

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

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

Barrie District

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March 11, 2026

The Corporation of the Township of Ramara
2297 Highway 12, Post Office Box Delivery 130, Brechin, ON, L0K 1B0

Attention: Gayle Jackson, Chief Administrative Officer

**Re: Somerset / Knob Hill Distribution System, DWS No. 260046137
2025/26 Inspection Report No. 1-1434201557**

Enclosed is the report on the 2025/26 inspection of the Somerset / Knob Hill Distribution System and the corresponding Inspection Rating Report (IRR) and Risk Methodology document.

The primary focus of this inspection was to confirm compliance with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks legislation and control documents, as well as conformance with Ministry drinking water related policies for the inspection period. The Ministry is implementing a rigorous and comprehensive approach in the inspection of water systems that focuses on the source, treatment, and distribution components as well as water system management practices.


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 Sheri Broeckel, Water Compliance Supervisor, at 705-716-3712.

I would be pleased to answer any questions or provide additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Peter Vreugdenhil
Water Compliance Officer
Barrie District Office
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Tel: (705) 727-8769
Email: peter.vreugdenhil@ontario.ca

CC Stewart Hurd – Senior Operations Manager, Ontario Clean Water Agency
Natalie Lamiot, Process Compliance Technician, Ontario Clean Water Agency (Kawartha)
Medical Officer of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Severn Sound Environmental Association
Barrie District Office File, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



SOMERSET/ KNOB HILL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Physical Address: 3398 QUENTON ST,
RAMARA, ON L0K 1B0

INSPECTION REPORT

System Number: 260046137
Entity: CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA
Inspection Start Date: January 20, 2026
Site Inspection Date: January 20, 2026
Inspection End Date: February 25, 2026
Inspected By: Peter Vreugdenhil
Badge #: 924



(signature)

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This announced, 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 by The Corporation Of The Township Of Ramara and operated by the Ontario Clean Water Agency (Kawartha).

The drinking water system is categorized as a Small Municipal Residential stand-alone distribution system. The distribution system serves an estimated population of 46 people. Information reviewed for this inspection covered the period of April 17, 2024, to January 20, 2026.

Systems/Components

The drinking water is supplied by The Corporation of the Township of Severn from the Washago Drinking Water System (waterworks #220005161). The Washago Drinking Water System is a surface water treatment plant which provides coagulation, flocculation, filtration and disinfection.

The Somerset/Knob Hill Distribution System consists of approximately 700 m of 50 mm diameter watermains, including a watermain that conveys treated water across the Severn River. There are three dedicated sample stations, a blow-off, and an air vent installed in the distribution system. There are no water storage structures or rechlorination facilities within the distribution 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 #147-107 Issue #4 (Licence) and Drinking Water Works Permit 147-207 Issue #3 (Permit) were issued to The Corporation Of The Township Of Ramara on February 4, 2022. The Licence expires February 3, 2027, and an application to renew the Licence must be made before August 4, 2026.

Background and Compliance

The Somerset/Knob Hill Distribution System was last inspected by the Ministry on April 17, 2024. There was no non-compliance with legislative requirements or actions required identified during the April 17, 2024, inspection.

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	DWMR1018001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA 31 (1);			
Question: Did the owner ensure that equipment was installed in accordance with Schedule A and Schedule C of the Drinking Water Works Permit?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): The owner ensured that equipment was installed as required. Drinking Water Works Permit 147-207 Issue number 3 contains a description of the length and diameter of the installed watermains. There are also three dedicated sample stations, a blow-off, and air vent installed in the distribution system. A flowmeter and bypass flowmeter are housed in a metering chamber and used to measure the treated water flows to the Somerset/Knob Hill water distribution system from The Corporation of the Township of Severn. There is not a Schedule C in the Drinking Water Works Permit.			

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. Section 2.3 of Schedule B of Drinking Water Works Permit 147-207 (Issue #3) prescribes that all parts of the drinking water system in contact with drinking water that are added, modified, replaced, extended shall be disinfected in accordance with a procedure approved by the Director or in accordance with the applicable provisions of the following documents: a) Until August 3, 2022, the ministry's Watermain Disinfection Procedure, dated November 2015. As of August 4, 2022, the ministry's Watermain Disinfection Procedure, dated August 1, 2020. b) Subject to condition 2.3.2, any updated version of the ministry's Watermain Disinfection Procedure; c) AWWA C652 – Standard for Disinfection of Water-Storage Facilities;			

- d) AWWA C653 – Standard for Disinfection of Water Treatment Plants; and
- e) AWWA C654 – Standard for Disinfection of Wells.

The operating authority has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for disinfection of drinking water system components. The SOP prescribes that the required standards are to be followed as per the Drinking Water Works Permit. In accordance with Condition 2.3, Schedule B of the Permit, the operating authority adheres to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) disinfection standards when watermains and other drinking water system appurtenances are installed, replaced or repaired. Prior to any repaired watermain being placed back into service following disinfection, the operating authority has ensured microbiological sampling was conducted in accordance with the applicable AWWA standards.

Question ID	DWMR1024001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 1-2 (2);			
Question: Did records confirm that the water treatment equipment which provides chlorination or chloramination for secondary disinfection was operated as required?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Records confirmed that the water treatment equipment which provides chlorination or chloramination for secondary disinfection was operated as required. During the inspection review period the free chlorine residuals measured in the Somerset/Knob Hill distribution system ranged between 0.89 mg/L and 1.87 mg/L.			

Question ID	DWMR1034001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 7-2 (5); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 7-2 (6);			
Question: Was secondary disinfectant residual tested as required for the small municipal residential distribution system?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Secondary disinfectant residual was tested as required. Subsection 7-2 (5) of Schedule 7 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 requires that the owner of a small municipal residential system that provides secondary disinfection and the operating authority for the system shall ensure that at least two distribution samples are taken each week in accordance with subsection (6) and are tested immediately for free chlorine residual, if the system provides chlorination and does not provide chloramination. Subsection (6) states that at least one of the distribution samples referred to in subsection (5) must be taken at least 48 hours after, and during the same week as, one of the other distribution samples referred to in subsection (5).			

During the inspection review period a free chlorine residual was measured in the Somerset/ Knob Hill Distribution System on at least two days each week, with at least 48 hours between samples as required.

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 all water sample results met the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The standards for drinking water quality in Ontario are prescribed in Ontario Regulation 169/03 "Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards" (ODWQS). Background and supporting information for each of the standards can be found in the Ministry's 'Technical Support Document for Ontario Drinking Water Standards, Objectives and Guidelines'. Results of sampling conducted during this inspection review period met the microbiological and chemical requirements of the ODWQS.			

Question ID	DWMR1082001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 11-2 (1); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 11-2 (2); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 11-2 (6);			
Question: Were distribution microbiological sampling requirements prescribed by Schedule 11-2 of O. Reg. 170/03 for small municipal residential systems met?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Distribution microbiological sampling requirements were met. Subsection 11-2 of Schedule 10 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 prescribes that the owner of a drinking water system and the operating authority for the system shall ensure that at least one distribution sample is taken every two weeks, if the system provides treatment equipment in accordance with Schedule 1 or 2 and the equipment is operated in accordance with that Schedule. The owner of the drinking water system and the operating authority for the system shall ensure that each of the samples taken is tested for Escherichia coli, total coliforms and general bacteria population expressed as colony counts on heterotrophic plate count (HPC). Records provided for review period indicate that the owner and operating authority are collecting a distribution sample every two weeks in order to comply with the regulatory requirement. Each of those samples were tested for E. Coli., total coliforms, and HPC.			

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. Subsection 6-3(1) of Schedule 6 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 prescribes that if a microbiological sample required by the regulation is taken, that another sample must be taken at the same time from the same location and tested immediately for free chlorine residual. Records provided by the owner and reviewed during the course of this inspection indicate that the owner ensured that a free chlorine residual was taken at the time of all microbiological samples. Operational staff recorded the free available chlorine residual tests directly on the Laboratory Sample Submission / Chain of Custody form at the same time that microbiological samples were obtained. The chlorine residuals associated with microbiological sample were then included by the laboratory on the analytical report associated with results of the microbiological test.			

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. Section 13-6.1 of Schedule 13 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 prescribes the owner and the operating authority to ensure that at least one distribution sample is taken every 3 months from a point in the drinking water system's distribution system, or in plumbing that is connected to the drinking water system, that is likely to have an elevated potential for the formation of haloacetic acids (HAA), and tested for haloacetic acids. Section 6-1.1 of Schedule 6 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 prescribes that these samples be taken at least 60 days, and not more than 120 days: after a sample was taken for that purpose in the previous three-month period. Haloacetic acid sampling is typically conducted from the sampling stations installed at locations of minimal distance from the treatment facility likely to have an elevated potential for the formation of haloacetic acids. The standard of 0.80 mg/L for HAA as a reportable limit came into effect on January 1, 2020.			

Haloacetic acid testing is being completed in the distribution system as required on a quarterly basis. A review of the results indicate that there are no exceedances of the running annual average.

Subsection 13-6.1(4) of Schedule 13 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 states that despite subsection (a) and subject to subsection (5), if the following conditions have been met after samples have been taken and tested under subsections (1) and (2) in at least 12 consecutive calendar quarters, a drinking water system that is a small municipal residential system may cease sampling and testing for eight consecutive calendar quarters:

1. No single test result obtained in the previous 12 consecutive calendar quarters indicated that the concentration of haloacetic acids was greater than 0.040 milligrams per litre.
2. The drinking water system's raw water supply is the same source of raw water supply that was used in the calendar quarters referred to in paragraph 1.
3. No alterations that may increase levels of haloacetic acids in the drinking water system have been made to the treatment equipment used in the calendar quarters referred to in paragraph 1.

The Somerset/Knob Hill Distribution system has obtained more than 12 consecutive calendar quarter haloacetic acid test results with no values greater than 0.040 mg/L. The source water has not changed, nor have there been alterations that may increase the levels of haloacetic acids in the drinking water system. As such the Somerset/Knob Hill Distribution system is eligible to cease sampling and testing for haloacetic acids for eight consecutive calendar quarters.

Question ID	DWMR1087001	Question Type	Legislative
<p>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);</p>			
<p>Question: Were trihalomethane sampling requirements prescribed by Schedule 13-6 of O. Reg. 170/03 met?</p>			
<p>Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Trihalomethane sampling requirements were met.</p> <p>Section 13-6 of Schedule 13 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 prescribes the owner and the operating authority to ensure that at least one distribution sample is taken every 3 months from a point in the drinking water system's distribution system, or in plumbing that is connected to the drinking water system, that is likely to have an elevated potential for the formation of Trihalomethanes (THMs), and tested for THMs. Section 6-1.1 of Schedule 6 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 prescribes that these samples be taken at least 60 days, and not more than 120 days, after a sample was taken for that purpose in the previous three-month period.</p> <p>Trihalomethane testing is being completed in the distribution system as required on a quarterly basis. A review of the results indicate that there are no exceedances of the running annual average. The sample locations are indicative of a long retention time in the distribution</p>			

system.

Question ID	DWMR1113001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 10.1 (3);			
Question: Were changes to the system registration information provided to the ministry within ten (10) days of the change?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Changes to the system registration information were provided as required. In accordance with Section 10.1, Ontario Regulation 170/03, the owner recently submitted the appropriate forms to advise the Ministry of contact information changes.			

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. Section 16.2 of Schedule B of Municipal Drinking Water Licence 147-107 Issue Number 4 requires that the operations and maintenance manual or manuals, shall include at a minimum: 16.2.1 The requirements of this licence and associated procedures; 16.2.2 The requirements of the drinking water works permit for the drinking water system; 16.2.3 A description of the processes used to maintain secondary disinfection within the drinking water system; 16.2.4 Procedures for monitoring and recording the in-process parameters necessary for the control of any treatment subsystem and for assessing the performance of the drinking water system; 16.2.5 Procedures for the operation and maintenance of monitoring equipment; 16.2.6 Contingency plans and procedures for the provision of adequate equipment and material to deal with emergencies, upset conditions and equipment breakdown; 16.2.7 Procedures for dealing with complaints related to the drinking water system, including the recording of the nature of the complaint and any investigation and corrective action taken in respect of the complaint; 16.3 Procedures necessary for the operation and maintenance of any alterations to the drinking water system shall be incorporated into the operations and maintenance manual or manuals prior to those alterations coming into operation.			

The operations and maintenance manual and the separate set of contingency plans for the drinking water system appear to address all of these topics sufficiently, providing the utility operators enough information to effectively operate the drinking water system. The operations and maintenance manuals, as well as the Contingency and Emergency Plan meet the requirements of the Licence and Permit for the facility. The manuals are kept up to date and revised as changes occur.

Question ID	DWMR1062001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 7-5;			
Question: Did records or other record keeping mechanisms confirm that operational testing not performed by continuous monitoring equipment was done by a certified operator, water quality analyst, or person who met the requirements of Schedule 7-5 of O. Reg. 170/03?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Records or other record keeping mechanisms confirmed that operational testing not performed by continuous monitoring equipment was done by a certified operator, water quality analyst, or person who met the requirements of Schedule 7-5 of O. Reg. 170/03. The logbooks of the drinking water system identify that only the certified utility operators are the individuals that are performing the operational tests throughout the 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 three dedicated sampling stations are kept locked. Periodic visual checks are done of the watermain running through the Severn River. The operating authority has developed a standard operating procedure to be followed in the event of a security breach.			

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.

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 128/04 (Certification of Drinking Water System Operators and Water Quality Analysts) made under the SDWA, the Somerset/ Knob Hill Distribution System is classified as a Water Distribution Class 1 subsystem. At the time of this inspection, an individual possessing a Class III Water Treatment subsystem certificate and a Class III Water Distribution and Supply subsystem certificate has been designated to act in the capacity of Overall Responsible Operator (ORO). The operator acting as the ORO is indicated in the electronic logbook on each day that entries are made.

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. The Somerset/ Knob Hill Distribution System is classified as a Water Distribution Class 1 subsystem. The Operators-in-charge (OIC) are designated for the subsystem and have appropriate certification. The Operator acting as the OIC is indicated in the electronic logbook on each day that entries are made.			

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. Section 22 ('Owner or operating authority responsibility') of Ontario Regulation 128/04 ('Certification of Drinking Water Systems Operators and Water Quality Analysts') prescribes that the owner of a drinking water system and the operating authority for the system shall ensure that adjustments to the water treatment equipment are carried out only by certified operators or emergency substitute operators. Operator certification records provided by the operating authority verify that all operators were certified as required, in accordance with the requirements of section 22 of Ontario Regulation 128/04.			

Question ID	DWMR1076001	Question Type	Legislative
<p>Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 1-2 (2);</p>			
<p>Question: Were adjustments to the treatment equipment only made by certified operators?</p>			
<p>Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Adjustments to the treatment equipment were only made by certified operators.</p> <p>Section 1-2(2)(5) of Schedule 1 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 prescribes that the owner of a drinking water system and the operating authority for the system shall ensure that adjustments to the water treatment equipment are carried out only by certified operators or emergency substitute operators.</p> <p>Operational records of the inspection review period verify that adjustments to the water treatment equipment were carried out only by certified operators, in accordance with the requirements of section 1-2(2) (5) of Schedule 1 of Ontario Regulation 170/03.</p>			

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - Inspection Summary Rating Record (Reporting Year - 2025-26)

DWS Name: SOMERSET/ KNOB HILL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
DWS Number: 260046137
DWS Owner: CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA
Municipal Location: RAMARA

Regulation: O.REG. 170/03
DWS Category: DW Municipal Residential
Type of Inspection: Focused
Compliance Assessment Start Date: Jan-20-2026
Ministry Office: Barrie District Office

Maximum Risk Rating: 202

Inspection Module	Non Compliance Risk (X out of Y)
Certification and Training	0/42
Logbooks	0/14
Operations Manuals	0/14
Reporting & Corrective Actions	0/4
Treatment Processes	0/77
Water Quality Monitoring	0/51
Overall - Calculated	0/202

Inspection Risk Rating:	0.00%
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Final Inspection Rating:	100.00%
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Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - Detailed Inspection Rating Record (Reporting Year - 2025-26)

DWS Name:	SOMERSET/ KNOB HILL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
DWS Number:	260046137
DWS Owner Name:	CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA
Municipal Location:	RAMARA
Regulation:	O.REG. 170/03
DWS Category:	DW Municipal Residential
Type of Inspection:	Focused
Compliance Assessment Start Date:	Jan-20-2026
Ministry Office:	Barrie District Office

All legislative requirements were met. No detailed rating scores.

Maximum Question Rating: 202

Inspection Risk Rating:	0.00%
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FINAL INSPECTION RATING:	100.00%
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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 15 inspection modules consisting of approximately 100 regulatory questions. Those protocol questions are also linked to definitive guidance that ministry inspectors use when conducting MRDWS inspections.

ontario.ca/drinkingwater

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:

$$\text{RISK} = \text{LIKELIHOOD} \times \text{CONSEQUENCE}$$

(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).

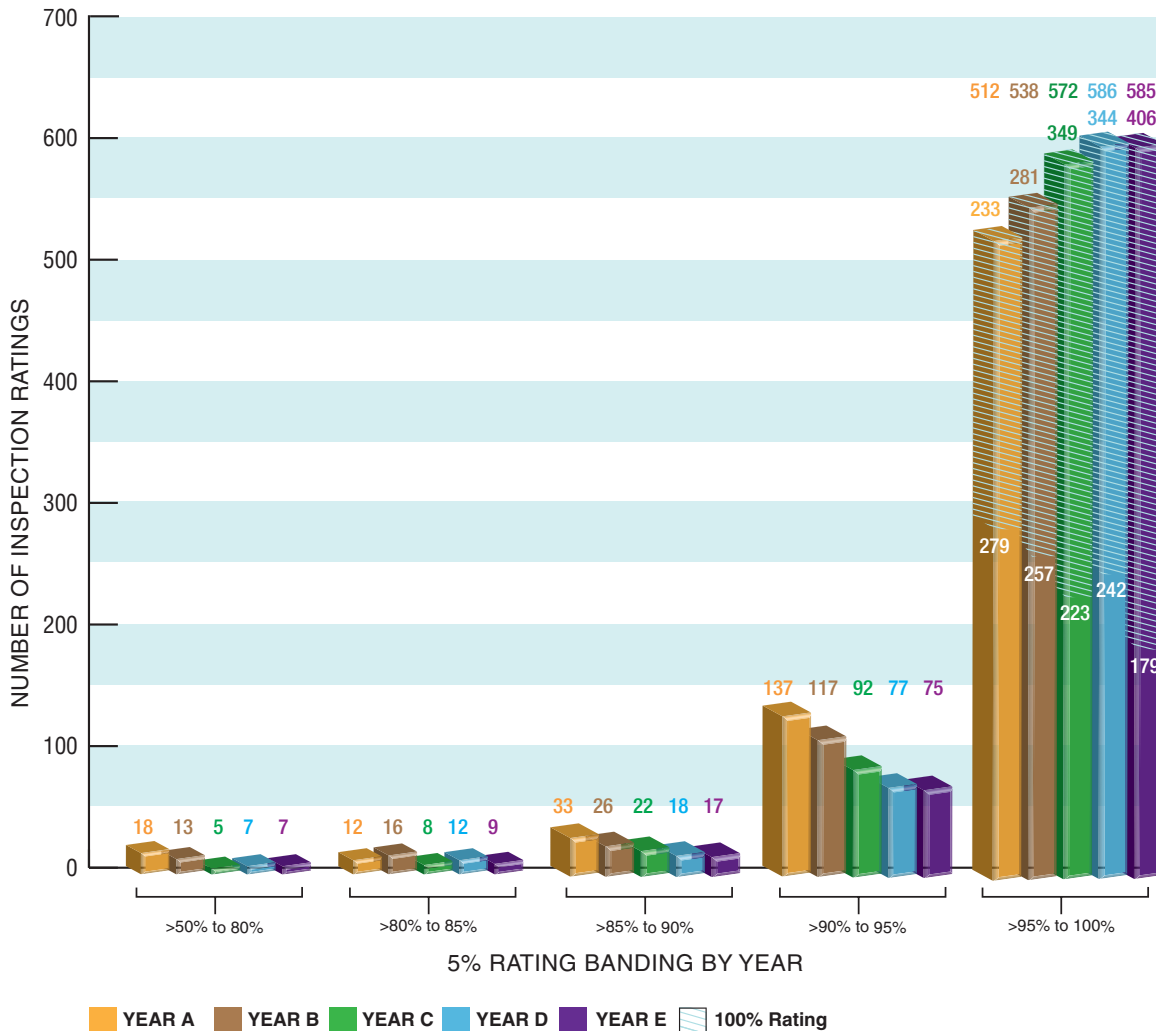
The risk ratings of all non-compliant answers are summed and divided by the sum of the risk ratings of all questions asked (maximum question rating). The resulting inspection risk rating (as a percentage) is subtracted from 100 per cent to arrive at the final inspection rating.

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 15 possible modules of the inspection protocol,

which would provide the system owner/operator with information on the areas where they need to improve. The 15 modules are:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Source | 5. Treatment Process Monitoring | 9. Logbooks | 13. Water Quality Monitoring |
| 2. Permit to Take Water | 6. Process Wastewater | 10. Contingency and Emergency Planning | 14. Reporting, Notification and Corrective Actions |
| 3. Capacity Assessment | 7. Distribution System | 11. Consumer Relations | 15. Other Inspection Findings |
| 4. Treatment Processes | 8. Operations Manuals | 12. Certification and Training | |

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