



For Immediate Release

RE: Cobden Drinking Water System – Coloured Water

Whitewater Region, Ontario – September 22, 2025

On Sunday evening, September 21, 2025, the Township of Whitewater Region received reports from residents on the Cobden Drinking Water System (DWS) of pink-tinted water in the distribution system.

The Township's water operator, the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA), was notified and immediately responded. The issue was traced to an equipment malfunction at the Cobden Water Treatment Plant, which resulted in an excess of potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) entering the system.

Potassium permanganate is commonly used in water treatment to control taste, odour, colour, iron, and manganese. While the presence of coloured water is an aesthetic concern, it is safe to drink and does not pose a health risk.

OCWA staff are currently flushing the entire distribution system which may result in discoloured water and lower than normal water pressure. The incident has been reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Spills Action Centre and the Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU). Under RCDHU's direction, OCWA is submitting water samples for laboratory testing for potassium and manganese levels.

If you notice coloured water from your taps, run cold water until it clears. If the water does not clear, please contact the Township at (613) 646-2282.

The Township appreciates residents' patience and cooperation as we work to ensure the continued safety and quality of our drinking water.

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Additional information:

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