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Media Release

The Regional Municipality of York receives both required Certificate of Approvals for the YDSS Interceptor

Essential wastewater infrastructure required for current and future residents

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York has received the second of two Certificate of Approvals from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for the York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) Interceptor project, an important wastewater infrastructure project that will benefit both current and future residents.

Applications for project approvals, which include two Certificates of Approval for both the 19th Avenue tunnelled portion and the Leslie Street open-cut section of the project, plus a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) primarily for contingency purposes, were submitted to the MOE.

As a result, the 19th Avenue tunnelled portion Certificate of Approval was granted June 19th, while the Leslie Street open-cut Certificate of Approval was granted in March. The Permit to Take Water application is still under review by the Ministry.

“York Region continues to be in close contact with Ministry staff regarding all YDSS projects,” said Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “The Interceptor sewer is one of the more critical components of the YDSS and our recent approvals represents welcome news. York Region’s review of route alignments and sewer design and construction techniques has allowed us to make an environmentally sound decision with respect to locating and constructing this trunk sewer.

“Our Region is using leading-edge technology on this project to ensure our environment is protected and our residents and businesses experience the least disruption possible,” added Chairman Fisch.

In addition to traditional open-cut construction methods, the Interceptor project will utilize groundwater isolation sealed shaft construction and Earth Pressure Balance Tunnelling Machines (EPBTM), designed to work through wet soil conditions. These technologies will greatly reduce the need to pump groundwater.

“The Interceptor sewer is necessary to address capacity limitations that may result in sewer surcharging and potential basement flooding in Richmond Hill homes,” said Town of Markham Regional Councillor Bill O’Donnell, Chair of York Region’s Transportation and Works Committee. “These approvals are a very positive step for York Region and allows the Region’s project team to move forward proactively on necessary infrastructure.”

The Interceptor sewer is located in the Regional right-of-way along 19th Avenue from the existing pipe at Yonge Street, eastward to Leslie Street and south along Leslie Street, connecting to the existing Trunk Sewer just north of Elgin Mills Road. The estimated time to complete construction for the 1.6 kilometre open-cut section on Leslie Street is expected to be nine months, while the 4.1 kilometres of tunnelled construction under the existing 19th Avenue roadway is expected to be completed within 18 months.

All project information can be viewed on the YDSS Interceptor Web site: <http://ydss.cenet.ca>

... Continued on Page 2

The tender for construction of the Leslie Street open-cut portion of the YDSS Interceptor has been awarded to Memme Construction. Tenders for the tunnelled portion of 19th Avenue were opened on June 13th, with award expected as early as next week.

York Region's wastewater projects continue to be conducted through an unprecedented level of public review and scrutiny. The Region has and will continue to provide a variety of measures to communicate construction activities and updates regarding the YDSS Interceptor project to the public. These have included:

- Six YDSS Interceptor Sewer Advisory Committee (ISAC) meetings
- Two public Charettes
- Three Public Information Forums
- One Public Consultation Centre
- Project newsletter mailed to area homes and businesses
- YDSS Interceptor project Web site at <http://ydss.cenet.ca>

Additionally, community newspaper advertisements will profile three key components of the YDSS Interceptor project:

- Route selection
- Technology
- Environmental protection

- 30 -

For more information on the YDSS, please visit www.york.ca and follow the link on the main page titled, "York Durham Sewage System Information."

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