



OPERATIONAL PLAN

Virginiatown-Kearns Drinking Water System

QEMS Proc.: OP-07
Rev Date: 2019-10-06
Rev No: 1
Pages: 1 of 4

RISK ASSESSMENT

Reviewed by: I. Bruneau, PCT

Approved by: Y. Rondeau, SPC Manager

1. Purpose

To document the process for conducting a risk assessment to identify and assess potential hazardous events and associated hazards that could affect drinking water safety.

2. Definitions

Consequence – the potential impact to public health and/or operation of the drinking water system if a hazard/hazardous event is not controlled

Control Measure – includes any processes, physical steps or other practices that have been put in place at a drinking water system to prevent or reduce a hazard before it occurs

Critical Control Point (CCP) – An essential step or point in the subject system at which control can be applied by the Operating Authority to prevent or eliminate a drinking water health hazard or reduce it to an acceptable level

Drinking Water Health Hazard – means, in respect of a drinking water system,

- a) a condition of the system or a condition associated with the system's waters, including any thing found in the waters,
 - i. that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, the health of the users of the system,
 - ii. that deters or hinders, or is likely to deter or hinder, the prevention or suppression of disease, or
 - iii. that endangers or is likely to endanger public health,
- b) a prescribed condition of the drinking water system, or
- c) a prescribed condition associated with the system's waters or the presence of a prescribed thing in the waters

Hazardous Event – an incident or situation that can lead to the presence of a hazard

Hazard – a biological, chemical, physical or radiological agent that has the potential to cause harm

Likelihood – the probability of a hazard or hazardous event occurring

3. Procedure

- 3.1 Operations Management ensures that operations personnel are assigned to conduct a risk assessment at least once every thirty-six months. At a minimum, the Risk Assessment Team must include the QEMS Representative, at least one Operator for the system and at least one member of Operations Management.
- 3.2 The QEMS Representative is responsible for coordinating the risk assessment and ensuring that documents and records related to the risk assessment activities are maintained.



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3.3 The Risk Assessment Team performs the risk assessment as follows:

3.3.1 OP-07 Risk Assessment and OP-08 Risk Assessment Outcomes are reviewed.

3.3.2 For each of the system's activities/process steps, potential hazardous events and associated hazards (possible outcomes) that could impact the system's ability to deliver safe drinking water are identified. At a minimum, potential hazardous events and associated hazard as identified in the most current version of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) document titled "Potential Hazardous Events for Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems" (as applicable to the system type) must be considered.

3.3.3 For each of the hazardous events, control measures currently in place at the system to eliminate the hazard or prevent it from becoming a threat to public health are specified. Control measures may include alarms, monitoring procedures, standard operating procedures/emergency procedures/contingency plans, preventive maintenance activities, backup equipment, engineering controls, etc.

3.3.4 To ensure that potential drinking water health hazards are addressed and minimum treatment requirements as regulated by SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 and the MECP's "Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario" are met, OCWA has established mandatory Critical Control Points (CCPs).

As a minimum, the following must be included as CCPs (as applicable):

- Equipment or processes required to achieve primary disinfection (e.g., chemical and/or UV disinfection system, coagulant dosing system, filters, etc.)
- Equipment or processes necessary for maintaining secondary disinfection in the distribution system
- Fluoridation system

3.3.5 Additional CCPs for the system are determined by evaluating and ranking the hazardous events for the remaining activities/process steps (i.e., those not included as OCWA's minimum CCPs).

3.3.6 Taking into consideration existing control measures (including the reliability and redundancy of equipment), each hazardous event is assigned a value for the likelihood and a value for the consequence of that event occurring based on the following criteria:

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Value	Likelihood of Hazardous Event Occurring
1	Rare – Estimated to occur every 50 years or more (usually no documented occurrence at site)
2	Unlikely – Estimated to occur in the range of 10 – 49 years
3	Possible – Estimated to occur in the range of 1 – 9 years
4	Likely – Occurs monthly to annually
5	Certain – Occurs monthly or more frequently

Value	Consequence of Hazardous Event Occurring
1	Insignificant – Little or no disruption to normal operations, no impact on public health
2	Minor – Significant modification to normal operations but manageable, no impact on public health
3	Moderate – Potentially reportable, corrective action required, potential public health impact, disruption to operations is manageable
4	Major – Reportable, system significantly compromised and abnormal operations if at all, high level of monitoring and corrective action required, threat to public health
5	Catastrophic – Complete failure of system, water unsuitable for consumption

The likelihood and consequence values are multiplied to determine the risk value (ranking) of each hazardous event. Hazardous events with a ranking of 12 or greater are considered high risk.

3.3.7 Hazardous events and rankings are reviewed and any activity/process step is identified as an additional CCP if all of the following criteria are met:

- ✓ The associated hazardous event has a ranking of 12 or greater;
- ✓ The associated hazardous event can be controlled through control measure(s);
- ✓ Operation of the control measures can be monitored and corrective actions can be applied in a timely fashion;
- ✓ Specific control limits can be established for the control measure(s); and
- ✓ Failure of the control measures would lead to immediate notification of Medical Officer of Health (MOH) or MECP or both.

3.4 The outcomes of the risk assessment are documented as per OP-08 Risk Assessment Outcomes.



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3.5 At least once every calendar year, the QEMS Representative facilitates the verification of the currency of the information and the validity of the assumptions used in the risk assessment in preparation for the Management Review (OP-20). When performing this review, the following may be considered:

- Process/equipment changes
- Reliability and redundancy of equipment
- Emergency situations/service interruptions
- CCP deviations
- Audit/inspection results

4. Related Documents

MECP's "Potential Hazardous Events for Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems"
MECP's "Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario"
OP-08 Risk Assessment Outcomes
OP-20 Management Review

5. Revision History

Date	Revision #	Reason for Revision
Jun. 07, 2018	0	Procedure issued – Information within OP-07 was originally set out in the QEMS Procedure QP-02 Risk Assessment and Risk Assessment Outcomes (revision 6, dated September 28, 2017). Revised Purpose to reflect element 7 requirements only. Included minimum requirements for the Risk Assessment Team (QEMS Representative, at least one operator for the system and at least one member of Operation Management. Clarified role of QEMS Representative in coordinating the risk assessment and maintaining documents and records. Re-worded procedure for performing the risk assessment (process itself remains essentially unchanged). Included reference to MOECC's "Potential Hazardous Events for Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems". Removed requirements for documenting the outcomes of the risk assessment (now covered in OP-08). Changed annual review to at least once every calendar year and included potential considerations when performing the review.
Oct. 06, 2019	1	Updated MOECC to MECP.