



MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

REPORT NO. PW-ES-003-24

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Director of Public Works
MEETING DATE: January 1, 2024
SUBJECT: **Dorchester and Thorndale WWTP - 2023 Annual Reports**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PW-ES-003-24 regarding the 2023 annual reports for the Dorchester and Thorndale WWTP provided by the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) through the operations and maintenance contract, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to provide the Council with the 2023 annual reports describing the operations and maintenance of the Dorchester Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and the Thorndale Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

BACKGROUND:

The wastewater treatment plants in both Thorndale and Dorchester are operated through contracted services with the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA). The OCWA contract services were retained through a formal procurement process in 2012 to establish a 10-year contract commencing in January 2013 with 2 optional 5-year extensions. The contract was established using a base fee for the services that is adjusted annually through a predetermined formula including inflationary indexing. Staff received direction from Council to secure the first 5-year extension option in October 2023 through Council Report PW-ES-013-23 Thames Centre Wastewater Treatment Facilities – Operations, Maintenance and Management Agreement Renewal.

COMMENTS:

Annual Reporting

The 2023 annual operation reports for the Thorndale and Dorchester wastewater treatment plants were submitted to the MECP on March 15, 2024. Provincial requirements for plant operations include various criteria that are evaluated against a “limit” that is not to be exceeded and a more stringent “objective” that is the target for operations to strive to meet. In the reports are various graphs of treated flows on which the “limit” and “objective” are shown for easy reference.

The Dorchester WWTP had one (1) Non-compliance event due to a mechanical failure. The failure allowed the total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) to exceed the concentration limits allowed to leave the WWTP. This exceedance was verbally reported to the MECP, and the equipment repairs were made. Once the WWTP rebounded and moved back within the compliance limits, a written notification was forwarded to the MECP (attached).

The Thorndale WWTP had two (2) Non-compliance events during 2023, one caused by a heavy rainfall event, the second by equipment failure.

The first event was a UV failure which allowed a bacteria exceedance (E.coli) to leave the WWTP. This exceedance was verbally reported to the MECP, and the equipment repairs were made. Once the WWTP rebounded and moved back within the compliance limits, a written notification was forwarded to the MECP (attached).

The second exceedance occurred following a heavy rainfall event. The increase in flows due to the heavy rainfall caused the Thorndale WWTP to shorten the automated process times in order to match in flows entering the plant. This shortened cycle allowed a bacteria (E.coli) and suspended solids exceedance to leave the WWTP. This exceedance was verbally reported to the MECP. Once the flows returned to normal, these parameters moved back within the compliance limits, and a written notification was forwarded to the MECP (attached).

Despite these isolated Non-compliance events, both plants have performed well and have surpassed most target objectives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Pillar: *Community Communications & Engagement*

Goal: *Increase communications between the municipality (Council and Staff) and the public*

CONSULTATION:

Matthew Belding, Process and Compliance Technician, OCWA
Kevin Willson, Environmental Services Superintendent

REFERENCES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A Dorchester WWTP Operations Report 2023 Annual Report
Attachment B Dorchester WWTP – Notice of Non-compliance – TAN 2023 03 10
Attachment C Thorndale WWTP Operations Report 2023 Annual Report
Attachment D Thorndale WWTP – Notice of Non-compliance – E.coli 2023 03 13
Attachment E Thorndale WWTP – Notice of Non-compliance – E.coli & TSS 2023 05 04
Attachment F Thorndale WWTP MECP Inspection – 2023 09 26

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Reviewed by: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer