

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - OCTOBER 19, 2009**

### **ACCREDITATION OF THE VAUGHAN WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND THE KLEINBURG WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That the presentation from the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works be received and;
2. That the following report be received for information.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

The provision of safe drinking water to residents and businesses is key to the vitality and sustainability of the City.

#### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact as a result of this report.

#### **Communications Plan**

Public Works staff will work with Corporate Communications to ensure that the City's significant achievements in this area are given appropriate media coverage, so that the businesses and residents of the City of Vaughan know that the City's drinking water systems are accredited, licenced, and deliver high quality tap water.

#### **Purpose**

To advise Council, as the Owners of the Drinking Water Systems, as to the status of the City's accreditation and licensing requirements.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

As reported previously to Council, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) required that the City develop a Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS) to obtain accreditation as the Operating Authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 (SDWA), by January 1, 2009.

In accordance with Regulation 188/07, the City of Vaughan must have submitted Operational Plans to the MOE, and have a third party audit and accreditation by January 1, 2009. The City's Operational Plans were submitted by December 18, 2008.

The MOE issued a document that detailed the different options for third party registration for municipal drinking water system owners and operating authorities. There were 3 options for accreditation. These included Limited Scope – Partial DWQMS, Limited scope – Entire DWQMS, and Full Scope.

The Limited Scope – Partial DWQMS required that only 12 of the 21 elements of the DWQMS be implemented, and a tabletop audit by the accreditation body will occur upon submission of the Operational Plans. The Full Scope of the DWQMS must be submitted within 12 months of the Limited Scope accreditation, and an on-site audit would be conducted at that time.

The Limited Scope – Entire DWQMS required that only 20 of the required elements be implemented, and similar to above, a tabletop audit would occur with submission of the Operational Plan. The Full Scope of the DWQMS would be required within 12 months of the Limited Scope Accreditation, and an on-site audit would be conducted at that time.

The Full Scope option required that all 21 elements of the DWQMS be implemented, and an on-site audit be completed by the accreditation body at the time of the submission of the Operational Plans. The Limited Scope options are only available for the initial accreditation, and cannot be used for re-registration of the audits.

The City pursued the “Full Scope” option, and a 2 day on-site audit was performed by staff of the Canadian General Standards Board on June 11 and 12, 2009.

As a result of the acceptance of the Operational Plan, and the results of the independent audit performed by the CGSB, the City received its accreditation on July 7, 2009, the Drinking Water Works Permits on July 24, 2009, and the Drinking Water Licences on July 27, 2009. The licences are valid for a three year period, expiring in July, 2012.

The City of Vaughan is the first stand-alone water distribution system in the Province of Ontario to have an on-site visit, be accredited by the Canadian General Standards Board, and receive a Municipal Drinking Water License and Drinking Water Works Permit from the Ministry of Environment. This is a significant achievement for the City of Vaughan, and speaks to the quality of, and knowledge of, the staff and water system operators in the City’s Public Works Department, as well as to the other staff and departments identified under the Operational Plans. This achievement also speaks highly of the support provided by the Corporate Top Management group, and the ongoing commitment and support of Council as the “Owners” of the City’s two municipal drinking water systems.

As per the requirements of Regulation 453/07, the City’s Financial Plans for the two water distribution systems are currently being developed, and will be submitted to the Ministry prior to July 1, 2010.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

The Quality Management System Policy states:

*As the owners and operators of the City of Vaughan’s water distribution systems, we are committed to:*

- *Providing safe drinking water to our residents and businesses*
- *Complying with applicable legislation and regulations as related to the provision of safe drinking water*
- *Implementing and continually improving the effectiveness of our Quality Management System.*

*The City’s quality management policy has been developed in accordance with the objectives of the Vaughan Strategic Plan, specifically to enhance, community safety, health and wellness and to maintain assets and infrastructure integrity.*

### **Regional Implications**

There are no regional implications as a result of this report, as the Region must also be accredited and receive its own permits and licences from the MOE.

**Conclusion**

The City has received its Municipal Drinking Water Licences for the Vaughan and Kleinburg Distribution Systems, and has been accredited by the CGSB. This is a significant achievement for the City, Council and staff.

**Attachments**

N/A

**Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

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