

INCIDENT: Sewage Pump hooked up to Municipal Drinking Water System
LOCATION: Mactier, Ontario
SOURCE: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
DATE OF INCIDENT: 6/1/2010

A boil water advisory was issued for the community of Mactier after it was discovered that a contractor had hooked up a domestic sewage pump to the municipal drinking water system. The advisory was issued as a precaution due to a possible cross-connection from a private building connected to the municipal drinking water system. Flushing and chlorine residual testing of the water distribution system took place and chlorine content was at the recommended level. Bacteriological sampling throughout the municipal system had begun and continued until such time that test results confirmed that the safety and integrity of the water system had been maintained. Until that time, people who take their water from the municipal system should not drink the water, use it to brush their teeth, or use it to wash foods, such as fruit and vegetables, which will be consumed without cooking. Water may be used for these purposes if it is brought to a rolling boil and allowed to boil for one full minute. People should ensure that water used for cooking comes to a full boil. The water may be used for bathing and washing clothes without these precautions.