



Councillor Frances Nunziata
Council Speaker

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Attn: Chair & Members of the Executive Committee

From: Councillor Frances Nunziata

Re: **EX34.4 Impacts from the July 8, 2013 Storm Event on the City of Toronto**

Severe storms, like that which occurred on July 8th, 2013, leaving thousands of people across the City with flooded basements, are becoming more common. In many cases, existing drainage systems in older neighbourhoods do not have the ability to safely convey flood waters from severe storms. Existing legislation requires that Toronto Water undertake Environmental Assessments for works that affect water flow. The Environmental Assessment process is a long one. In early 2012, the City began the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study of Combined Sewer Overflows Control in Humber River and Black Creek Sewersheds, and the Investigation of Basement Flooding in Areas 4 and 5, both of which experienced high levels of flooding as a result of July's storm and storms earlier in the year. The anticipated completion of this study is mid-2014; in the meantime, area residents are left to contend with more storms, more water, more sewage and more flooding. Having completed 15 Class Environmental Assessments to date in Basement Flooding Study Areas, Toronto Water has found that solutions typically involve replacing or constructing new sewers in existing roads or easements; projects with well-known and manageable environmental impacts.

Certain projects warrant accelerated Environmental Assessment processes. The Province of Ontario acknowledged this in 2008 when the Ministry of the Environment established a new, streamlined assessment process for public transit proponents to expedite the development of transit projects in Ontario. Similar provisions should be made for municipal or conservation authority projects needed to reduce the risk of residential flooding.

Recommendation:

That the Executive Committee direct the General Manager of Toronto Water to consult with the Ministry of the Environment on options available to the City of Toronto to reduce or eliminate the delay caused by adherence to the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act for municipal or conservation authority projects needed to reduce the risk of residential flooding from severe rain storms.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Nunziata
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