


TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE


SUBJECT: DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO REGISTER ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY
RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING

WARD: ALL

**PREPARED BY AND
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**GENERAL MANAGER
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**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER APPROVAL:** C. LADD 
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the Director of Engineering or his/her designate be granted delegated authority on behalf of the Corporation of the City of Barrie to register construction dewatering activities on the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Environmental Activity and Sector Registry.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

2. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for delegated authority for the Director of Engineering or his/her designate, to register construction dewatering activities on the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's (MOECC) Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR). This would ensure that registration of proposed dewatering activities relating to construction projects are expedited without requiring approval of Council on a per case basis.
3. The EASR is an online registry that was instituted by the MOECC in 2016 to allow persons to register activities as prescribed by the regulations, as well as to provide the public access to information contained in the registrations.
4. The registration process first requires setting up an account through Service Ontario's online system, and enrolling in the Environmental Approvals service. After an account is set up, registrations for dewatering activities for individual projects can be made online.
5. The Verification and Certification section of the EASR requires that the person certifying the submitted information can legally bind the corporation. At the present time no staff have been delegated authority for this purpose.
6. The Environmental Protection Act (EPA) states that no person shall engage in an activity at a site if the activity has been prescribed by the regulations unless the person has registered the activity in the Registry.
7. Ontario Regulation 63/16 of the EPA indicates that the taking of groundwater or stormwater for the purpose of dewatering a construction site, including system of disposing of the water, are prescribed activities, if more than 50,000 litres per day. As such, these activities must be registered on the EASR.

8. The EASR online process will prompt whether a Permit To Take Water (PTTW) is required. Generally, a PTTW would be required if the water taking is more than 400,000 litres per day, or under wellhead protection regulation.
9. The Engineering Department is responsible for the design and construction of municipal infrastructure projects under the City's Capital Plan. Many of these projects have components that include sewer, watermain, and roadway installations. These installations must be done in dry, stable construction environments, which often require the extraction of groundwater or redirection of creek flows, to ensure such conditions exist during construction.

ANALYSIS

10. There are approximately 30 registrations that would be required every year based on past annual Capital Works programs.
11. Currently, there is no staff with authority to bind the Corporation while entering activities onto the registry, so each time a registration is required, the authority to register on the EASR would have to be sought from Council by means of a Staff Report. Such a process would require considerable staff time, and extend the timeline for implementation of dewatering activities and delay the progress of construction projects. It is therefore recommended that the Director of Engineering or his/her designate, be granted delegated authority to register construction dewatering activities on the EASR.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

12. The prompt and efficient registry of environmental activities will help to ensure transparency with the public regarding such activities.

ALTERNATIVES

13. There is one Alternative available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General Committee could choose to not grant delegated authority to register construction dewatering activities on the EASR.

This Alternative is not recommended as it would require substantial administrative efforts to attain Council approval for such applications and could result in protracted construction timelines.

FINANCIAL

14. There is an anticipated cost savings of \$10,800 per year based on an average of 30 registrations per year and for which approximately 6 hours of senior staff time at \$60 per hour for preparation of each staff report could be avoided.

LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

15. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report are not specifically related to the goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan.