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# *Union Water Supply System*

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**SENT BY: EMAIL**

May 25, 2018

Municipality of Leamington  
38 Erie St. N.  
Leamington, Ontario  
N8H 2Z3  
**Attention: Mr. Peter Neufeld, Chief Administrative Officer**

Town of Kingsville  
2021 Division Road North  
Kingsville, Ontario  
N9Y 2Y9  
**Attention: Ms. Peggy Van Mierlo-West, Chief Administrative Officer**

Town of Essex  
33 Talbot Street South  
Essex, Ontario  
N8M 1A8  
**Attention: Ms. Donna Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer**

Town of Lakeshore  
419 Notre Dame Street  
Belle River, Ontario  
N0R 1A0  
**Attention: Mr. Tom Touralias, Chief Administrative Officer**

Dear CAOs:

**RE: Temporary Switch to Free Chlorine for Secondary Disinfection**

Over the last 2-3 years, parts of the larger municipal distribution system fed by the UWSS have experienced some nitrification issues that are likely associated with the use of chloramines for secondary disinfection.

As part of our maintenance program to prevent any nitrification related water quality issues, UWSS is undertaking a temporary switch of secondary disinfection from chloramination to free chlorine.

It should be noted that temporary switching of secondary disinfection from chloramination to free chlorine is used as a nitrification control strategy by many chloraminated municipal drinking water systems in the United States, specifically those in warmer climates that are prone to nitrification problems. Since the Essex County area typically experiences a lengthy "warm" season and a long hot summer/early fall, the UWSS system is also prone to hot weather related nitrification issues.

**RE: Temporary Switch to Free Chlorine for Secondary Disinfection  
May 25, 2018**

As part of the initial planning for this temporary switch in secondary disinfection, the UWSS and its OCWA operations have been in contact and are coordinating this event with water department staff the UWSS' municipal partners. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) and Windsor-Essex County Public Health Unit (WECHU) have also been notified of the temporary switch in secondary disinfection process. It should be noted that a temporary switch in secondary disinfection is allowed as per the UWSS Municipal Drinking Water License.

**The switch in secondary disinfection will be initiated on June 4, 2018 for a period of at least 8 weeks.** It is expected that the change will go smoothly and that customers will not notice any difference except for a likely increase in the taste and smell of chlorine from the water supply. It is anticipated that the transition from chloramination to free chlorine will take approximately 7 days to reach the farthest extents of the larger distribution system. The UWSS does not anticipate any adverse impact on water quality during the changeover.

The Union Water System and the municipal water departments will be carefully monitoring the water quality before and after the start-up. The municipal water departments will be flushing to ensure that the water quality is maintained. While this is going on customers may notice discoloured or cloudy water as they might during normal spring hydrant flushing. Customers should check the water before doing laundry. If the monitoring shows adverse water quality has occurred, those customers directly affected will be notified and steps will be immediately taken to fix the cause.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,



Rodney Bouchard, General Manager  
Union Water Supply System Joint Board of Management  
RB/kmj