

Ministry of the Environment

Environmental Approvals Branch

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Ministère de l'Environnement

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February 13, 2012

Mr. Daniel Kostopoulos, P. Eng.
Director, Capital Planning and Delivery
Environmental Services Department
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kostopoulos:

I am in receipt of your December 22, 2011 letter that requests further direction from the Ministry of the Environment (ministry) about the Water Reclamation Centre (WRC) alternative that the Regional Municipality of York (Region) is considering as part of its Upper York Sewage Solutions (UYSS) Environmental Assessment (EA). Specifically, the Region has requested clarification as to whether the proposed WRC facility that is proposed as part of the UYSS EA could be considered a replacement facility for the Holland Landing Lagoon Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) if the WPCP were to be decommissioned up to four years in advance of the WRC facility being operational.

As you are aware, the ministry indicated its continued support for the Region's consideration of the proposed WRC alternative at a conceptual level in its December 20, 2010 letter to you. The ministry further indicated in an October 11, 2011 letter to you that the principles of these commitments had not changed.

The comments included in the ministry's December 20, 2010 letter to you were premised on the understanding that if given approval under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA), the proposed WRC facility would constitute a replacement facility for the Holland Landing Lagoon WPCP. It was further understood that the Region was not proposing to decommission the WPCP until such time that the WRC facility proposed as part of the UYSS EA had received all applicable approvals and that operation of the facility had commenced.

On the basis of the foregoing, the ministry indicated that the Holland Landing Lagoon WPCP Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA; formerly known as a Certificate of Approval) could be amended to both accommodate the facility proposed in the WRC alternative and utilize the existing total phosphorous (TP) cap provided that the facility proposed in the WRC alternative complies with ministry requirements. In discussions with staff at the Region, the ministry has further indicated that the existing ECA could be amended and used for the facility proposed in the WRC alternative to be located at either the existing Holland Landing WPCP location or at a

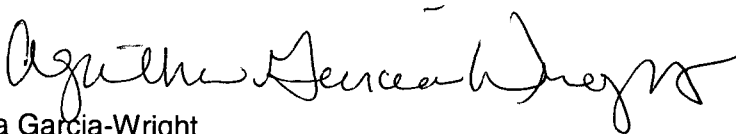
nearby location that is sustainable from an environmental, economic, social and servicing perspective.

You requested clarification as to whether the WRC facility that is proposed as part of the UYSS EA could be considered a replacement facility for the Holland Landing Lagoon Water Pollution Control Plant WPCP if the WPCP were to be decommissioned up to four years in advance of the WRC facility being operational. The Region is advised that a replacement facility implies an aspect of continuity of service from the WPCP to the WRC. As this would not be the case, the Region would not have the opportunity to utilize the existing ECA and TP cap for the WPCP to accommodate the WRC facility proposed as part of the UYSS EA.

The ministry does not have a position about when the Holland Landing Lagoon WPCP is to be decommissioned as this decision rests with the Region. However, should the Region decide to proceed with the decommissioning of the Holland Landing Lagoon WPCP to coincide with the anticipated completion of the Queensville, Holland Landing Sharon servicing project, the Region is reminded to ensure that the appropriate requirements under the EAA have been met for this project. While the ministry understands that the Region carried out a Municipal Class EA for the Queensville, Holland Landing, Sharon servicing project, it is unclear to the ministry whether this Class EA contemplated the decommissioning of the Holland Landing Lagoon WPCP and additional sewage being diverted to the YDSS. In addition, the ministry notes that the baseline conditions included in the UYSS EA would need to be updated to reflect the decommissioning of the Holland Landing Lagoon WPCP.

I trust the foregoing information is of assistance to the Region as it continues to proceed through the EA process. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss in further detail, please contact Mr. D. Jeffrey Dea, Special Project Officer, at 416-314-7213 or by e-mail at jeffrey.dea@ontario.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Agatha Garcia-Wright
Director
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch

- c: Mr. Ian Parrott, Manager, Approval Services
Ms. Mary Hennessy, Director, Lake Simcoe Project
Ms. Sharon Bailey, Director, Land and Water Policy Branch
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