

Water Turbidity Update

January 14, 2026

Council wishes to issue the following update regarding the current Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory (PDWA) in effect for the Village of Macoun.

November 1, 2024 Saskatchewan Water Security Agent (WSA) performed an annual water plant inspection and discovered the turbidity to be above the allowable limit in accordance with the Village permit to operate a waterworks. Over the next days, weeks and months, staff and Council worked countless hours to monitor, tweak, test, adjust, sample and discuss the potential cause of the high turbidity with many companies and agencies. It was originally thought to be the cistern lining, or above ground holding tanks, or the old carbon in the carbon filter tanks. It was determined, before spending money, to not be the cistern liner, the holding tanks were taken out of the equation, and the carbon, gravel and sand was replaced in both carbon filters. The well that services the Village was also inspected and cleaned out as records for the Village showed that had never been completed.

After all the work was completed and testing performed, it has been discovered that the water source feeding the Village has organics that are too fine to filter out with the sand and carbon filtration system in the Village water treatment plant. These organics are likely caused from a coal or oil/gas seam that has developed in the water that serves the well.

After the last carbon filter material was changed, Council and Staff were happy to see the turbidity numbers drop and remain below the allowable limit allowing for the PDWA to be lifted in December 2025. Unfortunately, after just a few short weeks, the turbidity numbers started to rise and ended up settling above the allowable limit once again leading to the newly issued PDWA on January 9, 2026.

Now that the source of the issue has been determined and all other changes have not been effective in keeping the turbidity levels down, Council is looking at installing an ozone and roughing filter system to the water treatment plant. The Village has received an initial quote for materials and installation of the new system starting at \$150,000. Staff is working on engineering quotes and the application for permit to alter. At this time, it is unknown what the final cost will be for the project. Staff is currently working on funding options for the upgrade in an attempt to keep costs down for ratepayers.

Reminder to ratepayers that the Village is not required to provide potable drinking water but please know that Council and staff are working diligently on rectifying this matter as quickly as possible without compromising cost and quality.

If you have any questions pertaining to the PDWA or the project in question, please do not hesitate to contact the Village office.