

COMMUNITY NOTICE



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Fort McKay Water Treatment Plant Update: June 26

Tap water in Fort McKay remains within provincial guidelines and can continue to be used normally.

We are aware that tap water may still appear discoloured or cloudy and are continuing to flush the distribution system today to help remove any remaining discolouration in the water. While the pipes are being flushed, the appearance of your tap water may temporarily fluctuate. If you are experiencing discoloured or cloudy water, please run your cold taps for 15 minutes. If this does not resolve the issue, please contact Pulse and municipal staff will assist.

Ongoing water monitoring and testing

Water quality is rigorously monitored and regularly tested. The discolouration is an aesthetic issue with recent tests confirming the tap water being produced meets provincial guidelines. These tests also identify fluctuating and, at times, elevated levels of naturally occurring metals such as iron and manganese in the source water entering the plant.

Additional enhanced water quality testing and a comprehensive monitoring plan are being implemented and will continue to be in place until further notice.

Why does the tap water appear cloudy?

Currently, there is unseasonably high levels of sediment in the source water from Ells River, which is used in the treatment process. These sediments carry with them naturally occurring organics and metals. The spring runoff and the large amounts of precipitation this year are contributing to the poor source water quality.

Elevated levels of organic material in the source water require ongoing adjustments to the treatment process to ensure water quality is maintained. This can be hard on the equipment at the plant as it needs to filter out more organic material during the treatment process.

There was a mechanical failure on a piece of equipment (powered activated carbon dosing system) that is used to help remove naturally occurring organic material in the source water. While this equipment has been fixed and is fully back in service, the current conditions of the source water are still causing challenges fully restoring the regular appearance of tap water.



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Further updates will be shared as they become available. Find more information about the water treatment plant and ongoing work on the [RMWB's Water Maintenance and Service Updates webpage](#).

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, toll free at 1-800-973-9663 or at rmwb.ca/pulse.

