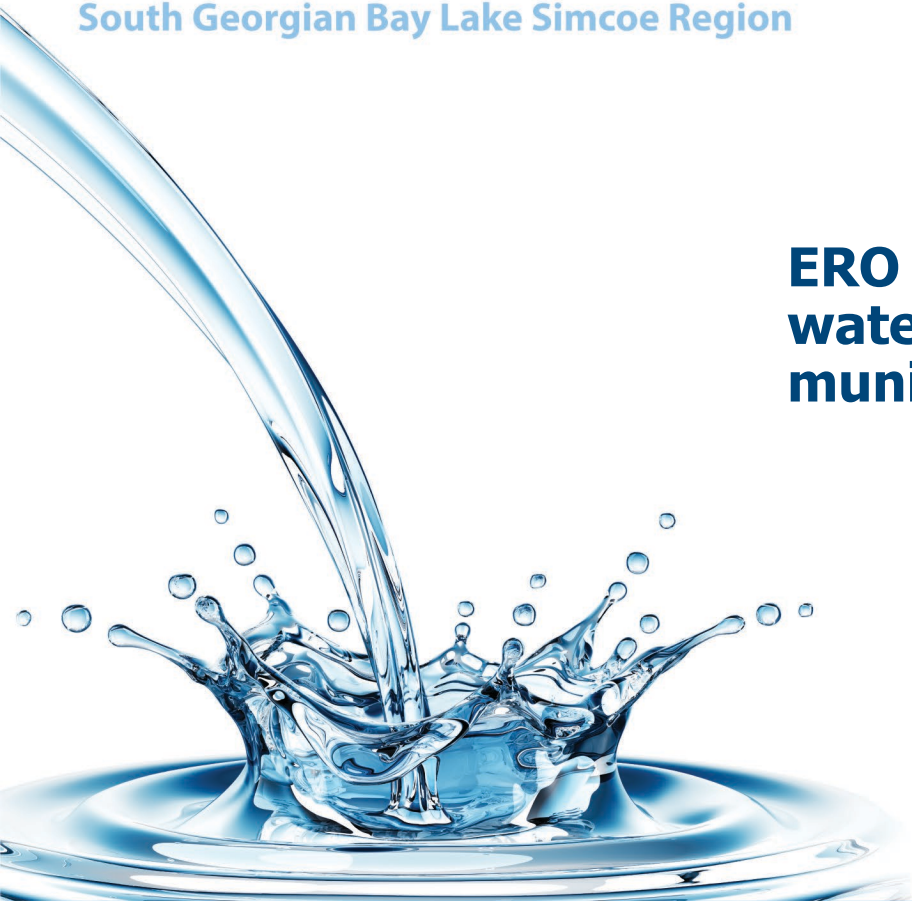


Source Water Protection

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region



ERO 026-0302 “Communal drinking water and wastewater system municipal consent requirements”

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Outline

- Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting
- Non-municipal communal systems
- The proposal
- Potential Issues
- 2025 Performance Audit – Auditor General
- Comment Submission

Communal drinking water and wastewater system municipal consent requirements

ERO number	026-0302
Notice type	Act
Posted by	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Notice stage	Proposal Updated
Proposal posted	March 30, 2026
Comment period	March 30, 2026 – May 14, 2026 (45 days)
Last updated	April 17, 2026

Proposal summary

Amendments are proposed to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, to enable regulations to set out requirements for municipal consent of non-municipal communal drinking water and wastewater systems and to require municipalities to consent if requirements are met.

What are examples of non-municipal communal drinking water systems?

- Non-municipal systems provide water in a variety of circumstances including
 - year-round residential systems (e.g., apartments),
 - systems serving designated facilities (e.g., schools or camps),
 - seasonal residential systems (e.g., trailer parks),
 - or systems serving public facilities (e.g., resorts).
- These systems operate outside of the Source Water Protection regulatory landscape

The Proposal

- Proponents apply to municipality for the development of a communal water and/or wastewater system
- Municipalities develop requirements for communal systems
- Any application that meets those requirements must be approved
- *Little detail on what those requirements can or should be*

Potential issues posed by an increase in non-municipal water supplies

- Two-tiered system for drinking water in Ontario
- Locations being chosen without considering potential threats or better alternatives
- Any threats would not be required to be addressed
- If systems are ever transferred to the municipality, they would have to be brought into compliance with Source Water Protection
- Lack of water budget considerations

2025 Performance Audit of the Safety of Non-Municipal Drinking Water

A special report by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

- Identified several concerns related to:
 - communal systems, including systems that were not properly identified, assessed, or inspected as required;
 - insufficient or incomplete water quality sampling;
 - and gaps in oversight related to well construction and associated requirements
- Over 30% non-municipal communal systems had not been inspected by the Ministry in the past 5 years
- over a 30% decrease in the number of inspections carried out by the Ministry in the past 10 years

Comments

Source Protection Authority staff contributed to comments compiled and submitted by Conservation Ontario



Thank you

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