

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. **31 10-96-0023-B**
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 25 September 1997

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator, Planning and Environment Committee

FROM/EXP. Director, Engineering Division
 Environment and Transportation Department

SUBJECT/OBJET **VILLAGE OF METCALFE**
 WATER ENVIRONMENT STUDY
 PROVINCIAL WATER PROTECTION FUND

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse by resolution an application to the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE) for funding under the new Provincial Water Protection Fund for updating the Water Environment Study for the Village of Metcalfe.

BACKGROUND

Provincial Water Protection Fund

On 29 August 1997, the Environment and Energy Minister announced a 200 million dollar fund to assist Ontario communities with the delivery of safe and clean drinking water and the protection of the environment from wastewater discharges. Funding is to be made available over three years to communities that meet the eligibility requirements.

Municipalities must meet stringent criteria to be eligible for this new program. Applicants must:

- Show a public health or environmental problem with their infrastructure by demonstrating that their drinking water consistently is not meeting Ontario Drinking Water Quality Objectives or their treated effluent being discharged into the environment is regularly not meeting requirements set out in certificates of approval or Provincial policy;
- Identify cost-effective solutions to fixing the problem including making the best possible use of existing facilities and joint servicing arrangements;
- Demonstrate that they are in need of financial assistance from the province.

Studies eligible for funding include:

- Water efficiency study
- Water system optimization study
- Water environmental study
- Sewage environmental study
- Private water system study
- Private sewage system study

Capital projects eligible for grants include:

- Preliminary engineering and design work
- Major components of water and sewage systems
- Treatment and storage facility
- Pumping stations
- Trunk watermain and trunk sanitary sewers
- Local water distribution and sewage collection systems
- Pipeline extensions
- Rehabilitation of private wells and septic systems
- Other works related to the capital project

The information received from the Province indicates that the first round of applications for Capital projects must be received by 31 October 1997. No deadline has been announced for study grants.

DISCUSSION

Village of Metcalfe - Water Environment Study

In June 1984, a study commissioned by the Township of Osgoode under the Ministry of Environment and Energy Private Services Funding Program reported that 74 percent of wells did not meet the MOEE Ontario Water Objectives with respect to coliform bacteria, iron, dissolved solids, ammonia, nitrate and chloride. The source of this contamination was attributed to the septic tank effluent from sub-standard installation of private sewage disposal systems. As a result of this study, the MOEE supported a communal water system for the Village of Metcalfe.

In December 1987, the RMOC commissioned a study to undertake an investigation for the communal water supply and to initiate the Environmental Study Report (ESR). The Schedule 'C' project under the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water and Wastewater projects was approved on 21 October 1992. The approval of this Class Environmental Assessment will terminate on the fifth anniversary of the approval (i.e. 21 October 1997). Under the Class Environmental Assessment, the RMOC must review the planning and design process and current environmental setting to ensure that the recommended alternative for servicing via a communal water system is still valid given the current planning context, the current economics and the

funding opportunities. An addendum to the ESR must be placed on the public record. It is noted that the financial and planning components of the existing ESR were developed based on the existing Provincial program for assistance to these types of projects. With the announcement of the new Provincial program, this information is out of date.

As for the Wastewater Environment Study, the Township of Osgoode commissioned an engineering firm in July 1994 to undertake the ESR. Funding under the Province of Ontario previous Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) has been secured by the Township. Filing of the Wastewater ESR is pending.

Staff are recommending that the Addendum to the Water ESR update the existing document, and also integrate the wastewater issues that the Township have identified.

To receive assistance for the Water Environment Study for the Village of Metcalfe, the appropriate study application provided by the Ministry of Environment and Energy must be submitted along with a Resolution of Council requesting funding assistance for the proposed study. Applications for study would be reviewed by the Ministry of Environment and Energy upon receipt.

The level of funding eligible for the study will be based on the population of the Township of Osgoode. This is estimated at approximately 25% of the cost for the study. Also, according to a conversation between MOEE and RMOC staff, it is uncertain whether an addendum to an ESR is eligible. RMOC has requested confirmation from MOEE on this matter.

Rural Services Strategy

In conjunction with the RMOC Official Plan, the RMOC is developing a Rural Servicing Strategy. As part of this exercise, a survey of rural communities will be undertaken to identify priorities based on health and environmental issues. This information will provide the 'Problem Definition' to support further applications for funding under the new 'Water Protection Fund.'

CONSULTATION

Consultation will be completed per the requirements of the Class EA for Water and Wastewater Projects.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds will be identified in the 1998 Capital Budget Forecast for the cost of the study.

*Approved by
J.M. Miller, P.Eng.*

GV/jw