

**The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes**  
**Council Report**

**Report Number WWW2019-008**

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**Date:** June 18, 2019  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Council Chambers

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**Ward Community Identifier: 5, 6, 7**

**Title:** Omemee Sewage Lagoons Provincial Officer's Order 1-L4E0C

**Description:** Omemee Sewage Lagoons Provincial Officer's Order

**Author and Title:** Kayla Pantaleo, Contract Coordinator

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**Recommendation(s):**

That Report WWW2019-008, **Omeme Sewage Lagoons Provincial Officer's Order 1-L4E0C**, be received.

**Department Head:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:**\_\_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

At the Council Meeting of November 23, 2004 Council adopted the following resolution directing staff to forward all Provincial Officer's Orders from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), regarding water systems to Council:

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY CR2004-1263**

**THAT staff be directed to bring forward to Council, upon reception, any and all Provincial Orders regarding water systems.**

The recent Provincial Officer's Order received is not a drinking water system; it is a wastewater system. This report provides an overview to Council of the recent Provincial Officer's Report and Order received by the City, consistent with the above noted resolution\*. As well, this report provides Council with an understanding of how this Order outlines preventative measures taken to ensure there are no negative impacts on the environment while continuing to operate and treat the wastewater from the Village of Omeme. The original Provincial Officer's Report and Order is appended as Appendix A. The following provides a summary of the order:

On May 8, 2019, The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes received Provincial Officer's Order Number 1-L4E0C for the Omeme Sewage Lagoons, operated by Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA). The Provincial Officer's Report identified a series of events that lead to the non-compliance and the following is a summary of the issues the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) identified in their Report:

Prior to December 31, 2015 the use of spray irrigation for the treated effluent was authorized by the MECP as a special condition within the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) No. 2548-9PPMSK. This condition was part of the transition from the spray irrigation operations to the newly constructed Large Subsurface Disposal System (LSSDS). Since being commissioned in the fall of 2013, the LSSDS has experienced deficiencies which required the City to request that the Ministry continue to permit the use of the Spray Irrigation System on a temporary basis.

In the spring of 2015, a geotechnical investigation was conducted on the LSSDS which concluded that the infiltration capability of the existing soil was less than what was previously noted in the original design. These findings could be considered as the main contributing factors for the LSSDS malfunction. Due to the significant costs associated with the remediation of the system, CKL notified the Ministry that they would not be able to complete the recommendations to address the issues until 2016. In the spring of 2016, the Ministry's Peterborough District Office through discussion with the Ministry's Approvals Branch, provided permission for

the spray irrigation to be used as an emergency provision until the issues with the LSSDS were addressed.

On June 15, 2018, the Ministry held a meeting with CKL and OCWA to discuss the current status of the LSSDS. They requested that a Qualified Person be retained to review the groundwater data and assess for any potential impacts, additionally, that an action plan be provided to address the operational issues with the LSSDS.

On September 15, 2018, the Ministry was provided with an Action Plan that included site assessment work that was estimated to be completed by the end of 2018. Once completed plans to rehabilitate will be provided in a proposal to the Ministry.

On January 7, 2019, the Ministry provided technical recommendations (based on the review of the Hydrogeological Impact Assessment Report) for the on-going use of the Spray Irrigation System. The recommendations included expanding the groundwater level monitoring and groundwater quality sampling (including additional parameters added) to be completed on a quarterly basis for the next 3 years. An annual trend analysis report for the sampling is to be provided to the Ministry.

On January 25, 2019, a site conceptual design was provided to the Ministry that included the improvements to the existing infiltration area and a pre-treatment pilot testing. The testing is to occur in the summer of 2019 and will provide the specific information required to complete the detailed design. CKL's Qualified Person, anticipates that the detailed design will be completed in 2019 and that construction of the design will take place early 2020.

On April 18, 2019, the Ministry's Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch confirmed that the proposed pilot project could proceed.

In the interim of the LSSDS remediation, the City will continue to work with the Ministry to ensure the Spray Irrigation System is operated in accordance with the requirements set out in the attached Order.

### **Rationale:**

The Provincial Officer's Order allows implementation of preventive measures due to deficiencies with the operation of the LSSDS and also allows the continued use of the Spray Irrigation System as a contingency. This order provides clarity and specific requirements to operational staff for the interim operations of the site until the pilot testing is complete. The requirements are a necessary measure to

ensure the site is in compliance and that it continues to not create an adverse effect on the environment or to human health.

### **Other Alternatives Considered:**

No other alternatives may be considered outside of the stipulated requirements within the Provincial Officer's Order, and any future direction provided by MECP. The City will continue to comply with applicable legislation to reduce risk of an adverse effect on the environment, human health, which subsequently reduces the liability to the City.

### **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

Operationally, the City will incur the additional costs associated with the Ministry's technical recommendations to expand the groundwater level monitoring and groundwater quality sampling for the next 3 years. The cost of the program for 2019 will be \$17,484.29 and will be captured in the 2019 operational budget. Capital costs will be incurred for the remediation project, and will be budgeted accordingly through capital budget.

### **Relationship of Recommendation(s) To The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan:**

This Report is consistent with Council Adopted Strategic Plan in that it contributes to the following goals:

- Goal 2 – An Exceptional Quality of Life
- Goal 3 – A Healthy Environment.

These goals are reflected by our efforts to provide safe drinking water that is essential for the quality of life of residents and visitors. We will continue to work with OCWA and the Ministry to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and associated regulations.

### **Consultations:**

Chief Administrative Officer  
Director, Public Works  
Manager, Environmental Services  
Supervisor, Water and Wastewater Operations

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A– Omemeew Lagoons Provincial Officer's Order Number 1-L4E0C



Omemeew Lagoons  
Provincial Officer's Orc

**Department Head E-Mail:** brobinson@kawarthalakes.ca

**Department Head:** Bryan Robinson