



Monday, October 24, 2005

Media Release

York Durham Sewage System Interceptor Peer Review New Comparison of Alternative Route Alignments report complete

Results posted on York Region's Web site at www.york.ca

NEWMARKET – The Peer Review of the New Comparison of Alternative Route Alignments has been completed. The Peer Review has concurred with the technical studies prepared in support of the new comparison that 19th Avenue and Leslie Street is the preferred route of the York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) Interceptor.

Based upon evaluated criteria, this route received the highest score. It features the least amount of groundwater to be pumped, offers the least impact to the Oak Ridges Moraine aquifer, and the least impact to residents and businesses.

Significantly lower dewatering rates will be achieved by utilizing new tunnelling technology through the use of an Earth Pressure Balancing Machine (EPBM) versus conventional tunnelling techniques normally associated with these types of construction projects.

“York Region has already completed a Class Environmental Assessment for this project, and now the peer review process verifies what our own studies and data have already indicated regarding the 19th Avenue and Leslie Street route,” said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “Extensive environmental studies and assessments were undertaken to reach these conclusions, and the expert peer review team has validated the technical work done.”

The review was conducted by five recognized experts in their respective fields:

- Dr. Paul Eagles, PhD, MCIP; University of Waterloo, Terrestrial Ecologist
- Dr. Ken Howard, MSc, PhD, PHG, Pgeo, CGeol, FGS; University of Toronto, Hydrogeology
- Mr. Serge Metikosh, Golder Associates Ltd. (Fisheries)
- Dr. Robert Newbury, BSc (Civil), MSc (Water Resources), PhD (Engineering Science), PEng; Simon Fraser University, Fluvio-geomorphology
- Mr. John Westland, PEng; Golder Associates Ltd., Geotechnical/Tunnelling

Dr. Paul Eagles, commenting on the terrestrial biology of the project wrote: “The use of the road allowance for infrastructure placement considerably limits the potential negative impacts on surface terrestrial biological features.”

In the review, Dr. Ken Howard stated: “I find the hydrogeological studies conducted as part of the YDSS Interceptor Sewer Study to be some of the most comprehensive I have ever witnessed for a project of this nature.”

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“Having the peer review team concur with the Region’s findings is a significant step towards ensuring the continued health of the residents in Richmond Hill and throughout our Region, in addition to our ongoing guardianship of the Oak Ridges Moraine,” said Town of Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell, Chair of the Region’s Transportation and Works Committee. “This infrastructure is both necessary and immediate. If the main trunk sewer ever surcharges, Richmond Hill is facing the very real threat of sewage backing up into people’s basements.”

Any additional information requested by the Peer Review team has been provided by the Region.

Four volumes of detailed work and information have been received by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), including:

- Baseline Report
- New Comparison of Alternatives Report
- Three additional volumes of appendices, including plan and profile drawings

Copies of all documentation have been placed on public record and available for public viewing on the York Region Web site at www.york.ca and at the following locations:

- York Regional Administrative Centre, Regional Clerks Office: 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket
- Town of Richmond Hill, Clerks Office: 225 East Beaver Creek Road, Richmond Hill
- Richmond Hill Public Library: 1 Atkinson Street, Richmond Hill

The next steps in the project are as follows:

- Permit to Take Water (PTTW) application and supporting documentation will be submitted to the Peer Review team, as per the Minister of the Environment conditions of October 2004
- Public Information Session on the PTTW application and supporting documentation to be scheduled in December
- Submission of the PTTW application and supporting documentation to Ministry of Environment expected in early January 2006

For more information on the YDSS or to access the peer review documentation, please visit www.york.ca and follow the York Durham Sewage System Information, or visit the project Web site directly at <http://ydss.cenet.ca>

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