

4

REGISTRATION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES EXPANDS YORK REGION'S ISO 14001 PROGRAM

The Environmental Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated December 16, 2010, from the Commissioner of Environmental Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

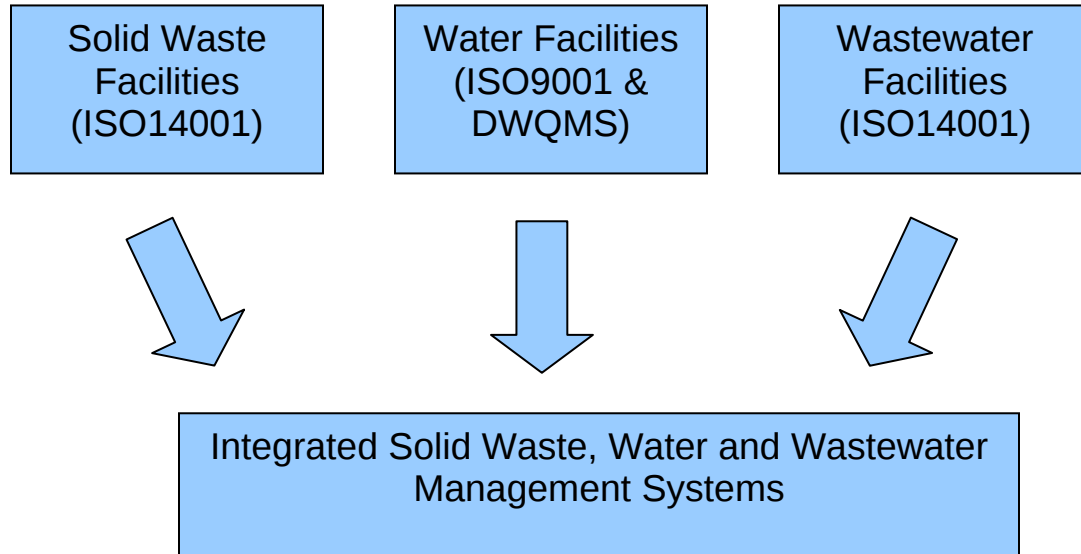
This report provides Council with an update on the expanded scope of York Region's existing ISO14001 Environmental Management System to include selected solid waste management facilities.

3. BACKGROUND

Environmental Management System for Solid Waste Management led to development of the Region's Integrated Management System

March 26, 2009, Regional Council adopted Clause 1 of Report no. 2 of the Solid Waste Management Committee. The report provided an update on progress made to develop an ISO14001 Environmental Management System for selected solid waste management facilities. Endorsement to implement ISO14001 for Solid Waste Management provided an opportunity to integrate existing Quality and Environmental Management Systems along with the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard into the Region's Integrated Management System (Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Integration of Environmental Services Management System



York Region's wastewater system has been ISO14001 registered since 2000

ISO14001 is an internationally recognized standard of excellence for environmental management. In 2000, York Region's wastewater system voluntarily adopted an Environmental Management System and received its ISO14001 registration. The standard categorizes activities and processes that contribute to sound environmental management. To achieve ISO registration, an organization must establish, maintain and continually improve upon their activities to reduce pollution, and improve compliance and efficiency. This process also includes evaluation and review by a third party independent registrar annually.

Establishing an Environmental Management System benefits York Region

Implementing an Environmental Management System is a systematic way for York Region to monitor and control the effects it has on the environment. Benefits of implementing an Environmental Management System include:

- Effective management of environmental aspects
- Improved compliance with environmental legislation
- Continual improvement in environmental performance
- Minimizing energy and resources usage, thereby reduces operating costs
- Increasing stakeholder confidence
- Improving external relations and public image

York Region's water system has been ISO9001 registered since 2001

ISO9001 specifies the requirements for a Quality Management System by demonstrating an ability to consistently provide product that meets customer and applicable regulatory requirements. In 2001, York Region's water system voluntarily adopted a Quality Management System and received its ISO9001 registration. This standard aims to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for continual improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable requirements. In early 2010 York Region leveraged experience gained through the ISO9001 program and met all components of the Province of Ontario's New Municipal Drinking Water Licensing Program.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Seven solid waste management facilities successfully achieve ISO14001 registration

On August 26, 2010, a third party registrar conducted registration audits for seven of the Region's solid waste management facilities. The registration audit included interviews with staff, examination of records, and observation of work practices to determine how compliant the actual processes are with the ISO14001 standard. Following a technical review of the registration audit findings, the third party registrar approved ISO14001 registration of the following facilities on October 29, 2010:

- Asian Long-Horned Beetle Site
- East Gwillimbury Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Recycling Depot
- Georgina Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste Depot
- Georgina Transfer Station and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Depot
- McCleary Court Community Environmental Centre
- Markham Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Depot
- Vaughan Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Depot

Other solid waste management facilities to be added to existing ISO14001 registration

To demonstrate commitment to the environment in all daily operations, along with complying with environmental standards, York Region will continue to maintain, develop and implement elements of the ISO14001 Environmental Management System and extend its scope. As new solid waste management facilities are commissioned or existing non-registered facilities complete their upgrades/expansion they will be targeted for inclusion within the existing ISO14001 registration scope (Table 1).

Table 1
Future ISO14001 Implementation at Solid Waste Management Facilities

Site	Tentative Certification Date
Elgin Mills Road Community Environmental Centre	Q1, 2012
East Gwillimbury Waste Management Centre	Q1, 2012
Dufferin/York Source Separated Organics Facility	to be determined
Durham/York Energy From Waste Facility	to be determined

Private sector facilities to be advised of the Region's ISO14001 registration

The Region has entered into contracts with third party waste processing facilities to process recyclables, source separated organics and residual waste. Considering these facilities are not owned by the Region nor perform an activity on Regional property they are excluded from the existing ISO14001 registration. As an alternative, these facilities will still be made aware of the Region's Environmental Management System, including the Region's Integrated Management System Policy, requirements of the management system standards, as well as any applicable Environmental Management programs, objectives and targets. The Regulatory, Compliance and Policy group will develop and distribute communication packages within the first quarter of 2011 to the following third party waste processing facilities:

- Dongara Pellet Plant LP, City of Vaughan
- Earl Turcott Waste Management Centre, Town of Markham
- Green Lane Landfill, London, Ontario
- Miller Waste Systems Organic Yard Waste Composting Facility, Town of Richmond Hill
- Orgaworld Source Separated Organics Facility, London, Ontario
- Universal Resource Recovery Source Separated Organics Facility, Welland, Ontario
- WeCare Organics, Marlboro, Massachusetts

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs of including solid waste management into ISO14001 registration estimated at \$35,000

Costs of expanding the ISO14001 program to include solid waste management systems and facilities are summarized below in Table 2. These costs were included in the 2010 approved budget. Annual costs associated with the ISO 14001 surveillance audits performed by the third party registrar are approximately \$10,000.

Table 2
Costs for Including Solid Waste Management into ISO14001 Program

Task	Cost
Consultant and Compliance Audit Fees	\$ 28,500
ISO14001 Registration Audit*	\$ 6,550
Total Cost	\$ 35,050

* The cost of solid waste management registration audit was combined with the wastewater surveillance audit performed by the third party registrar.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Staff are a resource to local municipalities considering implementation of ISO14001 for their waste management related activities

Implementation of York Region's Environmental Management System on the solid waste management sector provides a benefit to local municipalities by mitigating environmental impacts, complying with regulatory requirements, and acting as a source of information to those municipalities considering implementing ISO14001 for their waste management related activities. Regional staff are prepared to liaise with local municipal staff and share lessons learned .

7. CONCLUSION

Successful inclusion of solid waste management facilities into the Region's existing ISO14001 registration affirms York Region as a leader in implementing of quality and environmental management systems in the municipal sector. Other opportunities will be assessed to enhance the Region's Integrated Management System, such as including other Environmental Services' activities or business units into the existing Region's ISO registration, as well as adopting other management systems. The scope of the Region's Integrated Management System will continue to grow as a reflection of Environmental Services' commitment to continuous improvement and the expansion of our built assets.

For more information on this report, please contact Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection at (905) 830-4444 Ext. 5077.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.