

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT	AMENDMENT TO THE WASTE DISCHARGE BY-LAW WM-16

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer the following actions **BE TAKEN**:

- a) The proposed by-law, attached as Appendix 'A' **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on November 28, 2017, for the purpose of amending the Waste Discharge By-law (WM-16).

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Civic Works Committee – May 9, 2017 - Changes to the Waste Discharge By-law WM-16 and the Wastewater & Stormwater By-law WM-28.

2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

The following report supports the Strategic Plan through a focus on:

Building a sustainable city by working together to protect all aspects of our natural environment including woodlands, wetlands, river and watercourses, and air quality as our city grows.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

This report seeks the approval of Municipal Council to amend two wastewater treatment related by-laws;

- Update the Waste Discharge By-law, WM-16, to allow the City to control discharges to the sanitary sewers which may cause harm to the environment even after treatment in a wastewater treatment plant.

Context

Many contaminants discharged to a sanitary sewer can harm the environment without causing harm to the sewage treatment plant or processes. Section 3.6 of the current Waste Discharge By-law, WM-16, does not allow the City to control the discharge of these contaminants into a sanitary sewer.

Under the City's Wastewater and Stormwater By-law WM-28, hauled liquid waste is received at the City's Dingman facility and is charged at one of two rates based on its

handling and treatment costs. Portable toilet waste is currently charged at \$13.36 per 1,000 litres but its treatment cost is better reflected at the rate of \$24.60 per 1,000 litres.

DISCUSSION

Effluent Discharge Harmful to the Environment

The current Waste Discharge By-law has a general clause protecting the public sewage works:

3.6 Matter harmful to sewage works

No person shall discharge or deposit or cause or permit to be discharged or deposited into sanitary sewers, waste which may be or may become harmful to the public sewage works.

This current clause does not include discharges that are harmful to the receiving water course but not harmful to the public sewage works (sewers and wastewater treatment plant). Examples are discharges causing foam, sheen, discolouration, and acute or chronic toxicity.

A number of federal and provincial bodies recommend the prohibition of sanitary discharges that are harmful to both wastewater treatment plant operation and receiving streams. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Model Sewer Use By-law and the Ontario Model Sewer Use By-law include clauses prohibiting discharges that impact any requirement of the wastewater treatment plant operation or cause an adverse effect on the receiving stream. The Federal Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations require wastewater treatment plant effluents to be monitored and not acutely toxic. The Chemicals Management Plan is a Government of Canada initiative aimed at reducing the risks posed by chemicals to Canadians and their environment. It identifies 4,300 different chemicals that could be of concern. Many of these chemicals are not harmful to the public sewage works could be harmful to the receiving environment.

Noting the above, it is recommended that the City's Waste Discharge By-law include general conditions to deal with the discharge of these chemicals to the sanitary system. This proposed revision will help to ensure the City has the ability to control substances discharged into the sewer systems.

Section 3.6 of By-law WM-16 should be amended as follows:

3.6 Matter harmful to sewage works

No person shall discharge or deposit or cause or permit to be discharged or deposited into or in sanitary sewers, wastes which may be or may become or cause:

- (a) harm to the public sewage works; or*
- (b) an impairment of the quality of the water in any watercourse;
or*
- (c) a failure of any discharge from the sewer works to comply with the requirements of an environmental compliance approval or with federal or provincial legislation.*

