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DATE 26 April 1996

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator  
Planning and Environment Committee

FROM/EXP. Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **INDUSTRIAL WASTE - SEWER USE REGULATION  
PART 5.2 REGIONAL REGULATORY CODE**

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### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Planning and Environment Committee recommend Council approve that the Regional Regulatory Code be amended to provide that all sewers and sewage works owned or operated by or on behalf of any person and all connections thereto which mediately or immediately enter into such works within the Regional area are regulated by the provisions of Part 5.2, Sewers, Sewage Works and Control of Discharges.**

### **PURPOSE**

The legislative changes to the Regional Municipalities Act in Bill 143, (the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and French-Language School Board, Statute Law Amended Act, 1994) give the Region authority to regulate the discharges to any sanitary, combined, or storm sewers as if the works were regional works. The purpose of this report is to extend the application of Part 5.2 of the Regional Regulatory Code (Sewer Use By-law) to all sewage works in order to facilitate the regulation of discharges from industry, manufacturing, commercial, trade, business, and institutions that discharge directly or indirectly to sanitary, combined and storm sewers.

### **BACKGROUND**

In July 1991 Council established an Industrial Waste - Sewer Use Control Program. One of the key items identified for the success of the program was that it be implemented as a Regional responsibility with full co-operation of area municipalities. Under the program, the area municipalities maintained their responsibilities for dealing with residential sewer use discharge

issues while the Region assumed the new responsibilities for the industrial discharge issues. The Region's enforcement of its Sewer Use By-law is currently contingent upon the co-operation of the local municipalities.

At the time the program was established, Council directed staff to seek legislation to allow for a Regional Sewer Use By-law which would apply to all sewers throughout Ottawa-Carleton. Staff were also directed to update the sewer use by-law to reflect the requirements contained in the 1988 Ministry of Environment and Energy's Model Sewer Use By-law.

In January, 1994, Council approved an amendment to Part 5.2 of the Regulatory Code which updated the Region's sewer use requirements and incorporated the Ministry of Environment and Energy's Model Sewer Use By-law. At the time of the amendment, the Region had not received the necessary legislative changes to have the sewer use requirements apply to all sewers throughout Ottawa-Carleton.

In May 1994, Bill 143 was enacted which, among other things, gave the Region the authority to regulate all sewers throughout Ottawa-Carleton. This change will allow for a more efficient administration of the Industrial Waste - Sewer Use Control Program.

## DISCUSSION

The Industrial Waste Section of the Environment and Transportation Department currently administers Part 5.2 of the Regional Regulatory Code. The Code provides for monitoring, sampling, permitting and reporting of sewage discharges to regional sewers. It also establishes criteria for the quantity and quality of sewage discharged to sanitary, combined and storm sewer systems.

The majority of industrial dischargers in Ottawa-Carleton are connected to local municipal sewers. The waste from industries flows through the local municipal sewers prior to entering the regional sewer system. As a result of this, the Region regularly requires the assistance of local municipalities when administering Part 5.2 of the Code, particularly as it relates to the installation of manholes for the purpose of monitoring, sampling and enforcement. In order for the Region to formalize the implementation of the Industrial Waste Program through the use of the local sewer use by-laws, the Region would require agreements with each of the local municipalities.

In order to ensure a consistent approach when dealing with industrial discharges to the sewer system, the same requirements should apply to all sewer users throughout Ottawa-Carleton. This is critical given that the sewage usually flows from a local sewer to a regional sewer and is ultimately treated at the Pickard Centre.

The amendment proposed in this report, would extend the provisions contained in Part 5.2 of the Regional Regulatory Code to apply to all discharges to sewage works, including to local and regional sanitary, combined and storm sewers. This results in uniform standards for all sewer discharges in Ottawa-Carleton and avoids the negotiation of agreements with the 11 area municipalities concerning the administration of sewer use control, as well as the duplication of services. This results in more efficient and cost effective delivery of the Industrial Waste - Sewer Use Control Program.

The local municipalities will continue to own their infrastructure and to perform the necessary maintenance of sanitary, storm, and combined sewers under their jurisdiction. Issues related to residential discharges will still be the responsibility of the local municipalities although the Region will also have the ability to assist the municipalities if necessary.

It is recommended that the Code provisions be extended to apply to all discharges to all sewage works within the Regional Area to facilitate the administration of the Industrial Waste - Sewer Use Control Program.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

This change to the Regulatory Code will not result in any financial impact to the Region.

### CONSULTATION

A working group has been established to create a forum for each local municipality and the Region in support of this initiative to exchange information regarding the enforcement and administration of the Sewer Use Control Program.

*Approved by  
M.J.E. Sheflin, P. Eng.*

TN/jes