



## For Immediate Release

**RE: Cobden Drinking Water System – Coloured Water**

**Whitewater Region, Ontario – August 21, 2021**

On Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, The Township of Whitewater Region received information from residents on the Cobden Drinking Water System (DWS) of coloured water in the distribution system.

The Township's water operator Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) was notified Friday evening and investigated. The investigation determined that the coloured water was caused by an excess of potassium permanganate (KMnO<sub>4</sub>) present in the DWS. Potassium permanganate is an oxidant that is used in the water treatment process to control odor, taste, colour, iron, and manganese.

As of 03:30am Saturday morning, OCWA staff flushed the entire distribution system until no coloured water was detected.

OCWA has reported this incident to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Spills Action Center (SAC) and the Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU). Under the direction of the RCDHU, OCWA is submitting a sample to the lab this morning to be tested for Potassium and Manganese.

Coloured water is an aesthetic issue but is safe to drink and does not pose a health concern. If residents experience coloured water from their faucets, they are advised to run water until water turns clear. However, if water doesn't turn clear residents are encouraged to contact the Steve Hodson, Environmental Services Superintendent at (613) 635-1517.

-30-

Additional information:

Lane Cleroux, Manager of Public Works  
613-646-2282, Ext. 128  
lcleroux@whitewaterregion.ca