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February 8, 2007

Mr. Bill Finch
Regional Chair and CEO
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge St. Box 147
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Finch,

Thank you for your letter of January 30, 2007.

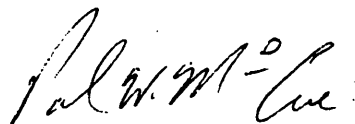
The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of the Environment are proceeding with a proposal for the transfer of responsibility, and oversight for small drinking-water systems. The proposed transfer was approved on the basis of 100% provincial funding for the start-up phase of this program. Therefore, under this proposal, it is anticipated that all costs that are associated with the oversight, e.g. risk assessments and related activities specific to small drinking-water systems, will be fully funded by the province.

The ongoing activities (e.g. re-assessments every 2 or 4 years) will be costs shared like all other public health mandatory programs, which is expected to be 75% provincial and 25% municipal funding. It is estimated that the total municipal share of this program province-wide is \$0.6 million annually.

Local municipalities that own and operate small drinking water systems that are included in this program will see benefits from this program. The initial risk assessment will be conducted by a trained Public Health Inspector at no charge, which in most cases eliminates the need to engage the services of an engineer, which was a requirement under Ontario Regulation 170. The site specific risk assessment will also determine the sampling frequency. Those systems that, based on the risk assessment are deemed to be low risk, can anticipate a significant reduction in the sampling frequency (and associated costs).

If you have further concerns with regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Paul W. McCue, C.P.H.I.(C)
Senior Public Health Inspector
Environmental Health and Toxicology,
Food Safety and Safe Water Unit