

Pollution Prevention Through Sewer Use By-law

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The Regional Municipality of York updated its Sewer Use Bylaw in 2005 to promote clean industries and to regulate commercial and industrial sewer users. This work examines York Region's initiatives and the key challenges during implementation. Modelled on guidelines from the Ontario Ministry of Environment and the City of Toronto's Sewer Use Bylaw, the new bylaw included six surchargeable parameters and increased monitoring parameters for wastewater discharge limits. Many challenges arose during the implementation including:

- i. Jurisdictional issues between upper and lower tier governments
- ii. The requirement for more stringent limits in certain areas due to location within sensitive environmental geography
- iii. The vast geographical area covered by York Region
- iv. The need to maintain the highest environmental standards to fulfill requirements of Environmental Management programs

After the implementation of the new by-law, monitoring results indicated that the program contributed to reducing contaminant levels. For example, between 2004 and 2005, mercury concentration dropped by 29 per cent while total flow increased by 9.8 per cent. York Region continues to promote environmental stewardship with our area residents and businesses. As a result, York Region has initiated an enhancement program that will:

- i. Implement P2 Plan – Industrial and Residential
- ii. Examine best management practices for sewer use program
- iii. Help reducing phosphorous loading for Lake Simcoe
- iv. Harmonize sewer use enforcement efforts between York Region (upper tier) and the local area municipalities (lower tier).

Vetri Kasinathan

Vetri Kasinathan is an Enforcement Officer for York Region. He has received his M.Sc., Organic Chemistry in India and has more than 10 years diversified experience in the water & wastewater field. He has been working with York Region since 2002 and his skill set includes operational experience, lab analysis and plant chemist experience in water & wastewater plants.

Fai Ng

Fai Ng, an Environmental Engineering Technology program graduate has been a key member of the York Region Sewer Bylaw Enforcement group since 1998. As a Senior Enforcement Officer, he has initiated various steps to identify the areas of improvement in the sewer use bylaw program. He has also developed and implemented the Industrial Effluent Monitoring Data Management System for the York Regional sewer bylaw program.

Michele Maitre

Michele Maitre is York Region's Manager of Regulatory Compliance and Policy in the Environmental Services Department. Michele's responsibilities include overseeing the Sewer Use Bylaw program, co-ordinating water & wastewater compliance and reporting activities and administration of the quality and environmental management systems for water, wastewater, and solid waste. Michele holds a Bachelors and Masters degree in Chemical Engineering from McMaster University and the University of Toronto respectively.