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The Corporation of the Town of Essex
33 Talbot Street South
Essex, ON
N8M 1A8

March 10, 2026

Attention: Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer

**Re: Inspection Report – Essex Drinking Water System (Essex DS) DWS#
220003680. Inspection conducted on February 11, 2026.**

Dear Mrs. Giurissevich,

Enclosed is the 2025-26 inspection report for the Essex Drinking Water System (Essex DS), corresponding Inspection Rating Report (IRR) and Risk Methodology document.

Section 19 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Standard of Care) creates obligations for individuals who exercise decision-making authority over municipal drinking water systems. Please be aware that the Ministry has encouraged such individuals, particularly municipal councillors, to take steps to be better informed about the drinking water system(s) over which they have decision-making authority. These steps could include asking for a copy of this inspection report and a review of its findings. Further information about Section 19 can be found in "Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A Guide for Members of Municipal Councils" on the Drinking Water Ontario website at <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/taking-care-your-drinking-water-guide-members-municipal-councils>.

The IRR is a summarized quantitative measure of the drinking water system's annual inspection and is published in the Ministry's Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual Report. The Risk Methodology document describes the risk rating methodology which has been applied to the findings of the Ministry's municipal residential drinking water system inspection results.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the rating, please contact Mark Smith, Water Compliance Supervisor, at Mark.Smith@ontario.ca or (226)873-5020.

I would be pleased to answer any questions or provide additional clarification regarding the report.

Yours truly,



Andrew Winkler
Provincial Officer
London District Office


cc. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Essex Region Conservation Authority
MECP London District



ESSEX DRINKING WATER SYSTEM (ESSEX DS)

INSPECTION REPORT

Entity: THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF ESSEX
Inspection Start Date: February 11, 2026
Site Inspection Date: February 11, 2026
Inspection End Date: March 02, 2026
Inspected By: Andrew Winkler
Badge #: 1908



(signature)

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This unannounced, focused inspection was conducted to confirm compliance with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) legislation and conformance with ministry drinking water policies and guidelines.

Scope

The ministry utilizes a comprehensive, multi-barrier approach in the inspection of water systems that focuses on the source, treatment, and distribution components as well as management and the operation of the system.

The inspection of the drinking water system included both the physical inspection of the component parts of the system listed in section 4 "Systems Components" of the report and the review of data and documents associated with the operation of the drinking water system during the review period.

This drinking water system is subject to the legislative requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 (SDWA) and regulations made therein, including Ontario Regulation 170/03, "Drinking Water Systems" (O. Reg. 170/03). This inspection has been conducted pursuant to Section 81 of the SDWA.

This inspection report does not suggest that all applicable legislation and regulations were evaluated. It remains the responsibility of the owner to ensure compliance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

Facility Contacts and Dates

The drinking water system is owned by The Corporation of the Town of Essex. Operators with the Town of Essex performed system maintenance, and repairs. While operators with the Ontario Clean Water Agency performed regular sampling.

The system serves an estimated population of 12,000 and is categorized as a Large Municipal Residential System. Information reviewed for this inspection covered the time period of June 20, 2024, to February 11, 2026.

Systems/Components

The Essex Drinking Water System only maintains secondary disinfection and distribution of water. Primary and secondary disinfection treatment is undertaken by another regulated drinking water system which provides treated water to this drinking water system.

Treated water is received from the Union Water Supply System. The Union Water Supply System is inspected separately from this drinking water system.

Permissions/Approvals

This drinking water system was subject to specific conditions contained within the following permissions and/or approvals (please note this list is not exhaustive) at the time of the inspection in addition to the requirements of the SDWA and its regulations:

- Municipal Drinking Water Licence (MDWL) #029-101, Issue #3, Dated: April 6, 2021, and
- Drinking Water Works Permit (DWWP) # 029-201, Issue #3, Dated: April 6, 2021.

NON-COMPLIANCE

This should not be construed as a confirmation of full compliance with all potential applicable legal requirements. These inspection findings are limited to the components and/or activities that were assessed, and the legislative framework(s) that were applied. It remains the responsibility of the owner to ensure compliance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions related to this inspection, please contact the signed Provincial Officer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This should not be construed as a confirmation of full conformance with all potential applicable BMPs. These inspection findings are limited to the components and/or activities that were assessed, and the legislative framework(s) that were applied. It remains the responsibility of the owner to ensure compliance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions related to this inspection, please contact the signed Provincial Officer.

INSPECTION DETAILS

This section includes all questions that were assessed during the inspection.

Ministry Program: DRINKING WATER | **Regulated Activity:** DW Municipal Residential

Question ID	DWMR1020001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA 31 (1);			
Question: Were Form 1 documents prepared as required?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Form 1 documents were prepared as required.			

Question ID	DWMR1025001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA 31 (1);			
Question: Were all parts of the drinking water system that came in contact with drinking water disinfected in accordance with a procedure listed in Schedule B of the Drinking Water Works Permit?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): All parts of the drinking water system were disinfected as required.			

Question ID	DWMR1024001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 1-2 (2);			
Question: Did records confirm that the water treatment equipment which provides chlorination or chloramination for secondary disinfection was operated as required?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Records confirmed that the water treatment equipment which provides chlorination or chloramination for secondary disinfection was operated as required.			

Question ID	DWMR1033001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 7-2 (3); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 7-2 (4);			
Question: Was secondary disinfectant residual tested as required for the large municipal residential distribution system?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Secondary disinfectant residual was tested as required.			

Question ID	DWMR1099001	Question Type	Information
Legislative Requirement(s): Not Applicable			
Question: Do records show that water provided by the drinking water system met the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Records showed that all water sample results met the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.			

Question ID	DWMR1081001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 10-2 (1); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 10-2 (2); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 10-2 (3);			
Question: Were distribution microbiological sampling requirements prescribed by Schedule 10-2 of O. Reg. 170/03 for large municipal residential systems met?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Distribution microbiological sampling requirements were met.			

Question ID	DWMR1096001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 6-3 (1);			
Question: Did records confirm that chlorine residual tests were conducted at the same time and location as microbiological samples?			

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):

Records confirmed that chlorine residual tests were conducted as required.

Question ID	DWMR1086001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6.1 (1); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6.1 (2); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6.1 (3); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6.1 (4); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6.1 (5); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6.1 (6);			
Question: Were haloacetic acid sampling requirements prescribed by Schedule 13-6 of O. Reg. 170/03 met?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Haloacetic acid sampling requirements were met.			

Question ID	DWMR1087001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6 (1); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6 (2); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6 (3); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6 (4); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6 (5); SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 13-6 (6);			
Question: Were trihalomethane sampling requirements prescribed by Schedule 13-6 of O. Reg. 170/03 met?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Trihalomethane sampling requirements were met.			

Question ID	DWMR1113001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 10.1 (3);			
Question: Were changes to the system registration information provided to the ministry within ten (10) days of the change?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Changes to the system registration information were provided as required.			

Question ID	DWMR1045001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA 31 (1);			
Question: Did the owner update the document describing the distribution components within 12 months of completion of alterations to the system in accordance with the Drinking Water Works Permit?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): The owner had up-to-date documents describing the distribution components.			

Question ID	DWMR1060001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA 31 (1);			
Question: Did the operations and maintenance manual(s) meet the requirements of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): The operations and maintenance manual(s) met the requirements of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence.			

Question ID	DWMR1062001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 170/03 7-5;			
Question: Did records or other record keeping mechanisms confirm that operational testing not performed by continuous monitoring equipment was done by a certified operator, water quality analyst, or person who met the requirements of Schedule 7-5 of O. Reg. 170/03?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Records or other record keeping mechanisms confirmed that operational testing not performed by continuous monitoring equipment was done by a certified operator, water quality analyst, or person who met the requirements of Schedule 7-5 of O. Reg. 170/03.			

Question ID	DWMR1071001	Question Type	BMP
Legislative Requirement(s): Not Applicable			
Question: Did the owner provide security measures to protect components of the drinking water system?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): The owner provided security measures to protect components of the drinking water system.			

Question ID	DWMR1073001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 128/04 23 (1);			
Question: Was an overall responsible operator designated for all subsystems which comprise the drinking water system?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): An overall responsible operator was designated for all subsystem.			

Question ID	DWMR1074001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 128/04 25 (1);			
Question: Were operators-in-charge designated for all subsystems which comprise the drinking water system?			
Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s): Operators-in-charge were designated for all subsystems.			

Question ID	DWMR1075001	Question Type	Legislative
Legislative Requirement(s): SDWA O. Reg. 128/04 22;			
Question: Were all operators certified as required?			

Compliance Response(s)/Corrective Action(s)/Observation(s):

All operators were certified as required.



Key Reference and Guidance Material for Drinking Water Systems

Key Reference and Guidance Material for Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems

Many useful materials are available to help you operate your drinking water system. Below is a list of key materials owners and operators of municipal residential drinking water systems frequently use.

To access these materials online click on their titles below or use your web browser to search for their titles. Contact the Ministry if you need assistance or have questions at 1-866-793-2588 or waterforms@ontario.ca.

For more information on Ontario's drinking water visit www.ontario.ca/page/drinking-water



Click on the publication below to access it

- [Drinking Water System Profile Information Form - 012-2149E](#)
- [Laboratory Services Notification Form – 012-2148E](#)
- [Adverse Test Result Notification Form – 012-4444E](#)
- [Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A Guide for Members of Municipal Councils](#)
- [Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario](#)
- [Strategies for Minimizing the Disinfection Products Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids](#)
- [Filtration Processes Technical Bulletin](#)
- [Ultraviolet Disinfection Technical Bulletin](#)
- [Guide for Applying for Drinking Water Works Permit Amendments, & License Amendments](#)
- [Certification Guide for Operators and Water Quality Analysts](#)
- [Training Requirements for Drinking Water Operator](#)
- [Community Sampling and Testing for Lead: Standard and Reduced Sampling and Eligibility for Exemption](#)
- [Drinking Water System Contact List – 7128E01](#)
- [Ontario's Drinking Water Quality Management Standard - Pocket Guide](#)
- [2020 Watermain Disinfection Procedure](#)
- [List of Licensed Laboratories](#)

Ontario



**Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Drinking Water System Inspection Report
Appendix B**

Risk Methodology and Inspection Summary Rating Record

APPLICATION OF THE RISK METHODOLOGY USED FOR MEASURING MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL DRINKING WATER SYSTEM INSPECTION RESULTS



The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has a rigorous and comprehensive inspection program for municipal residential drinking water systems (MRDWS). Its objective is to determine the compliance of MRDWS with requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act and associated regulations. It is the responsibility of the municipal residential drinking water system owner to ensure their drinking water systems are in compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

This document describes the risk rating methodology, which has been applied to the findings of the Ministry's MRDWS inspection

results since fiscal year 2008-09. The primary goals of this assessment are to encourage ongoing improvement of these systems and to establish a way to measure this progress.

MOE reviews the risk rating methodology every three years.

The Ministry's Municipal Residential Drinking Water Inspection Protocol contains 15 inspection modules consisting of approximately 100 regulatory questions. Those protocol questions are also linked to definitive guidance that ministry inspectors use when conducting MRDWS inspections.

ontario.ca/drinkingwater

The questions address a wide range of regulatory issues, from administrative procedures to drinking water quality monitoring. The inspection protocol also contains a number of non-regulatory questions.

A team of drinking water specialists in the ministry assessed each of the inspection protocol regulatory questions to determine the risk (not complying with the regulation) to the delivery of safe drinking water. This assessment was based on established provincial risk assessment principles, with each question receiving a risk rating referred to as the Question Risk Rating. Based on the number of areas where a system is deemed to be non-compliant during the inspection, and the significance of these areas to administrative, environmental, and health consequences, a risk-based inspection rating is calculated by the ministry for each drinking water system.

It is important to be aware that an inspection rating less than 100 per cent does not mean the drinking water from the system is unsafe. It shows areas where a system’s operation can improve. The ministry works with owners and operators of systems to make sure they know what they need to do to achieve full compliance.

The inspection rating reflects the inspection results of the specific drinking water system for the reporting year. Since the methodology is applied consistently over a period of years, it serves as a comparative measure both provincially and in relation to the individual system. Both the drinking water system and the public are able to track the performance over time, which encourages continuous improvement and allows systems to identify specific areas requiring attention.

The ministry’s annual inspection program is an important aspect of our drinking water safety net. The ministry and its partners share a common commitment to excellence and we continue to work toward the goal of 100 per cent regulatory compliance.

Determining Potential to Compromise the Delivery of Safe Water

The risk management approach used for MRDWS is aligned with the Government of Ontario’s Risk Management Framework. Risk management is a systematic approach to identifying potential hazards, understanding the likelihood and consequences of the hazards, and taking steps to reduce their risk if necessary and as appropriate.

The Risk Management Framework provides a formula to be used in the determination of risk:

$$\text{RISK} = \text{LIKELIHOOD} \times \text{CONSEQUENCE}$$

(of the consequence)

Every regulatory question in the inspection protocol possesses a likelihood value (L) for an assigned consequence value (C) as described in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.

TABLE 1:	
Likelihood of Consequence Occurring	Likelihood Value
0% - 0.99% (Possible but Highly Unlikely)	L = 0
1 – 10% (Unlikely)	L = 1
11 – 49% (Possible)	L = 2
50 – 89% (Likely)	L = 3
90 – 100% (Almost Certain)	L = 4

TABLE 2:	
Consequence	Consequence Value
Medium Administrative Consequence	C = 1
Major Administrative Consequence	C = 2
Minor Environmental Consequence	C = 3
Minor Health Consequence	C = 4
Medium Environmental Consequence	C = 5
Major Environmental Consequence	C = 6
Medium Health Consequence	C = 7
Major Health Consequence	C = 8

The consequence values (0 through 8) are selected to align with other risk-based programs and projects currently under development or in use within the ministry as outlined in **Table 2**.

The Question Risk Rating for each regulatory inspection question is derived from an evaluation of every identified consequence and its corresponding likelihood of occurrence:

- All levels of consequence are evaluated for their potential to occur
- Greatest of all the combinations is selected.

The Question Risk Rating quantifies the risk of non-compliance of each question relative to the others. Questions with higher values are those with a potentially more significant impact on drinking water safety and a higher likelihood of occurrence. The highest possible value would be 32 (4×8) and the lowest would be 0 (0×1).

Table 3 presents a sample question showing the risk rating determination process.

TABLE 3:							
Does the Operator in Charge ensure that the equipment and processes are monitored, inspected and evaluated?							
Risk = Likelihood × Consequence							
C=1	C=2	C=3	C=4	C=5	C=6	C=7	C=8
Medium Administrative Consequence	Major Administrative Consequence	Minor Environmental Consequence	Minor Health Consequence	Medium Environmental Consequence	Major Environmental Consequence	Medium Health Consequence	Major Health Consequence
L=4 (Almost Certain)	L=1 (Unlikely)	L=2 (Possible)	L=3 (Likely)	L=3 (Likely)	L=1 (Unlikely)	L=3 (Likely)	L=2 (Possible)
R=4	R=2	R=6	R=12	R=15	R=6	R=21	R=16

Application of the Methodology to Inspection Results

Based on the results of a MRDWS inspection, an overall inspection risk rating is calculated. During an inspection, inspectors answer the questions related to regulatory compliance and input their “yes”, “no” or “not applicable” responses into the Ministry’s Laboratory and Waterworks Inspection System (LWIS) database. A “no” response indicates non-compliance. The maximum number of regulatory questions asked by an inspector varies by: system (i.e., distribution, stand-alone); type of inspection (i.e., focused, detailed); and source type (i.e., groundwater, surface water).

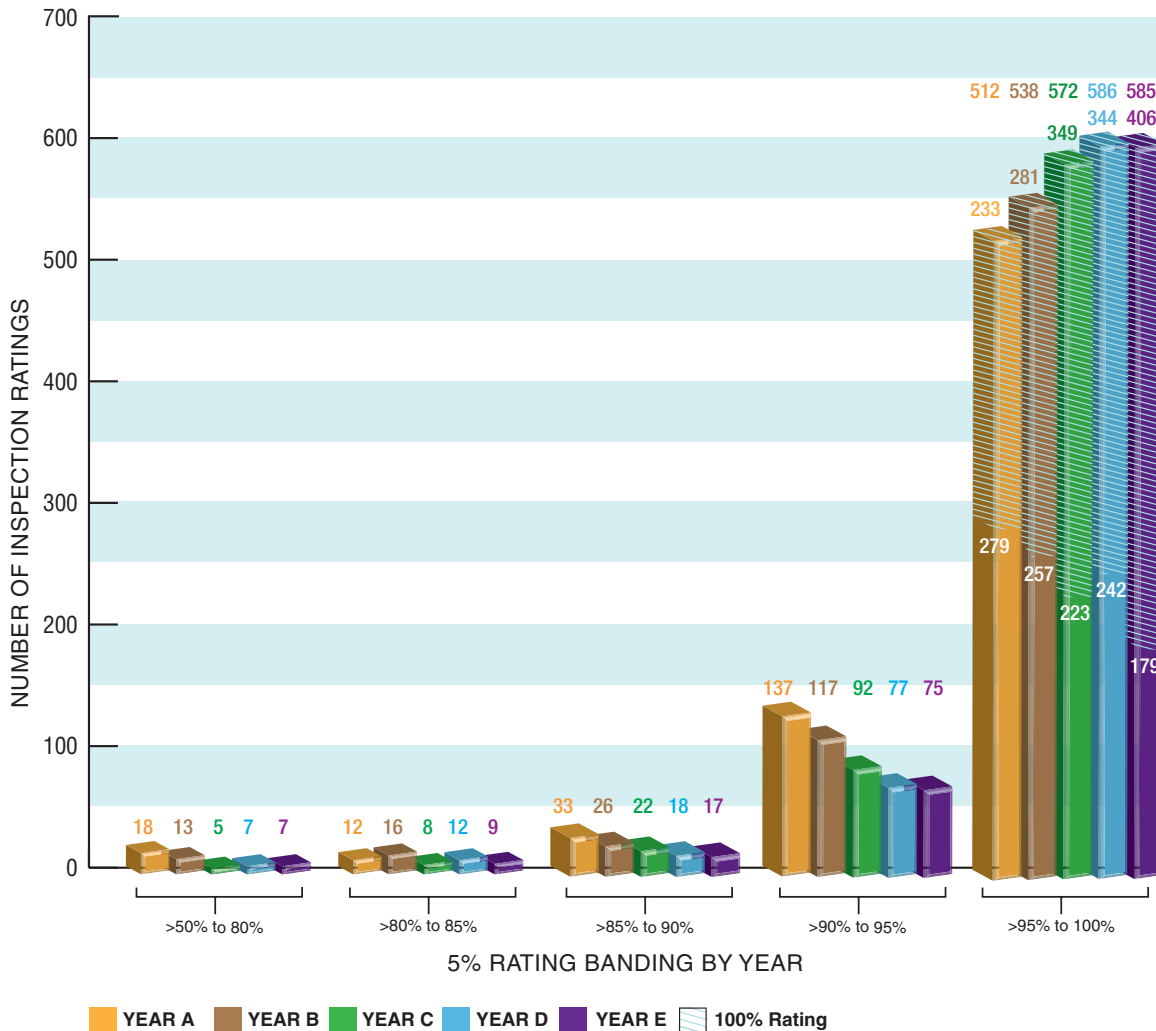
The risk ratings of all non-compliant answers are summed and divided by the sum of the risk ratings of all questions asked (maximum question rating). The resulting inspection risk rating (as a percentage) is subtracted from 100 per cent to arrive at the final inspection rating.

Application of the Methodology for Public Reporting

The individual MRDWS Total Inspection Ratings are published with the ministry's Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual Report.

Figure 1 presents the distribution of MRDWS ratings for a sample of annual inspections. Individual drinking water systems can compare against all the other inspected facilities over a period of inspection years.

Figure 1: Year Over Year Distribution of MRDWS Ratings



Reporting Results to MRDWS Owners/Operators

A summary of inspection findings for each system is generated in the form of an Inspection Rating Record (IRR). The findings are grouped into the 15 possible modules of the inspection protocol,

which would provide the system owner/operator with information on the areas where they need to improve. The 15 modules are:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Source | 5. Treatment Process Monitoring | 9. Logbooks | 13. Water Quality Monitoring |
| 2. Permit to Take Water | 6. Process Wastewater | 10. Contingency and Emergency Planning | 14. Reporting, Notification and Corrective Actions |
| 3. Capacity Assessment | 7. Distribution System | 11. Consumer Relations | 15. Other Inspection Findings |
| 4. Treatment Processes | 8. Operations Manuals | 12. Certification and Training | |

For further information, please visit www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - Inspection Summary Rating Record (Reporting Year - 2025-26)

DWS Name: ESSEX DRINKING WATER SYSTEM (ESSEX DS)
DWS Number: 220003680
DWS Owner: THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX
Municipal Location: ESSEX
Regulation: O.REG. 170/03
DWS Category: DW Municipal Residential
Type of Inspection: Focused
Compliance Assessment Start Date: Feb-11-2026
Ministry Office: Windsor District Office

Maximum Risk Rating: 182

Inspection Module	Non Compliance Risk (X out of Y)
Certification and Training	0/28
Distribution System	0/4
Logbooks	0/14
Operations Manuals	0/14
Reporting & Corrective Actions	0/4
Treatment Processes	0/67
Water Quality Monitoring	0/51
Overall - Calculated	0/182

Inspection Risk Rating:	0.00%
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Final Inspection Rating:	100.00%
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Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - Detailed Inspection Rating Record (Reporting Year - 2025-26)

DWS Name:	ESSEX DRINKING WATER SYSTEM (ESSEX DS)
DWS Number:	220003680
DWS Owner Name:	THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX
Municipal Location:	ESSEX
Regulation:	O.REG. 170/03
DWS Category:	DW Municipal Residential
Type of Inspection:	Focused
Compliance Assessment Start Date:	Feb-11-2026
Ministry Office:	Windsor District Office

All legislative requirements were met. No detailed rating scores.

Maximum Question Rating: 182

Inspection Risk Rating:	0.00%
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FINAL INSPECTION RATING:	100.00%
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