

Preferred Water Quality Improvement Strategy

- PUC's strategy to improve Sault Ste. Marie's water quality will be implemented in two stages. The first stage begins immediately and the second stage takes place from 2015-2017.
- Sault Ste. Marie's drinking water has an extremely wide variation in pH levels due to the fact that our water comes from five different sources. It is this variation that plays a key role in creating taste, odour and colour issues.
- Water produced at the Lorna Wells is and always has been safe to drink. However, the water from the Lorna Wells has a unique composition that contributes significantly to water quality issues such as brown or discolored water and objectionable odour or taste when it reacts with the chlorine treatment process.
- The Lorna Wells will be removed from active service by mid-2014 and placed on standby.
- Work will begin to increase production capacity at the water treatment plant and at the remaining well sites to compensate for the loss of the Lorna Well production. This may include an additional well at the Shannon Well site and the Steelton Well site.
- After the production capacity upgrades are complete, the Lorna Wells will be capped and permanently abandoned.
- During the first stage, PUC will implement advanced treatment methods to harmonize pH levels and improve corrosion control in the distribution system.
- UV (ultraviolet) light will be implemented as the primary disinfection in the second stage if assessment shows there are still water quality concerns. Chloramine would be used as the secondary disinfection method.
- The preliminary cost estimate to implement the complete water quality improvement strategy is in the range of \$6.7 million. More accurate costs will be determined through the detailed engineering phase.
- These water quality improvements do not receive provincial or municipal tax support.
- Implementation of the full strategy would mean a temporary rate increase of approximately \$2.70 a month for our customers over a period of ten years, based on preliminary cost estimates.

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