



Office of the Minister

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357-2022-363

March 24, 2022

Ms. Bonnie Nistico-Dunk
City Clerk
City of St. Catharines
Email: bdunk@stcatharines.ca

Dear Ms. Nistico-Dunk:

Thank you for your February 3, 2022 letter to Premier Ford requesting timelines for Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (ministry) split sampling of stormwater discharging from 282 and 285 Ontario Street, and inviting ministry staff to present the work plan for both the property on Ontario St. and the City of St. Catharines owned properties located upstream on Twelve Mile Creek. Your correspondence was shared with me, and I am pleased to provide the following information.

The ministry's top priority is ensuring the protection of human health and the natural environment. The ministry is requiring the owner of 282 and 285 Ontario St., and the City of St. Catharines, to responsibly manage current and historic environmental issues at properties they own that are discharging to Twelve Mile Creek. The ministry's role is to ensure the property owners retain qualified persons to develop and carry out workplans to identify and stop the sources of PCBs from discharging from the properties. In the longer term, the ministry will be undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the improvement to Twelve Mile Creek's sediment, fish and water quality following the completion of these ongoing PCB remedial projects that resulted from the ministry's track down activities.

The Ontario St. property owner has voluntarily provided a workplan to the ministry to address the source of PCBs on their property that has impacted the water discharging to the municipal sewer, and ultimately Twelve Mile Creek. The workplan is owned by the property owner who has not given the ministry permission to disclose it and therefore an invitation to present the details of the workplan would be best made to the property owner. City staff are also the best positioned to provide updates on the City's workplan progress for the properties the City owns on Twelve Mile Creek, upstream of the Ontario St. property.

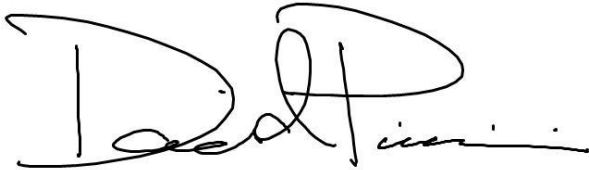
The ministry is completing split sample testing with the Ontario St. owner's consultant to assess the quality of stormwater discharging from the site for any improvements in quality resulting from the workplan progress. Samples for snow melt, rain and dry weather events will be collected as weather conditions permit and analyzed by the ministry's laboratory. The results will be reviewed by a ministry surface water expert to compare against previous ministry monitoring results. The ministry has previously committed to report back to the City of St. Catharines with an update on the quality of the discharge from the site when the review of the sample results is complete, which could be as early as June 2022.

Ms. Nistico-Dunk
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If you have any further questions, please contact Kim Groombridge, Niagara District Manager, at Kim.Groombridge@ontario.ca or 905-323-5353.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Piccini'. The signature is stylized with large, sweeping letters and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

David Piccini
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier (wsu2022-8940)
Kim Groombridge, Niagara District Manager, MECP