



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant 2007/2008 Mediation Agreement Interim Compliance Report

Date:	May 15, 2009
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure
From:	General Manager, Toronto Water
Wards:	32
Reference Number:	P:\2009\Cluster B\TW\pw09016

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to submit the 2007/2008 Mediation Agreement Interim Compliance Report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee by the General Manager of Toronto Water on behalf of the Implementation and Compliance Monitoring Committee (ICMC).

The Interim Compliance Report summarizes the ICMC's concerns with respect to the implementation of the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant Environmental Assessment Mediation Agreement and provides a set of responses for each concern raised in an attachment to this report. Toronto Water is committed to the implementation of these plans and to completing the few remaining tasks in order to fulfill the commitments contained within the Mediation Agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts resulting from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its June 9, 1999 meeting, City Council adopted Works Committee Report No.9, Clause No.2 to approve the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant Mediation Agreement, which included within it the formation of the Implementation Compliance and Monitoring Committee (ICMC) to monitor the City's compliance with the Mediation Agreement and the requirement for the ICMC to report back annually through the General Manager of Toronto Water on the progress made in implementing the commitments made in the Mediation Agreement.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/1999/agendas/council/cc/cc990609/wu9rpt/cl002.htm>

At its April 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, 2001 meeting, City Council adopted Works Committee Report No. 4, Clause No. 9 and received for information the ICMC's 2000 Interim Compliance Report with a response prepared by City staff.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2001/agendas/council/cc010424/wks4rpt/cl002.pdf>

At its February 13, 2002 meeting, City Council adopted Works Committee Report No. 2, Clause No. 28 and received for information the ICMC's 2001 Interim Compliance Report with a response prepared by City staff.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2002/agendas/council/cc020213/wks2rpt/cl028.pdf>

At its February 4, 5 and 6, 2003 meeting, City Council adopted Works Committee Report No. 2, Clause No. 5 and received for information the ICMC's 2002 Interim Compliance Report with a response prepared by City staff.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2003/agendas/council/cc030204/wks2rpt/cl005.pdf>

At its March 1, 2 and 3, 2004 meeting, City Council adopted Works Committee Report No. 2, Clause No. 20 and received for information the ICMC's 2003 annual Interim Compliance Report with a response prepared by City staff.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2004/agendas/council/cc040301/wks2rpt/cl020.pdf>

At its September 28, 29 and 30 2005 meeting, City Council adopted Works Committee Report No. 8, Clause No. 9 and received for information the ICMC's 2004 Interim Compliance Report with a response prepared by City staff.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2005/agendas/council/cc050928/wks8rpt/cl009.pdf>

At its September 25, 26 and 27 2006 meeting, City Council adopted Works Committee Report No. 6, Clause No. 35 and received for information the ICMC's 2005/2006 Interim Compliance Report with a response prepared by City staff.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060925/wks6rpt/cl035.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City submitted an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in 1997. In 1999, the City undertook a self-directed mediation with a number of interested parties in response to a series of concerns raised by various stakeholders. The outcome of the process was the drafting of an Environmental Assessment Mediation Agreement (MA) and the formation of the Implementation and Compliance Monitoring Committee (ICMC).

The ICMC is comprised of citizen volunteers and signatories to the Mediation Agreement. The MA contains 11 resolutions designed to resolve outstanding issues relating to the ABTP EA. The ICMC is to provide advice to the City as it implements the commitments made in the MA and annually reviews and reports on compliance with the terms of the MA.

The City submitted an amended EA and a copy of the MA to the MOE for review in 1999. MOE staff released their review of the EA as amended by the MA in April 2004. They concluded that the EA had satisfied all the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act and would be recommending approval. Outstanding issues identified by the public or various stakeholders were concluded to be either outside the scope of the EA, were being addressed through other City initiatives, or were better addressed at the Certificate of Approval stage after more detailed design information becomes available. The public comment period on the review ended in June 2004.

On January 24, 2008 the City of Toronto received approval from the MOE for the ABTP EA undertakings which include a new outfall pipe, an effluent pumping station and disinfection system. The City has begun to implement the projects resulting from the approved EA.

COMMENTS

The 2007/2008 Interim Compliance Report summarizes the ICMC's concerns with respect to the City's efforts to implement the commitments made in the Mediation Agreement and provides a set of recommendations surrounding commitments in the areas they feel the City requires further improvement.

Staff have provided detailed responses to each of the recommendations made by the ICMC in the attachment to this report. Toronto Water's response to some of the key concerns identified in the Interim Compliance Report is as follows:

Ultraviolet Disinfection

The Approved EA Undertaking includes a new outfall pipe, an effluent pumping station and an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system. As the original EA document is over 12 years old and both technology and regulations have evolved during this time, the City has opted to review the disinfection methods currently available to determine whether UV disinfection is still the best alternative to treat effluent and bypass from the ABTP.

The City released a Request for Proposal (RFP) in October 2008 to retain engineering consulting services for a study to assess alternatives for the disinfection of effluent and bypass from the ABTP. This study is being undertaken as a Schedule B project under the *Municipal Class Environmental Assessment* process, and is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2009.

Once completed, staff will move forward with releasing a Request for Proposal for the design and completion of the Certificate of Approval process for the preferred disinfection system, pumping station and outfall pipe.

Biosolids Management

In the fall of 2002, the City initiated a Biosolids and Residual Master Plan (BRMP) process that prepared a long-term strategy to manage wastewater treatment of biosolids

and water treatment plant residuals in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner. The BRMP process was undertaken as a Class Environmental Assessment that required the City to consider all viable management options. The draft Biosolids Master Plan is currently being updated and is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2009.

Under the Province's Nutrient Management Act, the City is required through its Nutrient Management Strategy to detail how biosolids from the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) are to be managed; including identification of contingency plans should the primary management plan fail. The incinerators are listed as a last option contingency that can be accessed only upon Council approval. The incinerators have not been operated at the ABTP since December 2003, in keeping with the City's commitment under the Mediation Agreement. Further direction on the issue will be developed following the approval of the Biosolids Master Plan.

Since August 2006, when Republic Services stopped accepting biosolids at its Carleton Farms landfill facility in Michigan, the City has been working to continue to diversify its biosolids management program at the ABTP by seeking out additional short and medium term biosolids management service providers until the BRMP is completed and provides a long-term strategy for the management of biosolids. Currently, the City has in place contracts that see biosolids beneficially used through pelletization, alkaline stabilization and agricultural land application. When biosolids cannot be beneficially used, they are transported to landfill for disposal. In addition, the City has searched for degraded mining site options but has identified only limited potential at this time. In 2007 and 2008, 15,000 tonnes of biosolids were sent to degraded mine sites.

Odour Control

The City is moving forward with its odour control project and is using a combination of odour control technologies, including biofilters and carbon scrubbers, to treat odourous air generated at Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant.

As planned within the odour control strategy, in addition to building new infrastructure to treat odourous air, such as with the construction of biofilters, the City will also make use of existing infrastructure. In one process area, odourous air captured from the aeration tanks will be dispersed through the existing incinerator stack. Modelling completed as part of the odour control strategy has indicated dispersing the aeration tank air through the tall stack will sufficiently decrease odours to a level that would eliminate the need for a separate biofilter resulting in a capital cost savings.

Wet Weather Flow

The Don and Waterfront Trunk Sewers and the CSO Control Strategy will identify system upgrades to provide sufficient capacity within the Don Trunk and Waterfront Interceptor Sewer systems to support future growth and undertake a system optimization for the servicing of dry and wet weather flows in the ABTP service area.

The Coatsworth Cut Environmental Assessment Report was made available to the public for comment during a 30-day review period through the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. In addition, the study recommendations were presented in various Public Information Centres by the City during the EA process.

Planning

Toronto Water uses its facility forecast reports to identify required system upgrades and to determine if a treatment plant will require expansion. In the last facility forecast completed for Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant in 2002, no expansion requirement was identified in the 20 year horizon. This facility forecast is scheduled to be updated in 2010.

CONCLUSION

The City remains committed to meeting its obligations under the Mediation Agreement and continues to work to implement the resulting projects and initiatives.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

ICMC 2007/2008 Compliance Report with City Response