



NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS CLOSURE

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for the Verner Water System Improvements

The Study

The Municipality of West Nipissing is currently completing a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) study to review options for improving the supply of treated municipal water for the community of Verner.

The Verner Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was constructed in the early 1970's and supplies potable water to the community of Verner. Although, the WTP has undergone various improvements in previous years, the treatment plant has no redundant components, making routine operations and maintenance difficult and expensive. In order to facilitate certain repairs to the treatment system, it would require a full plant shutdown, and require trucking in potable water from Sturgeon Falls. In addition, the WTP draws raw water from the Veuve River, which is considered a deteriorated water source containing consistent elevated levels of iron, manganese and organics. The treatment process is unable to effectively manage these conditions, resulting in frequent non-compliance with provincial drinking water requirements. The WTP does not allow for expansion capabilities as necessary for altering the plant, to address the ongoing issues with ineffective treatment. A permanent solution is required to be evaluated, that will ensure compliance with provincial regulations, and a sustainable supply of drinking water for the community.

The Process

The MCEA study has followed the Schedule "B" process under the Municipal Engineers Association's, Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Manual (October 2000, amended 2007, 2011 and 2015) which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Through the study process, a range of alternative solutions were developed and evaluated by the Study Team, and refined through public and agency consultation. The current preferred solution involves modifying the existing Verner WTP and constructing a new Water Feeder main in the CPR right-of-way from Cache Bay to Verner. Should after public feedback and review the preferred solution remain the same the project now falls under Schedule A+ of the MCEA, which is automatically approved and no additional public input would be required. Once Municipal Council approves the project detailed construction could commence. The public will be notified prior to construction as required under the MCEA.

Public Information Centre

The Municipality would like to receive public feedback on the planning process to date and the preferred solution. All consultations are being held virtually to protect the health and safety of the community. The Municipality welcomes anyone with an interest in the Study to visit the Municipality's website anytime starting April 28, 2021 to view the background information, discover the problems and opportunities being addressed,

review the alternative solutions and to provide feedback on the preferred solution. An online comment form will be available until May 14, 2021. Materials are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The website is: westnipissing.ca/ea-verner-2021/

If you have accessibility requirements in order to be able to review the material and comment on the study, comments, require further information, or would like to be added to the study mailing list, please contact one of our project team members:

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With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record of the study. The study is being conducted according to the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, which is a planning process approved under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*.

This notice was first issued on April 28, 2021