



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: April 19, 2022

SUBJECT: The MECP – Markham Distribution System – Drinking Water Inspection Report, January 19, 2022

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, January 19, 2022” 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 January 19, 2022. This MECP inspection covered regulatory compliance since our last inspection conducted on February 03, 2021 to January 19, 2022.

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 January 12, 2022 the MECP announced the annual 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 February 03, 2021 and up to January 19, 2022.

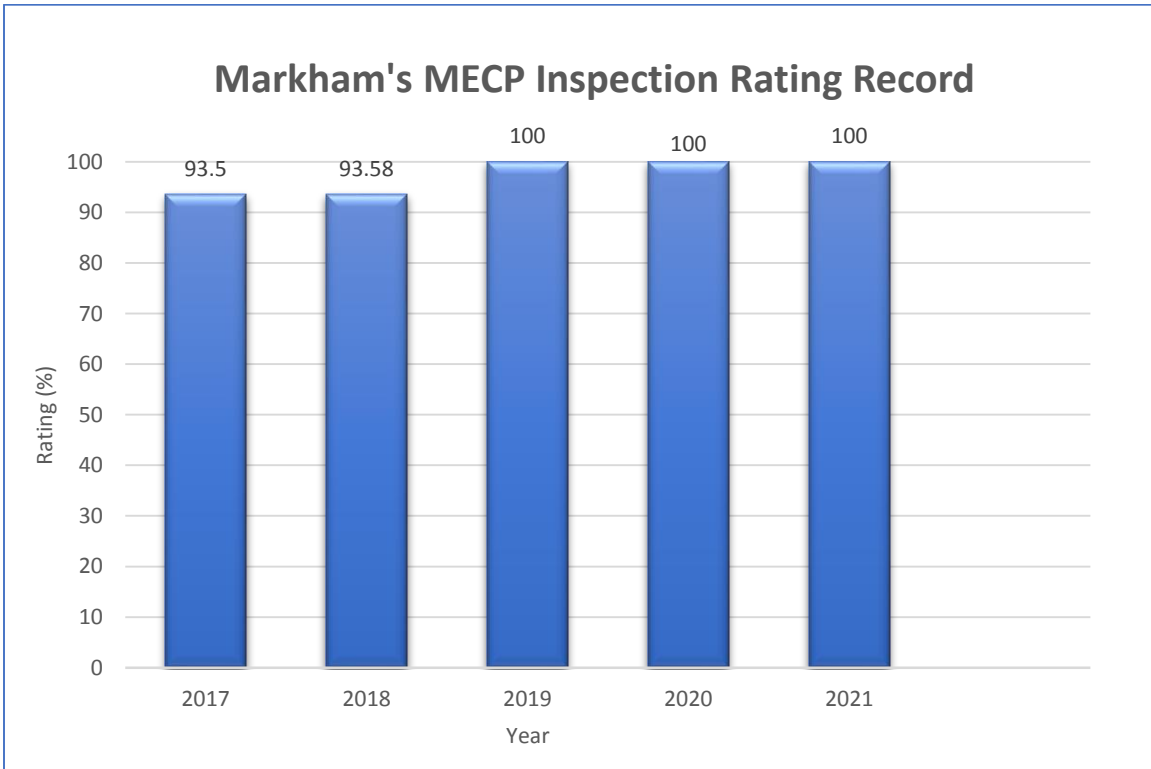
The final MECP inspection report was received on March 09, 2022, (see attachment “A”).

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

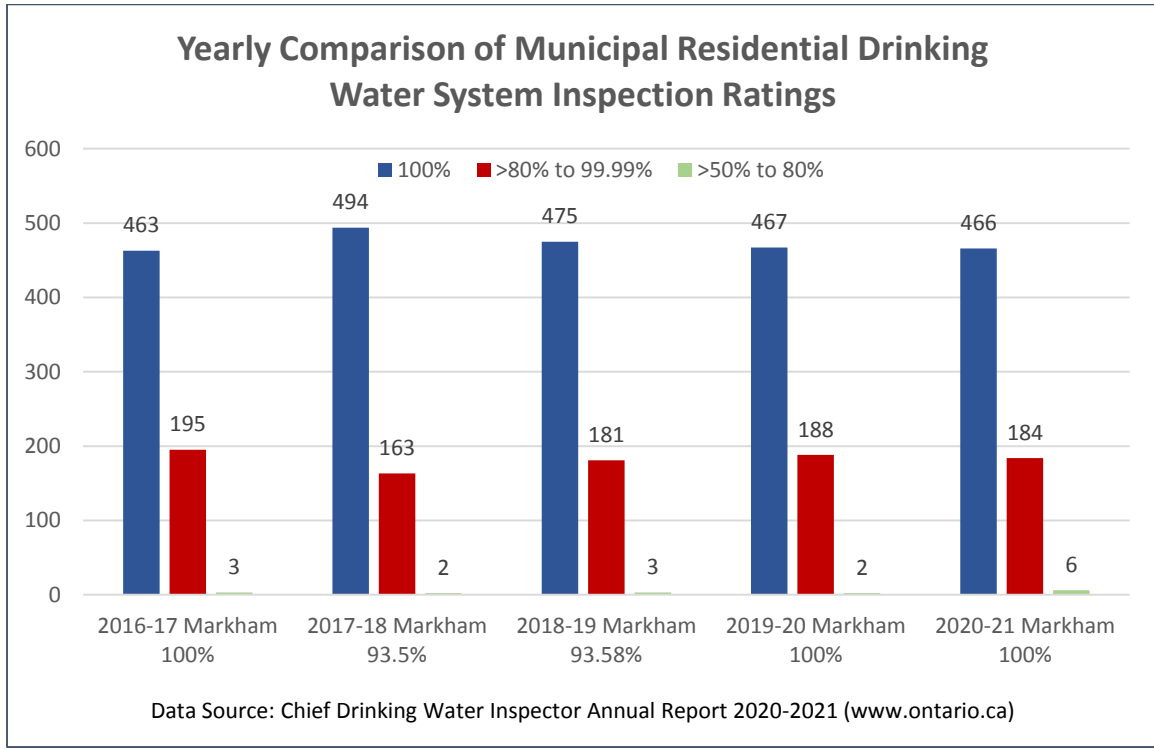
On January 12, 2022 the MECP Inspector provided a detailed list requesting data and documents which were all provided by staff in a timely manner. The MECP followed up with a virtual meeting with staff on February 04, 2022 which included a detailed discussion with regard to Markham Waterwork’s existing procedures and clarification of information previously provided. Additional documentation was also requested which was all provided by staff in a timely manner.

During the inspection time period, between, February 03, 2021 to January 19, 2022, there were no incident of regulatory non-compliance identified. As a result, the City of Markham received an Inspection Summary Rating Record (IRR) of 100.0% for meeting compliance with the MECP’s Drinking Water Systems Regulation 170/03 during the period covered. This IRR is a quantitative measures the Municipal Residential Drinking Water System’s annual inspection and regulated water quality testing performance 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 Summary Rating Records over the past five years:



Below is a comparison of Markham’s MECP Inspection Rating Records to other municipalities over the last five years. The 2021-2022 Municipal Inspection Ratings will be published by December 2022 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 had identified two Best Management Practice recommendations in the interest of continuous improvement with respect to the continuous chlorine analyzers. They are as follows:

1. Currently the City is receiving test results from the continuous analyzers via an email report every 72 hours and is reviewed by Waterworks Supervisors. The MECP has recommended that the City develop and implement a procedure detailing the process for documenting the review of data, provided in the emails every 72 hours. Waterworks staff agree with this recommendation and will implement it.
2. During the inspection it was determined that on one occasion maintenance was conducted on a continuous chlorine analyzer, which resulted in an alarm being triggered. Details of the maintenance activity, the alarm, or any other corrective action was not recorded in the logbook. The MECP recommends that the City of Markham review and update, if necessary, any SOPs relating to logbook completion and alarm response. And further, conduct training/refresher training with all operators to ensure they are aware of proper logbook and alarm response

procedures. Waterworks staff agree with this recommendation and will implement it.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not Applicable

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not Applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The MECP – Markham Distribution System Drinking Water Inspection Report, January 19, 2022 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 January 19, 2022

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:

Eddy Wu, P. Eng.
Director, Environmental Services

Morgan Jones
Commissioner, Community Services

Andy Taylor
CAO, City of Markham

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment “A” – The MECP - Markham Distribution System – Drinking Water Inspection Report, January 19, 2022.