RE: EAST SIDE LANDS PUMPING STATION AND FORCEMAIN CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (CLASS EA)

In April 2013, the Region of Waterloo began a Class Environmental Assessment study for a new wastewater pumping station and forcemain (wastewater pipeline) that will service properties in the area known as the “East Side Lands”. This study is one step in the process to implement strategies developed through the East Side Lands Master Environmental Servicing Plan (MESP) completed earlier in 2014, and the Region’s Wastewater Treatment Master Plan (WWTMP) completed in 2007.

It is expected that the East Side Lands will be developed in the coming decades, primarily as “employment lands” (industrial, commercial, and institutional). New municipal service infrastructure, including wastewater servicing, will need to be constructed to allow for these new developments. Wastewater from most of the East Side Lands is planned to be treated at the Kitchener Wastewater Treatment Plant (KWWTP), located in the City of Kitchener, across the Grand River in the Doon area. A new Regional wastewater pump station also needs to be constructed, along with a new underground pipeline through portions of Kitchener, to transport the wastewater from the East Side Lands to the KWWTP.

The current study will help to determine the best location for the new pump station, and the best route for the new pipeline. The Region is studying the area (see map below) which includes field work to survey and categorize existing ecological conditions in areas that could potentially be affected by the project. The Region will consult with City of Kitchener and Cambridge staff, residents, and other government agencies to ensure the needs and concerns of all stakeholders are considered, including the potential impacts of construction and operation on residents and businesses.

In the fall of 2014, the project team and key stakeholders including City of Kitchener and Cambridge staff will review the information gathered, and develop a preliminary recommendation for the preferred pump station site and pipeline route.

A Public Consultation Centre will be held in early 2015, where the preliminary recommendation and other study findings will be presented and public feedback gathered. The draft study report will also be made public for review and comment. The Region of Waterloo welcomes comments from the public at any time up to completion of the study in 2015.

For further clarification, please review the following questions and answers:

Q: Why do we need to build a new pumping station and pipeline?
A: The proposed pumping station and pipeline is necessary infrastructure needed to service new development on the east side of the region, and is part of the Region’s strategy for economic growth and attracting new employers to the area.
Q: Why is this Study needed?
A: The Region wants to find a solution that minimizes the impacts on residents and the surrounding natural environment. A Class EA study is a Province of Ontario requirement for this type of project, that helps ensure all relevant input and stakeholders are considered in the decision-making process.

Q: Where will this new pump station and pipeline be built?
A: No decisions have been made on a location. A number of locations and routes are being considered as possible options. Key stakeholders including City of Kitchener and Cambridge staff will review the information gathered, and develop a preliminary recommendation for the preferred pump station site and pipeline route. Before any decisions are made, a Public Consultation Centre will be held in early 2015, where the preliminary recommendation and other study findings will be presented and public feedback gathered. The draft study report will also be made public for review and comment. The Region of Waterloo welcomes comments from the public at any time up to completion of the study in 2015.

Q: What areas could be impacted by construction? Will traffic flow be affected in my area?
A: The areas potentially impacted will depend on the final recommendations of the study. Once the final selection is made, plans will be developed to minimize the impacts of the project on the areas affected. However, we do know that most of the potential pipeline routes cross the King Street and Highway 8 corridors. Options being considered for pump station options are all located to the north-east of Highway 8, in the area roughly bounded by Highway 8, Allendale Road, Fountain Street, and Maple Grove Road. (See also the map provided below.)

Q: Is the decision of where to construct the pumping station and pipeline going to be made solely by the Region?
A: No. The Region is working closely with City of Kitchener and Cambridge staff as well as other stakeholders in developing the preferred solution. Once the relevant information is gathered and assessed by the project team, the public will also have formal opportunities to give their input before the final decision is made.

Q: Will Regional staff be on my property during this study?
A: There are only a few private properties in the study area, none of them are residential. If project staff need to access a property, the owner will be contacted in advance to arrange access.

Q: When is the construction going to take place?
A: The timing is dependent on a number of factors. Currently we anticipate construction of the pump station and pipeline to begin in 2017.
Q: How can I get more information, or give input on this project?
A: We encourage you to provide us with any suggestions or comments that you may have about this study. All comments will be posted as part of public record with the exception of personal information. To provide comment or request additional information, please contact either of the Project Team members below:

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