

4

DRINKING WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARD IMPLEMENTATION AND MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER LICENSE UPDATE

The Environmental Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated December 2, 2009, from the Commissioner of Environmental Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk forward copies of this report to the local municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides an update on the accreditation status for the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS).

3. BACKGROUND

The Drinking Water Quality Management Standard and the Municipal Drinking Water Licence are regulatory requirements

The final version of the DWQMS was released in October 2007 and was legislated under Ontario Regulation 188/07. The DWQMS is based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) series of standards and is part of the larger municipal drinking water licensing regime formed by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The standard requires a drinking-water system owner to identify roles and responsibilities at all levels in the organization that have input to the operation of its drinking-water system.

Municipal Drinking Water Licenses are approvals issued by the MOE under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* authorizing the operation of municipal residential drinking water systems. The authority to establish or alter a system will be provided through a Drinking Water Works Permit, which also provides a description and stipulates the conditions in which it may operate. Together, the Municipal Drinking Water Licenses and Drinking Water Works Permits replace Certificates of Approval.

York Region was one of the first Municipalities in Ontario to submit their Operational Plan under 'Full Scope – Entire DWQMS'

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 188/07, the Operational Plan for York Region's drinking water systems was submitted in mid December 2008 ahead of the January 1, 2009 deadline.

The Operational Plan was submitted under the 'Full Scope – Entire DWQMS' option according to the Ministry of the Environment's Accreditation Protocol (July 2007). This option requires full implementation of the entire DWQMS and a full system audit, which includes an off-site documentation audit.

Previous staff reports on the DWQMS

Previous staff reports to Regional Council on implementation of the DWQMS include:

- Transportation and Works Committee Report No. 2 dated February 19, 2009, '*Drinking Water Quality Management Standard Operational Plan and Municipal Drinking Water License Submission*' providing an informational update on the submission status for the DWQMS Operational Plan and implementation.
- Transportation and Works Committee Report No. 9 dated November 20, 2008, '*Drinking Water Quality Management Standard Implementation and Municipal Drinking Water License Update*' detailing the status on outstanding items for the Operational Plan and recommending delegation of Operational Plan and Municipal Drinking Water License endorsement to the Commissioner of Environmental Services.
- Transportation and Works Committee Report No. 6 dated June 19, 2008, '*Drinking Water Quality Management Standard Implementation Update*' providing updates to roles and responsibilities in the DWQMS as a result of departmental reorganization.
- Transportation and Works Committee Report No. 1 dated January 24, 2008, '*Roles and Responsibilities as part of the Regulated Drinking Water Quality Management Standard*' recommending roles and responsibilities to support the DWQMS within York Region.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Accreditation audit was completed in September 2009

The Ministry of the Environment contracted the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) as the sole accrediting body for the DWQMS. CGSB performed a systems (off-site documentation) audit in April 2009 and conducted an on-site verification audit on

September 14-16, 2009. Though no nonconformities were found, minor recommendations were made to improve some system documentation. As a result of the Systems and Verification audits, all ten drinking water systems in York Region were recommended for accreditation to the DWQMS.

Management Review was conducted in October 2009

The Operational Plan indicates that a Management Review first be conducted on a semi-annual basis for York Region's drinking water systems. The Management Review meeting was held on October 5, 2009 by staff to evaluate the continuing stability, adequacy and effectiveness of the Quality Management System.

Issuance of municipal drinking water licenses is expected this month

The Operational Plan and its accreditation is a portion of the MOE's Municipal Drinking Water Licensing program. Licenses are issued only after an Operating Authority has met specific criteria, including being accredited to the DWQMS and implementing Financial Plans as per Ontario Regulation 453/07.

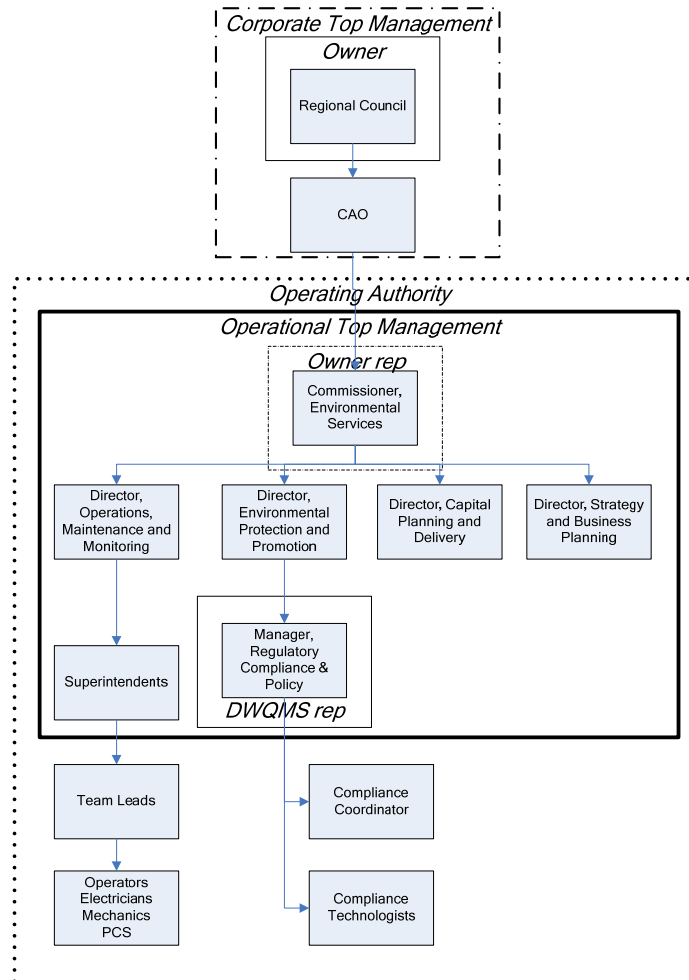
Draft Drinking Water Works Permits have been received for some drinking water systems in York Region. Certificates of Approval remain in effect until permits are finalized.

York Region staff continue to work on Financial Plans to meet requirements for the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) 3150 program. This work will be leveraged to meet requirements for the Financial Plan component of the Municipal Drinking Water Licensing program. For existing municipal drinking water systems, Financial Plans are required to be prepared and approved six months after issuance of municipal drinking water licenses or July 1, 2010, whichever date is later.

Notice of accreditation was received in December 2009

Accreditation to the DWQMS completes requirements from Council in the implementation of the DWQMS and notice of accreditation was received for York Region's ten drinking water systems on December 10, 2009 from CGSB. This standard assures that in cases of emergencies or operational events that may impact drinking water quality, standard emergency procedures exist and are followed to mitigate impacts. The frequency of these occurrences are reported to Operational Top Management twice annually by way of Management Review and annually to Corporate Top Management (Council) via staff reports (Figure 1). Council is responsible for providing sufficient resources to support the DWQMS.

Figure 1
Organizational Structure of Roles



5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs for DWQMS accreditation audits were included in the 2009 approved budget

The Canadian General Standards Board released an estimated schedule of fees for accreditation audits which include audit time and travel fees. The estimated fees of \$52,700 were included in the 2009 approved budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Each local municipality is required to submit an Operational Plan for their drinking water systems. In accordance with Ontario Regulation 188/07, the local municipalities began their stage submissions on January 1, 2009.

The City of Vaughan and the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill have received accreditation under 'Full Scope – Entire DWQMS'. Operations Plans for the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Township of King have been submitted.

Each local municipality is responsible for their own audit and accreditation costs. Costs may vary across municipalities depending on their complexity and serviced population.

7. CONCLUSION

The Canadian General Standards Board has completed the accreditation audits and have recommended all ten York Region drinking water systems for accreditation. Once the system is accredited, the MOE will issue Municipal Drinking Water Licenses and Drinking Water Works Permits. Thereafter, Regional Council will need to monitor the DWQMS via staff reports and to ensure sufficient resources are available to support it.

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

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.