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DATE 10 September 1999

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
 Planning and Environment Committee

FROM/EXP. Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **SEWAGE MONITORING STATIONS - REGIONAL BY-LAW
 RESPONSE TO INQUIRY NO. PEC-14 (99)**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

This report is in response to an inquiry from Councillor Beamish at the 13 July 1999 Planning and Environment Committee meeting regarding the installation of a monitoring maintenance access cover at an industrial premise.

DISCUSSION

Objective of Industrial Waste Programme

The overall objective of the Sewer Use By-Law is to protect the wastewater infrastructure, the health and safety of sewer workers, as well as the health of the receiving water environment. This objective is achieved by promoting awareness through monitoring, inspections and education to achieve reductions in the level of pollutants discharged to the sewer system. The Region's Sewer Use By-law is contained in Part 5.2 of the *Regional Regulatory Code*.

Classification of Industrial Discharges

Since the enactment of the Sewer Use By-law, over 5,000 industries have been surveyed. Based on their potential to be a significant industrial discharger, 2,000 of these industries have completed a detailed report and have since been classified by sector based on their activities. The uses of the activity sectors are based on Standard Industrial Classification Codes and are listed under Part 5.2, Schedule D of the *Regional Regulatory Code*.

After a detailed review of information submitted by industries, approximately 600 industries have been identified as significant industrial dischargers. In establishing this identification, the

Environment and Transportation Department uses factors such as water usage, chemicals employed in processing, waste handled at site and public complaints. Public complaints receive highest priority and are investigated immediately.

Monitoring Requirements for Industrial Discharges

Seventy facilities are monitored on an ongoing basis and first-time inspection is conducted at 125 industries annually. Approximately 500 industries have been inspected to date. The inspection and monitoring results serve to assess whether the industry is in compliance with the Sewer Use By-law or whether corrective measures need to be initiated. Where a sample is required to determine the characteristics or content of the sewage, the owner or operator of an industrial premise with one or more connections to a sewage works is required to install and maintain in good repair at each connection a suitable monitoring location to allow observation and sampling of the sewage, uncontaminated water or stormwater.

Occasionally, after inspection, it is requested that monitoring maintenance access covers be installed by an industry if no adequate monitoring location exists. Over 20 maintenance access covers have been installed in the last five years in response to requests to provide a suitable monitoring location. All companies have complied with this request. Information regarding the names and addresses of the companies who have installed maintenance access covers is confidential and protected under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* as it could potentially be used for by-law enforcement purposes.

The requirements to provide a suitable monitoring location for assessment of compliance with the Sewer Use By-law apply to both existing and new facilities. The Region must be able to control the discharges from existing buildings since buildings can be sold and used for different types of industrial processes, with resulting changes in effluent discharges. A monitoring maintenance access cover is a standard requirement of site plan approval for industrial facilities and is a requirement of Section 5.2 of the *Code* which has been approved by Council. The Sewer Use By-law does not provide for grandfather clauses. Approximately 50 monitoring maintenance access covers are requested each year for new facilities.

Industrial Site Referred to in Planning and Environment Committee Inquiry No. 14-99

The industrial site referred to in Planning and Environment Committee (PEC) Inquiry No. 14-99 has been classified based on the Standard Industrial Classification Codes listed in the *Regional Regulatory Code*. This type of industry is deemed to require a suitable monitoring location to assess the characteristics of the effluent discharge.

The actions taken by the Industrial Waste group over the last 20 months with respect to this specific issue have been consistent with our usual approach, working in co-operation with our industrial clients to ensure compliance with the Sewer Use By-law. The Department seeks to achieve voluntary compliance through discussion with industry and to initiate more formal enforcement initiatives only when the non-compliance fails to be rectified.

The specific details related to the industrial site referred to in PEC No. 14-99 are provided in a separate confidential report.

CONSULTATION

Communication and consultation activities have been and will continue to be at the core of the Industrial Waste Programme.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Through the protection of the wastewater infrastructure, safety of sewer workers and of the health of the water environment, the Industrial Waste Programme will continue to have positive financial implications for the residents of Ottawa-Carleton.

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

FJ/ls