



Staff Report

Report To: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer
From: **Don Giberson, Environmental Services Director**
Date: May 22 2018
Report: ESD.18.24
Subject: Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
2017 Inspection Report for the Exeter Wastewater
Treatment Facility

Recommendations:

That South Huron Council receive the report from Don Giberson, ESD Director RE: Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change 2017 Inspection Report for the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to notify Council of results of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change inspection of the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Background and Analysis:

In accordance with Regulations made under the Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA) and Environmental Protection Act (EPA), the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) carries out inspections of Municipal sewage treatment facilities approximately every three to five years. The previous Ministry inspection of the Exeter Sewage Treatment Facility was conducted on February 21, 2012.

The Ministry carried out a recent inspection of the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Facility as an "unannounced inspection" on December 29, 2017 and held a follow up meeting with the Wastewater Treatment Overall-Responsible-Operator (ORO) and Environmental Services Director on January 9, 2018.

The focus of the inspection was to confirm compliance with Provincial Legislation, as well as to evaluate conformance with Ministry policies and guidelines. The report contains all of the elements required to assess compliance issues and to ensure that the system was being properly operated and managed.

The Municipality received the final inspection report on April 27, 2018. The Ministry had delayed the issuance of the final Inspection report until the completion of the aeration system upgrades, in order to assess the effectiveness of this most recent upgrade to the wastewater treatment facility.

The Ministry inspection identified one non-compliance issue with respect to E.coli exceedances during winter discharges. This issue has been reported previously to Council and noted in Annual Wastewater System Reports to Council. The Ministry Inspection Report recommended the following corrective action:

"We would ask the Municipality continue their plans to rehabilitate their sand filters. The operational changes for this activity will likely enable the Municipality to avoid any concerns with microbiological limits in the short-term."

In the body of the inspection report the Ministry noted that the Municipality is considering the feasibility of an ultraviolet disinfection system to address loading during winter discharge. Essentially the Ministry is satisfied with the Municipality's commitment to proceed with the rehabilitation of the sand filters in the next couple of years to address microbiological exceedances. However, they are also expecting further investigations regarding the potential to install a UV disinfection system for winter discharges.

Please note that the 2018 Budget includes a capital project for professional services required to design and have tender ready the rehabilitation of the sand filters for construction the following budget year. GMBLuePlan Engineers have been retained to provide these services.

The inspection also noted the following two recommended best practices:

- 1. "With the exception of the microbiological results (which is addressed elsewhere), given the limited and isolated nature of the sample results in excess of the effluent objectives, no action is being requested at this time."***
- 2. "As indicated during the inspection, it is recommended that the Municipality consider registering any of its generators for which***

it did not receive an "Air Approval" which reflects equipment in use at the various facilities."

Since the receipt of this inspection report GMBLuePlan Engineers have been retained to assist in updating MOECC "air approvals" for emergency generators.

Overall the inspection results were very good, especially considering the age and condition of the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Operational Considerations:

This report is provide for information purposes and there were no alternatives considered.

South Huron's Strategic Plan:

Section 6.2.2 of the Municipality of South Huron 2015- 2019 Strategic Plan identifies key objectives that are reflective of the collective perspectives of the strategic planning process.

The recommendations and actions outlined in this report are reflective of the following strategic objectives:

Administrative Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility

Informing Council of the results of Ministry's Inspection of the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Facility, reduces liability and results in efficient use of time/resources.

Increased Communications and Municipal Leadership

Communicating information to Council related to wastewater treatment system, keeps all Members of Council informed and assists in making informed decisions, resulting in good stewardship of wastewater assets.

Reports to Council and associated Media reporting, assists to keep the public informed of the performance of the wastewater system.

Transparent, Accountable and Collaborative Governance

Public reporting of the results of the Ministry's Inspection of the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Facility, demonstrates commitment to transparent, accountable and collaborative governance.

Dedicated Economic Development Effort

Informing Council of the results of the Ministry's Inspection of the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Facility and associated regulatory compliance, results in increased public confidence; retention/attraction of businesses and economic development opportunities.

Financial Impact:

There are no financial implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Legal Impact:

There are no legal implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Staffing Impact:

There are no staffing implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Policies/Legislation:

1. Ontario Water Resources Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.40
2. Environmental Protection Act Ontario, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19
3. Regulation 129/04 – Licensing of Sewage Works Operators
4. Exeter Wastewater Treatment Facility ECA - NUMBER 6088-9FEREP

Consultation:

Shawn Young, Water/Sewer Foreman and Drinking Water System Overall-Responsible- Operator (ORO) was consulted and contributed information to this report.

Related Documents:

1. Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change WW EXETER LAGOON Inspection Report #1-FF70Z

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy 'D' followed by several vertical strokes and a long, sweeping horizontal line at the bottom.

Don Giberson, Environmental Services Director