

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Intake Operation and Monitoring Plan – Spring Freshet

While current and past monitoring indicates treated water met all existing health objectives set by Health Canada in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, the Municipality has implemented a modified method of operating and monitoring the Fort Chipewyan water treatment plant in response to Imperial’s release of industrial wastewater from the Kearl oil sands site. These measures were developed with input from drinking water specialists at Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) and are undergoing constant revision as new information becomes available.

The monitoring and operations strategies are split into two distinct periods dependent on whether the Lake Athabasca is under the influence of spring freshet. The information outlined below details the plan for freshet conditions.

Water Treatment Plant Operation

Routine operation of the water treatment plant involves pumping raw water from the intake on Lake Athabasca to the raw water storage ponds at the water treatment plant as depicted in Diagram 1 below. Each year the Municipality fills the raw water storage ponds to their operational capacity and closes the intake for as long as possible to limit the effects of spring freshet on the water treatment process.

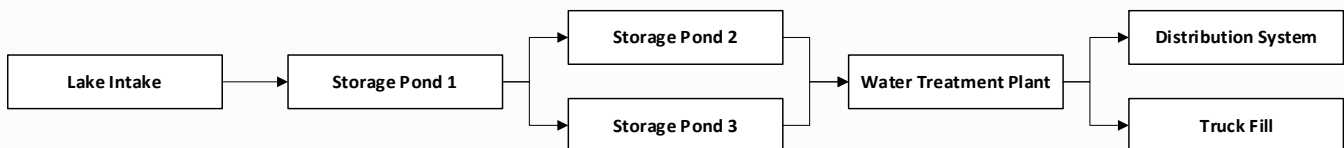


Diagram 1 Routine operating configuration for the Fort Chipewyan water treatment plant.

This freshet season, the Municipality will be implementing a batch-test-release method to ensure all raw water from Lake Athabasca undergoes enhanced testing prior to entering the Water Treatment Plant as depicted in Diagram 2. This will be accomplished by installing temporary isolation plugs in the pipes connecting Storage Pond 1 to Storage Ponds 2 and 3. Raw water pumped from the Lake Intake into Storage Pond 1 will be detained until the desired operational level has been met, at which point samples will be collected from the pond and sent to an accredited laboratory for analysis. Once the sample results are received and reviewed, raw water from Storage Pond 1 will be transferred into Storage Ponds 2 and 3 using temporary on-land pumps to begin the treatment process. After Storage Ponds 2 and 3 have been filled, Storage Pond 1 will be refilled with the isolations in place, and the process repeated until the freshet period has passed.



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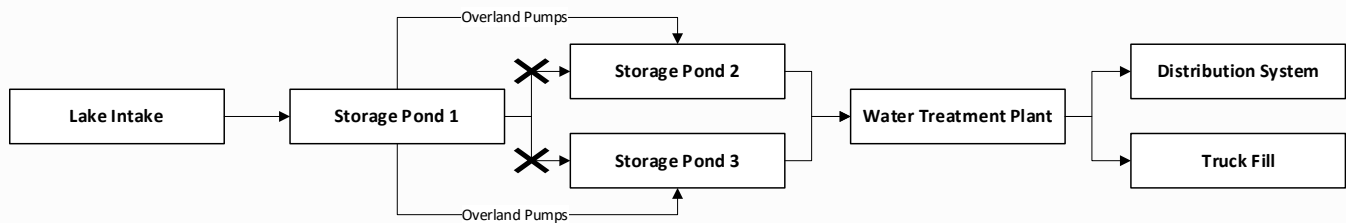


Diagram 2 Temporary operating configuration for the Fort Chipewyan waterworks system during the spring freshet period.

Additional treated water samples collected as part of the enhanced monitoring effort will continue to be collected from the water treatment plant at a location representative of water entering the distribution system and truck fill. This will continue each week in addition to routine monitoring prescribed by the provincial operating approval.

Sample Analysis

The raw and treated water samples collected as part of the enhanced monitoring effort will continue to be sent to a third-party ISO 17025 accredited laboratory (ALS) for analysis with emergency turnaround time. The list of parameters undergoing analysis includes: BTEX, F1-F4 hydrocarbon fractions, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, naphthenic acids, total sulphate, total sulphide, total metals, dissolved metals, and routine and physical chemistry.

Storage Pond 1 Sample Acceptance Criteria

The results of each monitoring event in Storage Pond 1 will be reviewed with AEPAs drinking water specialists using the health objectives outlined in Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality as the primary screening criteria. Parameters without listed health objectives will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with AEPAs.

Distribution of Results

The Municipality will continue to share the result of all enhanced monitoring efforts on the municipal website at rmwb.ca/water.

Post Freshet Monitoring and Operation Plans

The monitoring and operations strategy for the post-freshet period is actively being developed and will reflect additional data gathered during the freshet monitoring period. Additional information will be shared once available.

