

Changes to Enforcement Options for Water and Wastewater Offences

Environment and Climate Change has increased officers' options to enforce rules for water and wastewater facilities and operators.

Enforcement officers can now issue tickets for offences related to the operation of water and wastewater facilities. The new authority comes from a change to the Preset Fines and Offence Descriptions Regulation, which can be found here:

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/annual/2022/008.pdf>

The ability to issue tickets for specific offences ensures safe water and wastewater operation to protect human health and the environment. Tickets are a more efficient and effective method for operators, owners, and officers to collectively achieve these goals. Previously, the only enforcement option was a long form prosecution under The Environment Act or the associated regulation. The old approach took more time and escalated costs for taxpayers. This regulation change also supports recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General's Report on the Provincial Oversight of Drinking Water Safety.

Enforcement officers will continue to use a balance of education and awareness, with tickets being a further option depending on how severe the offence is. The Office of Drinking Water will monitor compliance of water systems, while the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch will monitor compliance of wastewater systems.

Facility owners and operators need to review their table of organization, facility classification level, and certification level of all operators to ensure they meet requirements. Please provide updated information to the Certification Program Specialist at wwopcert@gov.mb.ca.

If you have any questions about:

- fines for offences related to drinking water systems, please contact your regional drinking water officer
(https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/water/drinking_water/odw_contact.pdf)
or email ODW@gov.mb.ca
- fines for offences related to wastewater systems, please contact your regional environment officer (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/about/environmental-stewardship/environmental-compliance-and-enforcement/contacts.html>)
or email ECEBranch@gov.mb.ca
- how to become certified, continuing education requirements, certification exams, or how to classify your facility, please contact the Certification Program Specialist at wwopcert@gov.mb.ca