



The Corporation of the Municipality of
Central Elgin

Boil Water Advisory: The Next Step

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The Municipality of Central Elgin is inviting Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health, the City of St. Thomas and the Township of Southwold to meet to review the issues that led up to the Boil Water Advisory being issued by the Medical Officer of Health on August 19, 2010 and the actions taken by all parties. An assessment of the effectiveness of measures and identification of needed improvements should result. Mayor Tom Marks stated, "We have a responsibility to meet as soon as possible to assess if changes are needed in the timely issuance of a Boil Water Advisory and the notification of the public." He added, "This meeting is important and should be a priority for all involved."

The meeting of the municipalities and Public Health is consistent with Ontario's new requirements for water system management, the Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS) approach. DWQMS encourages municipalities to document what they do. Do what they document. Then review what they have done with the intent of continual improvement of the management of the drinking water system.

Mayor Marks noted that all Central Elgin properties affected by the Boil Water Advisory were notified by hand-delivered notice prior to 10:00 pm. In addition, information was distributed through email, the municipal website and municipal Facebook page shortly after the Boil Water Advisory was issued by the Medical Officer of Health. "I believe Central Elgin acted quickly to notify our citizens when the Advisory was issued, stated Mayor Marks. "However, we need to look for opportunities to improve Boil Water Advisory procedures. We should take this opportunity to learn from the experience of last week."

Approximately 1100 properties in Central Elgin were affected by the Boil Water Advisory. The water system servicing these properties is owned by the Municipality of Central Elgin, however much of the affected water system is operated by the City of St. Thomas for Central Elgin and the water is supplied by St. Thomas to Central Elgin.

For further information contact:

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