



Ontario Municipal Water Association

Douglas R. Parker CMA, Executive Director

March 12, 2010

Chair Bill Fisch
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Chair Fisch:

On behalf of the Ontario Municipal Water Association, I would like to congratulate the Regional Municipality of York for meeting the new provincial standard for drinking water safety established by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The Regional Municipality of York has recently received the new five-part provincial license for your municipal drinking water system, one of the most rigorous licenses of its kind in North America.

The development and implementation of the Municipal Drinking Water Licensing Program is based on Justice O'Connor's recommendations in the Walkerton Inquiry Report. The new comprehensive license incorporates all aspects of drinking water treatment and delivery, including a permit to take water, a drinking-water works permit, an operational plan, and a financial plan. Municipal drinking water systems are also required to obtain an operating authority accreditation, which requires a continuous improvement quality management approach to operations and management of their Drinking Water System.

The new licensing program will further strengthen provincial oversight while encouraging continuous improvement in Ontario's drinking water system operations. This will give the Regional Municipality of York's residents and businesses even more confidence in their tap water.

The Ontario Municipal Water Association, of which the Regional Municipality of York is a member, provided critical advice to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment as it developed the new licensing program. OMWA is the voice of Ontario's public water supply authorities.

Once again, congratulations to you and your staff for this notable achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Veltheer", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Peter Veltheer
Councillor Town of Greater Napanee
President, OMWA

cc. Erin Mahoney, Commissioner of Environmental Services