



Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Province of British Columbia

# **Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Methyl Tertiary-butyl Ether (MTBE)**

**Addendum to Technical Appendix (2001) and Overview  
Report (2001)**

**June 26, 2020**

**Water Protection & Sustainability Branch  
Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Policy Division  
BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy**

The Water Protection and Sustainability Branch rescinds the 2001 B.C. approved methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) water quality guidelines (WQGs) for the protection of drinking water supplies of 0.02 mg/L MTBE (BC Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks, 2001).

The source drinking WQG value of 0.015 mg/L of MTBE (ENV, 2020) as an aesthetic objective now applies to the Water Quality Guidelines for Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether (MTBE) Technical Appendix (B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks, 2001) and Overview Report (B.C. Ministry of Environment, 2001). The guideline value of 0.015 mg/L MTBE is protective against odours that make water unpalatable and human health.

**References:**

- B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, 2001. [Water Quality Guidelines for Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether \(MTBE\)](#). Water Management Branch. 50 p.
- B.C. Ministry of Environment, 2001. [Ambient Water Quality Guidelines for Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether \(MTBE\): Overview report](#). Water Protection and Sustainability Branch. 8 p.
- ENV (B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy), 2020. [Source Drinking Water Quality Guidelines: Guideline Summary](#). Water Quality Guideline Series, WQG-01. Water Protection & Sustainability Branch.