

Jan.3,2025

Re: Knipfel Private DWS- Project Update  
Report No: IS-2025-01

This is in regards to the cost of water system upgrades to the Petersburg DWS.

If upgrades to the drinking water system in Petersburg are required, who is responsible for paying for such upgrades?

In May 2024 the Region of Waterloo and the Township of Wilmot purchased the existing privately owned Petersburg drinking water system from the owner who decided to retire. The Petersburg privately owned drinking water system was in compliance with the regulations required to operate a private well in Ontario. Now that it is a Region and Township asset it no longer meets the standards required. Someone will need to pay for upgrades.

The drinking water supply ( the well itself,the pumps and all equipment required to ensure a safe supply of drinking water) is now the Region of Waterloo's responsibility. The distribution of this water (distribution lines, valves etc.) is the responsibility of the Township of Wilmot. As noted on page 3 of the Infrastructure Services Staff Report ( or page 80 of the Committee of the Whole Agenda Monday, January 6, 2025.) the system does not provide adequate pressure demands for system users and lacks essential features such as isolation valves,system looping, and detectable tracer wire. The next sentence reads: " All of these are operational liabilities to the Township operating under the DWQMS, which will be financial liabilities,as well as licensing liabilities with high potential for further reporting requirements and corrective actions required on the system at each annual audit cycle"

The residents of Petersburg that are supplied by this well (62 properties) are not the owners of this system. The cost of upgrading the system to the standard now required as a result of the purchase of this asset would be the responsibility of the new owners.

The owners of this system are : The Region of Waterloo (consisting of approx. 675,000 people) and the Township of Wilmot (consisting of approx. 22,000 people). They are responsible for any needed upgrades required.

Having established ownership of this asset, it is clear to me that the cost of any and all upgrades required to bring this water system up to standard should be shared by all members of the Region and Township, not just the 62 properties that are serviced by the well.

Your input on this matter would be greatly appreciated. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

Concerned Petersburg resident, William Renner

