



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: May 10, 2021

SUBJECT: The MECP – Markham Distribution System – Drinking Water Inspection Report, February 03, 2021

PREPARED BY: Helena Frantzke, Ext. 2449
Water Quality Coordinator, Environmental Services

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report entitled “The MECP – Markham Distribution System – Drinking Water Inspection Report, February 03, 2021” be received;
2. And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Not Applicable

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the findings of the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)’s Inspection of Markham’s Water Distribution System undertaken on February 03, 2021. This MECP inspection covered regulatory compliance since our last inspection conducted on January 29, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

The objective of the MECP Inspection is to provide a rigorous and comprehensive inspection program for municipal residential drinking water systems to determine if the systems are in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 (SDWA) and associated Regulations. The Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 (SDWA) states that a provincial officer may at any reasonable time conduct an inspection for the purpose of determining compliance with regulatory requirements contained within the Act, or any of the associated Regulations. Traditionally, the MECP has conducted an annual inspection of Markham’s Water Distribution System.

On February 03, 2021 the MECP conducted an unannounced virtual inspection of Markham’s Drinking Water Distribution System., The MECP Inspector reviewed Waterworks procedures, policies and records since their last inspection which was held on January 29, 2020.

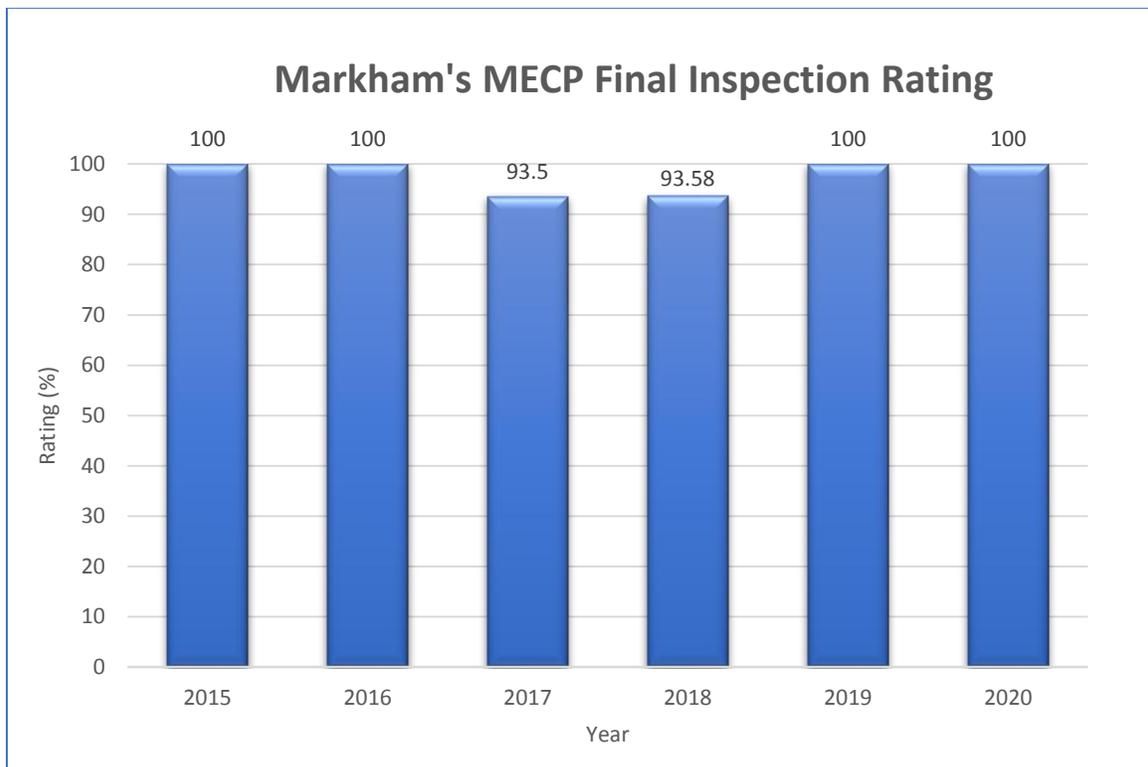
The final MECP inspection report was received on March 25, 2021, (see attachment “A”).

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

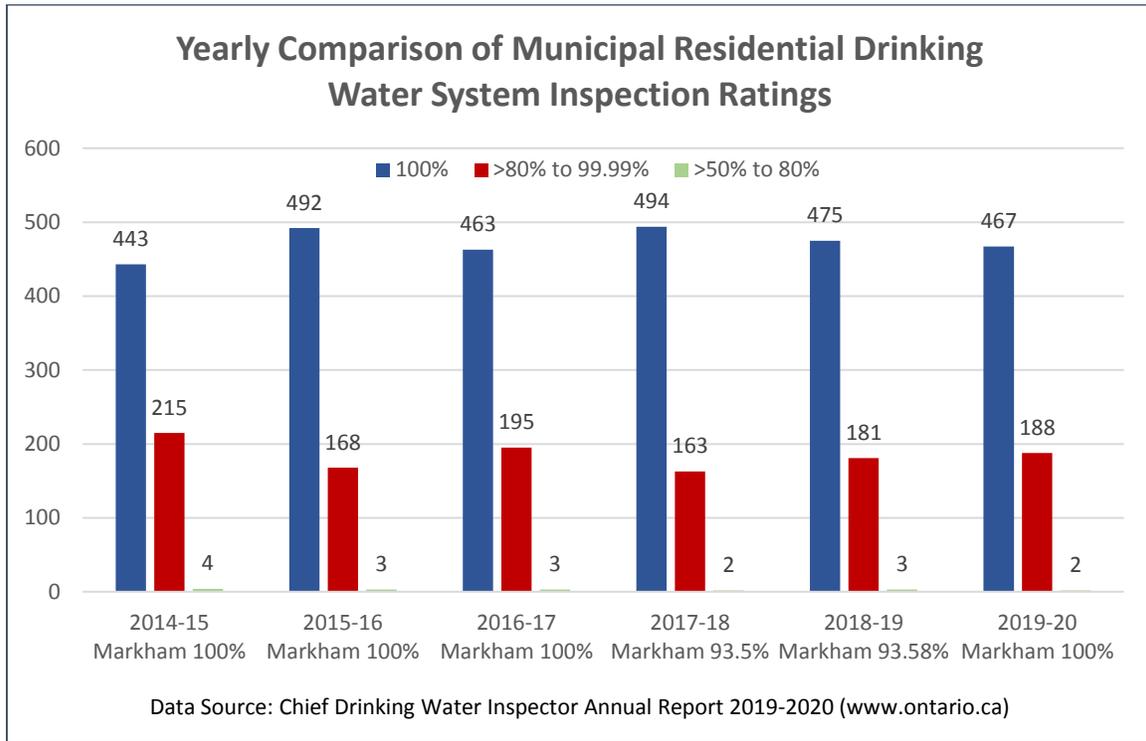
The inspection was conducted in two parts. The first part was an unannounced virtual inspection with the MECP Inspector and Waterworks staff that took place on February 03, 2021. At this time there was a detailed discussion with regard to Markham Waterwork’s existing procedures and a video of logbooks was taken as part of the compliance assessment. For the second part, the MECP Inspector requested a list of data and documents which were all provided by staff in a timely manner.

During the inspection time period, between, January 29, 2020 to February 03, 2021, there were no incidents of regulatory non-compliance identified. As a result, the City of Markham received a Final Inspection Rating of 100.0% for compliance with the MECP’s Drinking Water Systems Regulation 170/03 during the period covered. This Inspection Rating is used to measure Municipal Residential Drinking Water System Inspection Results. The MECP’s inspection program is an important aspect of the MECP’s drinking water safety net and the primary goal is to encourage ongoing improvement of drinking water systems and to work toward the goal of 100% regulatory compliance.

Below is a summary of Markham’s MECP Inspection Ratings over the past six years:



Below is a comparison of Markham’s MECP Inspection Ratings to other municipalities over the last 6 years. The 2020-2021 Municipal Inspection Ratings will be published in October 2021 by the MECP that will capture our latest rating.



MECP BEST PRACTICE ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are suggestions that the owner or operating authority should consider implementing in order to advance efforts already in place. Please note recommendations help to improve best practice measures and do not constitute a non-compliance violation.

As part of the inspection the MECP reviewed watermain break logs and water pressure/flow inquiry data. It was noted that the City is made aware of pressure fluctuations within the drinking water system predominately by complaints or inquiries from business owners and/or the public and that the City has processes in place to respond to and investigate these inquiries. As a result of their findings the MECP recommended that the City create a standard operating procedure (SOP) that can capture the current water pressure flow complaint and inquiry processes. Waterworks staff will develop an SOP to reflect our current processes.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not Applicable

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not Applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The MECP – Markham Distribution System Drinking Water Inspection Report, February 03, 2021 meets legislative requirements and is consistent with the Building Markham’s Future Together; specifically a Safe, Sustainable & Complete Community through achieving sustainable Infrastructure Management and Quality Services.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not Applicable

The report presented herein, communicates the results of the annual MECP Inspection conducted on February 03, 2021.

The undersigned represent the Top Management of the City of Markham’s Drinking Water Distribution system and by signing below the Top management of the Operating Authority have reviewed the MECP Inspection Report.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Shumin Gao, P. Eng.
Manager - Systems Engineering, Environmental Services

Eddy Wu, P. Eng.
Acting Director, Environmental Services

Andy Taylor
CAO, City of Markham

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment “A” – The MECP - Markham Distribution System – Drinking Water Inspection Report, February 03, 2021.