

# Staff Report



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To	General Committee
Subject	Water Operations Branch 2025 Drinking Water System Report
Date	February 25, 2026
Ward	All
From	D. Moreau, Manager of Water Operations
Executive Member Approval	S. Diemert, P.Eng., General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management (Acting)
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer
Staff Report #	IGM-005-2026

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## Recommendation(s):

1. That Staff Report IGM-005-2026, regarding the City of Barrie's Drinking Water System be received for information purposes, including:
    - a. Schedule A – 2025 Drinking Water System Operations Report;
    - b. Schedule B – 2025 Annual Report, Section 11, Ontario Regulation (O.Reg.) 170/03;
    - c. Schedule C – 2025 Municipal Summary Report, Schedule 22, O.Reg. 170/03;
    - d. Schedule D – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks - Standard of Care; and
    - e. Schedule E – Quality Management System Management Review Meeting Minutes.
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## Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the City of Barrie's Drinking Water System for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The report summarizes system performance, confirms compliance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act* and fulfills the required reporting obligations.

This report also demonstrates the Water Operations Branch's commitment to providing safe drinking water while operating the system in a transparent, accountable, and financially responsible manner.

There are two (2) mandatory drinking water reports required under O.Reg. 170/03:

### 1. Annual Report (Section 11)

This report must be completed by **February 28** each year and includes:

- A description of the drinking water system;
- Chemicals used in treatment;
- Water quality testing results;
- A summary of adverse water quality incidents and corrective actions; and
- A breakdown of certain operating expenses.

The 2025 Annual Report is available to the public upon request and is posted on the City of Barrie website.

## 2. **Municipal Summary Report (Schedule 22)**

This report must be completed by **March 31** each year and provided to Council. The report includes:

- A summary of regulatory compliance;
- Any non-compliances or orders issued;
- Corrective actions taken; and
- A summary of water production volumes compared to system capacity.

### **Key Findings:**

#### **Drinking Water System Overview**

The City's Drinking Water System Includes:

- 1 Surface Water Treatment Plant and Low Lift Pumping Station;
- 12 groundwater wells;
- 3 in-ground storage facilities;
- 3 elevated storage reservoirs;
- 7 booster stations; and
- A distribution system consisting of approximately 693 km of watermain and related infrastructure across five pressure zones.

Surface water is drawn from Kempenfelt Bay, while groundwater is supplied from wells drilled into a deep aquifer. The system services approximately 167,176 residents.

#### **Water Production**

**In 2025, the system produced a total of 14,946 megalitres (ML) of drinking water.**

- The average daily flow was 41 ML
- The maximum daily flow was 93 ML

All water was produced and supplied within approved system limits.

#### **Financial Performance**

**The total cost to operate the Drinking Water System in 2025 was approximately \$20.6 million.**

- The overall cost to operate the system was **\$1,381.44/ML** of water produced
- The cost of water production and treatment was approximately **\$614.41/ML**
- Distribution system operating costs were approximately **\$4,482.26/km** of watermain

Approximately **98.6%** of the approved operating budget was spent in 2025.

### **Water Quality Monitoring and Compliance**

Approximately **3,000 water samples** were collected and analyzed to verify drinking water safety, monitor system performance, support corrective actions, and meet regulatory requirements.

**There were ten (10) Adverse Water Quality Incidents reported in 2025.** Each were promptly resolved to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

### **Regulatory Inspection**

The MECP conducted one announced, focused inspection of the System, covering the period from October 2024 to September 2025. No regulatory non-compliances or recommendations were identified.

**The MECP Final Inspection Rating for 2025 was 100%.**

### **Quality Management System**

The City's Quality Management System was audited by an external auditor in December 2025. No non-conformances were identified and two opportunities for improvement were noted.

**Accreditation was successfully maintained until 2027.**

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

### **Alternatives:**

As this Staff Report is being presented as a legislative requirement, and for information purposes only, no alternatives are presented.

### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan:

Affordable Place to Live		
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Community Safety		
Thriving Community		
Infrastructure Investments	X	- Update and improve water infrastructure.
Responsible Governance	X	- Maintaining focus on City core services. - Ensure accountability and transparency.

**Additional Background Information and Analysis:**

There is no additional information and analysis requirements related to the recommendation.

**Consultation and Engagement:**

No public consultation was required in relation to this recommendation.

**Environmental and Climate Change Impact Matters:**

There are no environmental and/or climate change impact matters related to the recommendation.

**Appendix:**

Appendix A – Water Operations 2025 Drinking Water System Reports

**Report Author:**

D. Moreau, BES, Manager of Water Operations

**File #:**

C11 - WAT

**Pending #:**

Not Applicable