

R.C. Harris Times

Produced by Toronto Water for residents living near the R. C. Harris Filtration Plant

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R.C. Harris Filtration Plant

The City of Toronto is building a residue management facility at the R. C. Harris Filtration Plant. The construction will have some affect on your neighbourhood. The City will try to minimize inconveniences caused by the construction and provide up-to-date information with this newsletter, other publications and local meetings.

What's happened to date?

In September 2004, Toronto Council awarded Kenaidan Contracting Limited the contract to build the residue management facility. CH2M HILL Canada Limited, design engineers of the project, will provide contract administration services.

The site is already being prepared for construction. You may have noticed some construction vehicles in the area and the installation of fencing around the plant.

An area slightly larger than a Canadian football field is being excavated for the installation of the residue management facility. For safety reasons, the plant grounds will be closed during construction. The overall project will be completed in the spring of 2007.

Construction activities include:

- installation of fencing and hoarding on the north, east and west boundaries of the plant to restrict access to the site and isolate the construction area
- installation of temporary access roads for plant operations and construction

- relocation of in-ground services
- set-up for barging operation at the sea-wall, including water and hydro

What is a residue management facility?

A residue management facility is a small building containing process equipment and underground tanks. It is used to treat materials left over from the filtration process of cleaning lake water to make potable (drinking) water.



Why are we building a residue management facility?

Currently, the City of Toronto discharges residues from the R. C. Harris Filtration Plant directly to Lake Ontario. A residue management facility will allow us to treat the residues at the plant and to stop discharging to the lake. The residue management facility will help the City to improve beach water quality and to fulfil its commitment to the Ministry of the Environment.

In 2002, the City completed a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the 'preferred method' of managing the residues generated at the plant. The 'preferred solution' selected was to manage the residues on-site at the plant by removing the solid materials, then treating the liquid (a.k.a. effluent), before releasing it to the lake. The remaining solids are partially dried, then hauled away for disposal. In 2003, an Addendum to the original EA recommended that the residue management facility be built underground to protect the architectural integrity of the plant.

For more information or to comment:

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What's the City doing to alleviate construction nuisances?

The effects of construction on the neighbourhood will be lessened with:

Dust control

The contractor will use dust control measures to limit dust on-site. The 10-foot hoarding being built around the construction area and along the east and west access roads will reduce the amount of dust escaping the site. Graffiti and unofficial postings will be removed from the hoarding regularly by the contractor.

Restricting plant access

During construction, public access to the grounds will not be allowed. A temporary road will be built at the foot of Nursewood Road to admit deliveries, operations staff, and plant maintenance vehicles. Construction vehicles used for the new facility are not permitted on Nursewood Road.

Erosion and Sedimentation

Sedimentation ponds, silt fences, and straw bales will be used as part of an erosion and sedimentation control plan.

Noise control

All construction vehicles and equipment will have muffling devices to reduce noise in the area. Construction crews will work from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Occasionally, construction crews will work on Saturdays, likely from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hoarding will reduce some of the construction noise.

Truck traffic

From April to October, a barge will transport most of the excavated fill to another site. Barging will ease the effects of truck traffic on Queen Street East. From December 2004 to March 2005 when the weather does not permit barging, the fill will be removed by truck. During this time, truck traffic along Queen Street will be limited to 25 trucks per day, and be permitted to operate from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. only.

Consideration of heritage features

Construction of the facility will not affect the heritage features of the plant. The new facility will be built underground and the site will be graded and landscaped when the construction is completed. All temporary roads installed for construction will be removed.

