



Public Utilities Commission for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent

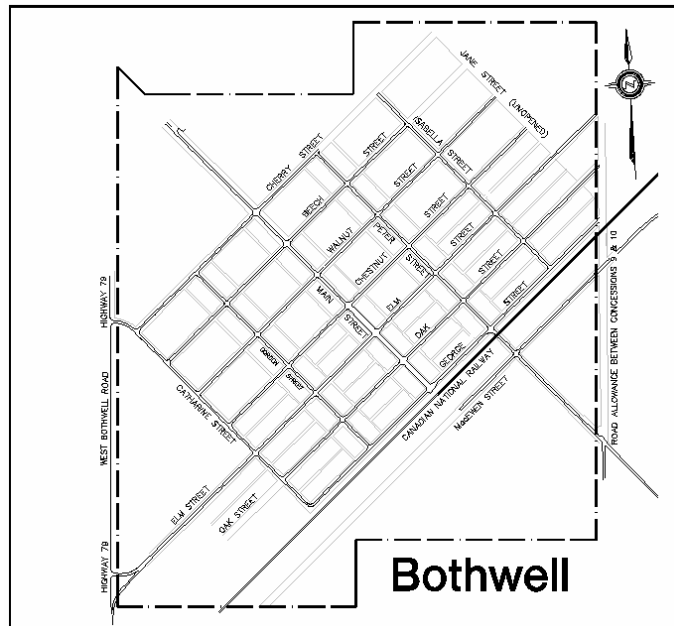
Class Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Installation of Sanitary Sewers and Wastewater Treatment for the Community of Bothwell

NOTICE OF PROJECT INITIATION

Background

The existing Community of Bothwell does not have communal sewerage works (collection and treatment). Sewage disposal continues to be provided by individual on-site septic systems.

Over the past few decades, problems with aging and failing septic systems have been identified throughout the community of Bothwell. Previously completed studies had concluded that Bothwell residents utilizing raw groundwater resources (private wells) may be at risk due to high nitrates and possible contamination from water-borne bacteria if frequent testing and/or proper utilization of water treatment devices were not employed. In addition, many of the existing developed lots are too small to provide for today's area requirements for septic tanks, and samples taken from catchbasins and ditches indicated the presence of sewage in storm drains. In some instances, fecal coliform counts were very high, indicating direct connections from disposal beds, or septic tanks as a probability.



In response to this, in 1995, a municipal water supply system was extended to the Community of Bothwell with the intent that wastewater collection and treatment would be implemented in the future. The need for sanitary sewers and treatment was further confirmed by the Chatham-Kent Water and Wastewater Master Plan.

While safe drinking water is now provided, studies have concluded that many Bothwell septic systems continue to adversely affect groundwater supplies and have detrimental effects on the water environment, including the Thames River. The need to correct this problem is further strengthened by the recent Chatham-Kent Official Plan that places importance on the protection and enhancement of groundwater resources.

Carrying forward with the Chatham-Kent Water and Wastewater Master Plan recommendations, the Chatham-Kent Public Utilities Commission, through their consultants, Earth Tech Canada Inc., has initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for the proposed installation of sanitary sewers and provision of wastewater treatment to serve the Community of Bothwell.



The objective of this project is to implement a sanitary sewage collection system with associated sanitary sewage flows being directed to a wastewater treatment facility that will best address the needs and protection of the community of Bothwell and the environment.

Identification of Alternative Solutions

The following general alternative solutions are being evaluated to address the previously discussed problems:

1. Install new collection system to service Bothwell and pump sewage to an existing municipal Sewage Treatment Plant, such as Thamesville, for treatment.
2. Site new Bothwell Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and construct local Bothwell sewage collection system for treatment within the community.
3. Enter into a joint venture for common collection and treatment with adjacent municipality(ies)
4. Improve Private On-Site Disposal Systems.
5. Limit Growth
6. Do Nothing

How Would Potential Costs Be Determined?

The actual cost to property owners will be finalized once final design is completed and firm collection and treatment costs are determined.

Chatham-Kent is looking at various approaches to funding the necessary improvements to make the system as affordable as possible to the property owners. All available funding opportunities are being pursued. Preliminary costs will be presented at the second public information centre.

Consultation Plan

The Class EA Study is being conducted in accordance with the approved requirements of a Schedule "C" project as defined in the MEA Class EA document (2000). The Class EA process includes public and review agency consultation, an evaluation of alternatives, an assessment of the impacts of the proposed improvements, and identification of measures to mitigate any adverse impacts.

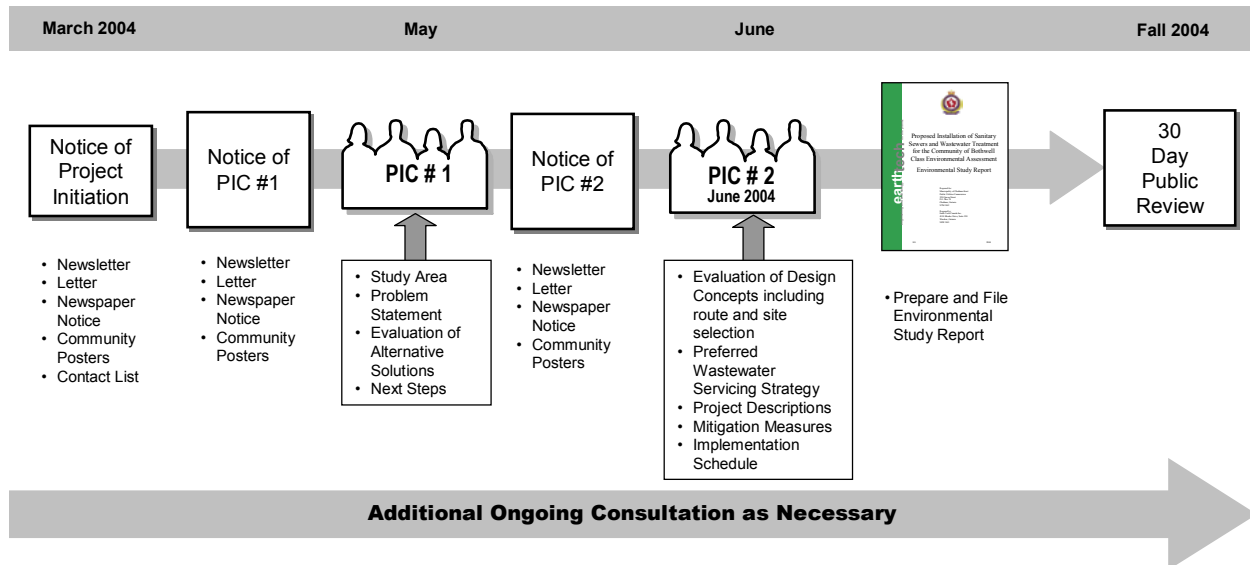
Public consultation is a key component of the Class EA Study. Opportunities for public input will be provided throughout the Study and will include public information centres (PICs), newsletters and direct mailing to review agencies affected landowners and members of the public indicating interest. Comments received through the course of the Study will be considered in identifying the recommended wastewater servicing strategy.

The first PIC is planned for Spring 2004 and will present background information on the study, the evaluation of alternative solutions and the next steps in the study. The second PIC will evaluate alternative design concepts, including route and site selection, identify the preferred wastewater servicing strategy, mitigation measures and the implementation schedule.

We encourage you to contact any of the listed individuals should you wish to provide information or have any questions. If you feel that different input forums would be useful, please let us know.



Proposed Bothwell Wastewater Servicing Class EA Consultation Program



What Happens Next?

A Notice of PIC #1 will be advertised in advance through local newspaper notices as well as newsletter and letter/mailling list. Those who have received this brochure are on the mailing list and will continue to receive future mailings until the study is completed.

The recommended wastewater servicing strategy and associated costs will be presented at a second PIC planned for late June 2004. Further public notification will occur at that time.

At the end of the study, a Draft Class Environmental Assessment Environmental Study Report, documenting the planning and process, and conclusions reached, will be prepared and filed at the PUC and Chatham-Kent clerk's offices for a 30 day public review and comment period. The Report will then be finalized and the Chatham-Kent PUC will then proceed to implement the preferred solution.

For further information, or to be placed on the Class EA mailing list, please contact:

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