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Media Release

## York Region Holds Public Consultation Centres on Permit to Take Water for YDSS Interceptor Project

**Newmarket** – The Regional Municipality of York yesterday held two Public Consultation Centres on the Permit to Take Water (PTTW) for the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Leslie Street Interceptor Sewer. These meetings provided residents with the opportunity to discuss and learn more about the PTTW that will be submitted by York Region to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The Public Consultation Centre also fulfils one of 11 conditions set out by the MOE for the completion of the remaining York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) projects.

“Among the conditions outlined by the Ministry of the Environment was for York Region to consult with the public prior to the application for the Permit to Take Water being submitted,” said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “Constructive engagement is a cornerstone of our infrastructure projects and we will continue to seek and apply input from the residents of York Region.”

Each Public Consultation Centre was divided into Open House/Breakout Group sessions. The first hour included displays and presentations, with staff available to answer individual questions. The second hour consisted of breakout groups discussing construction techniques and management, environmental issues and the Region’s well mitigation program. Follow-up documentation from the meeting will be published on the project Web site at <http://ydss.cenet.ca>

“The Public Consultation Centre allowed our Project Team to discuss the parameters of the Permit to Take Water on a one-to-one basis, which was extremely beneficial to those in attendance,” said Town of Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell, Chair of the Region’s Transportation and Works Committee. “This meeting was an essential element in the approval process, and the Region will now move forward and submit the final Permit to Take Water to the Ministry of the Environment.”

The next step in the YDSS sewer project involves a January 2006 application to the MOE for a Permit to Take Water, which permits dewatering for shaft construction and contingency dewatering. In order to meet the conditions and expectations of the MOE, York Region will prepare the application and all supporting documentation, including an Environmental Management Plan and Hydrogeologic and Geomorphic data, to provide the level of detail required for the permit.

In the ongoing advancement of the Interceptor project, an independent Peer Review Team (PRT) has concurred with technical studies which determined the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Leslie Street route alignment to be the preferred route of the York Durham Sewage System Interceptor. The PTTW application and supporting documentation has been submitted to the PRT for evaluation, as per the Minister’s conditions.

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For more information on the York Durham Sewage System, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) and follow the link on the main page.

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