

Report to Civic Works Committee

To: Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee

From: Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC
Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services
and City Engineer

Subject: 2020 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Inspection of the City of London Drinking Water System

Date: March 30, 2021

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following report on the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Inspection of the City of London Drinking Water System, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Executive Summary

Purpose

This purpose of this report is to inform Council regarding the outcome of the annual inspection of the City of London drinking water system performed by Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Context

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) performs rigorous annual inspections to ensure that municipalities are operating water systems in compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

The MECP recently completed the 2020 inspection of London's drinking water system, and outlined its findings in the *City of London Distribution System Inspection Report*.

No issues of regulatory non-compliance were identified during the inspection, and the City of London received a 2020 Final Inspection Rating of 100.00%.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

This report supports the 2019 – 2023 Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of Leading in Public Service, by demonstrating leadership and accountability in the management and provision of quality programs and services.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

2019 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Inspection Report for the City of London Water Distribution System, Civic Works Committee, May 12, 2020.

1.2 Overview

Municipal drinking water systems in Ontario are held to very high standards. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) ensures that these standards are being met through two separate mechanisms.

For the good management of water systems, the MECP developed a Drinking Water

Quality Management Standard (DWQMS) based on existing ISO 9001 and HACCP standards. Municipalities must maintain quality management systems in accordance with the DWQMS, and annual system audits confirm conformance. The 2020 DWQMS audit results were reported to the Civic Works Committee on March 2, 2021.

To ensure that municipalities are operating water systems in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, the MECP performs rigorous annual inspections to ensure compliance with provincial regulations and the conditions prescribed in MECP-issued Drinking Water Works Permits and Municipal Drinking Water Licences.

MECP inspections include staff interviews and facility inspections, as well as reviews of operating procedures, water analysis reports, operational records, and staff certification and training records. If an Inspector finds that system operators did not properly comply with any applicable requirements, these are recorded as incidents of non-compliance.

MECP Inspections are used to generate Drinking Water System Inspection Rating Records. Each incident of non-compliance results in a subtraction from a possible score of 100%. The annual rating records for all municipal drinking water systems in Ontario are made available to the public.

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Inspection Findings

MECP inspections can be in the form of “detailed” inspections, or less stringent “focused” inspections. For 2020, the MECP conducted a focused inspection of London’s water system and explained the rationale for that decision in the inspection report as follows: “This system was chosen for a focused inspection because the system’s performance met the ministry’s criteria, most importantly that there were no deficiencies as identified in O.Reg. 172/03 over the past 3 years”.

On March 2, 2021, the MECP issued the City of London Distribution System Inspection Report for the 2020 inspection. No incidents of non-compliance were identified and the City of London received a Final Inspection Rating of 100.00%.

The following summarizes London’s Final Inspection Ratings for the last 5 years:

- 2016 – 96.05%
- 2017 – 84.06%
- 2018 – 100.00%
- 2019 – 100.00%
- 2020 – 100.00%

The complete 2020 City of London Distribution System Inspection Report is available to members of the public on the City of London website.

Conclusion

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks recently completed the 2020 inspection of London’s drinking water system, and outlined its findings in the City of London Distribution System Inspection Report. No issues of regulatory non-compliance were identified and the City of London received a Final Inspection Rating of 100.00%.

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