



March 13, 2020

CDW Secretariat
Water, Air and Climate Change Bureau
Health Canada
3rd Floor, 269 Laurier Avenue West, A.L. 4903D
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

To: Committee on Drinking Water Secretariat

RE: Guidance on Boron in Drinking Water

CWWA's Drinking Water Quality Committee reviewed the proposed Guidance on Boron in Drinking Water.

The Committee supports the proposed MAC of 2 of 2 mg/L (2000 µg/L) for boron in drinking water. The document demonstrates that this is a protective health based parameter.

General Considerations

The Committee notes that reverse osmosis is proposed as a possible removal mechanism for small utilities who exceed the MAC. We note that reverse osmosis creates waste that requires special consideration when planning for disposal. While we support the use of RO, we recommend that the document address waste disposal.

Our Committee also notes that in section 4.0, table 3. The City of Montreal is using analytical method based on SM 4500-B.B (APHA, 2017). The Guidance document mentions that interference occurs when hardness is > than 100 mg/L eq. CaCO₃. As a commentary the City note that in its experience when hardness is > 100 mg/L eq. CaCO₃, It can be resolved by filtrating the final solution with a 0,45 µm filter. Hardness creates a precipitate that can interfere with spectrophotometric method.

Thank you for your consideration

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Committee

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