DWS Owner:	CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEAMINGTON
Municipal Location:	LEAMINGTON
Regulation:	O.REG. 170/03
DWS Category:	DW Municipal Residential
Type of Inspection:	Focused
Compliance Assessment Start Date:	Feb-24-2026
Ministry Office:	Windsor District Office

Maximum Risk Rating: 192

Inspection Module	Non Compliance Risk (X out of Y)
Certification and Training	0/28
Distribution System	0/4
Operations Manuals	0/14
Reporting & Corrective Actions	0/49
Treatment Processes	0/46
Water Quality Monitoring	0/51
Overall - Calculated	**0/192**

Inspection Risk Rating:	**0.00%**

Final Inspection Rating:	**100.00%**

DWS Name:	LEAMINGTON DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (UNION DS)
DWS Number:	220004992
DWS Owner Name:	CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEAMINGTON
Municipal Location:	LEAMINGTON
Regulation:	O.REG. 170/03
DWS Category:	DW Municipal Residential
Type of Inspection:	Focused
Compliance Assessment Start Date:	Feb-24-2026
Ministry Office:	Windsor District Office

All legislative requirements were met. No detailed rating scores.

Maximum Question Rating: 192

Inspection Risk Rating:	**0.00%**

FINAL INSPECTION RATING:	**100.00%**