

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Neil Chisholm  
Certification Officer  
Certification and Licensing Programs Office  
40 St. Clair Avenue West  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1M2

Dear Mr. Chisholm,

**RE: ERO 019-3515 Proposed amendments to wastewater operator licensing regulation to address impacts of emergencies**

The City of Guelph (City) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to wastewater operator licensing regulation to address impacts of emergencies.

The City has a keen interest in the efforts of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposing specific changes to [O. Reg. 129/04: Licensing of Sewage Works Operators](#) made under the [Ontario Water Resources Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.40](#).

The City's primary comments on the proposed amendments to wastewater operator licensing regulation are as follows:

**Emergencies**

- The City supports adding a definition of emergency to the regulation and also supports the exceptional situations that could trigger the use of the proposed emergency. The city also supports extending the wastewater operator's certificate for up to 12 months if needed to help systems focus on emergency response.
- The City also supports allowing owners and operating authorities to temporarily employ certain knowledgeable, experienced, but non-certified personnel to operate a wastewater facility to help ensure its continuity of operations in emergency situations
- The City supports the approach to average the training hours for operators over 3 years.
- Further clarification would be helpful in the case where a local emergency is declared by the Mayor of the municipality. In this case, clarifying the proposed process defined by the MECP to enact the emergency declaration process would be beneficial for a locally declared emergency.

- The City's wastewater operators are CUPE members and the proposed changes would conflict with the City's collective agreement. It is recommended that the MECP engage CUPE National to gain an understanding of possible conflicts with collective agreements in these types of situations.

### **Proposed administrative amendments**

- The City support harmonizing the circumstances in which a ministry director may revoke a wastewater operator's license.

### **Proposed strike and lock-out related amendments**

- The City supports the formalization and clarification of the process through which an owner or operating authority of a wastewater facility may request the Ministry Director's direction to allow a temporary exemption from operator certification related requirements during a strike or lock-out.
- Additional time for the deadline for initial submission of the strike-plan would be helpful to allow for proper implementation of the strike-plan.

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Rose**, General Manager

Environmental Services, **Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise**

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