



Office of the Minister

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October 5, 2021

Wayne Emmerson
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Regional Municipality of York
Email: wayne.emmerson@york.ca

Dear Wayne Emmerson:

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today to advise you that today our government will introduce legislation that, if enacted, would pause the Upper York Sewage Solutions environmental assessment application. While the regulatory process is paused, the government will establish an advisory panel (the "Advisory Panel") to provide expert and up to date advice on options to address wastewater servicing capacity needs for the upper areas of York Region. Bill 5, *the York Region Wastewater Act, 2021*, is substantially the same as former Bill 306, which received First Reading June 2021 but died on the Order Paper when the Ontario Legislature was prorogued on September 3, 2021.

While we recognize the need to improve infrastructure in the rapidly growing region, almost a decade has passed since the environmental assessment application for this project was submitted, and more information from technical and other experts is needed to better understand the changing environmental, social and financial implications of this proposal.

It is expected that the membership of the Advisory Panel will be finalized in the coming weeks and will include persons who are expert in a variety of areas, including land-use planning and wastewater infrastructure. The Advisory Panel will provide objective advice to the government on:

- The need and timing for additional sewage servicing capacity to accommodate forecasted population and development growth in the Upper York wastewater service area.
- Alternatives to the Upper York Sewage Solutions Undertaking, including alternatives that would provide additional sewage capacity necessary to accommodate future population and development growth in both the Regional Municipality of York and the Regional Municipality of Durham.
- The costs of developing and implementing the Upper York Sewage Solutions Undertaking and any alternatives.
- The sustainability and efficiency of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Undertaking and any alternatives, including consideration of the use and optimization of existing wastewater services and the protection of human health and the environment.
- And the feasibility and financial viability of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Undertaking and any alternatives.

Wayne Emmerson
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In developing its advice, the Advisory Panel will seek your input and engage with First Nations and other key stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Piccini', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Piccini
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks