



## REPORT TO COUNCIL OFFICE OF C.A.O.



**AGENDA DATE:** March 19, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Sydenham Water Plant

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council accept the report tabled on the Sydenham Water Plant dated March 19, 2019 and that this matter receive no further action by Council.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Council passed the following motion on February 5, 2019:

That Council direct staff, in consultation with the Township Solicitor, to prepare a report in line with the recommendations in the closed meeting investigator's report on why Council was a party to litigation on the water plant and the pertinent facts underlying the legal claims that can be made public;

And further be it resolved that staff report back to Council on the status of the legal case;

And that once the staff report is tabled and accepted that this matter receive no further action by Council

Subsequently staff in consultation with the Township Solicitor have prepared the following:

In 2010, after engaging citizens as part of the Sydenham Water Advisory Committee, the Township undertook upgrades to the Sydenham Water Treatment Plant to address deficiencies in the plant's original design that were necessary to address environmental regulations. Upgrades included the introduction of UV equipment, a Granular Activated Carbon Filter and a change to chloramination from chlorination as the primary disinfection process.

The upgrades were finished in April 2011 and the water plant continued to produce water that was safe and met all Ministry of Environment Regulations.

In the early fall of 2011, water plant operators noticed what appeared to be several pin hole leaks in the recently installed serpentine piping. The serpentine piping acts as a wall mounted storage tank used for giving chlorinated water the required contact time with ammonia needed to produce Chloraminated water.

At no time has the quality of drinking water produced at the plant been compromised by the pin hole water leaks.

Contractors were called in and along with Township Staff worked towards resolving the matter. The leaks represented a potential warranty claim only. The investigation confirmed that the balance of the installation was correctly undertaken and the plant was operating properly. The parties initially installed rubber gasket clamps over the identified pin hole leaks and continued to talk about a final resolution. This resolution created no concerns for the operation of the plant and had no impact on the quality of water produced.



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Unfortunately the parties were unable to resolve the matter and with the time limits for litigation coming to a close the Township initiated a claim through the Courts against the parties involved.

In late 2018, the litigation was settled to the mutual satisfaction of all parties and the Township will receive a lump sum payment which will be put into the water plant reserves. This settlement has a non-disclosure clause as is typical with this type of situation.

Over the course of the next decade or so as the water plant requires further upgrades, a permanent solution will be introduced to address the pin hole leaks. In the interim, the rubber gasket clamps continue to address the issue with no risk to the safety of the water.

**Submitted/approved by:**

Wayne Orr, CAO

**Prepared by:**

Wayne Orr, CAO