

Grimsby (Baker Road) Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Environmental Assessment (EA)

Public Information Center No.1 – Comments Received

Virtual Public Information Centre (PIC) No. 1 was held from May 11 to June 11, 2026. This included a video presentation, presentation slides for review, and opportunity for interested individuals to provide comments via the project email.

PIC No. 1 materials for review included project introduction, the problem and opportunity statement, the environmental assessment approach, background assessment and study findings, evaluation of alternative solutions, the preferred solution, and remaining project workplan. These materials will remain posted on the project website:

- Baker Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion EA
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/grimsby-wastewater-treatment-plant/default.aspx>

During the month-long engagement period, the video presentation received a total of 34 views. Responses to the comments and questions received are summarized in the table below:

Comment / Question	Project Team Response
Study Format and the MCEA Process:	
1. Who is considered an interested party for this project?	Interested parties include provincial authorities, technical agencies, utilities, local businesses and organizations, Indigenous communities, local residents, and any other party that expresses interest in this project. An Interest Contact List was established at the beginning of the study by the project team. This is a living document that will continue to be updated as needed throughout the duration of the project.
2. How does the Region engage with stakeholders and interested parties?	Stakeholders are engaged through several communication channels at key study milestones. This includes local newspaper advertisements, posts on social media pages such as Facebook and X, local online news feeds such as https://www.niagarathisweek.com/ , the Region's public notice website at niagararegion.ca/news/notices/ , and the project designated webpage at

Comment / Question	Project Team Response
	https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/grimsby-wastewater-treatment-plant/default.aspx. In addition, emails are sent to all contacts on the stakeholder contact list at key milestones. Mailers to nearby residents have also been requested and are being considered for the second PIC, which is expected later this year. If you are an interested member of the public and wish to be added to the Stakeholder Contact List and emailed at study milestones, you may reach out to a member of the project team listed on the project website at any point throughout the study.
3. What role will feedback from residents and stakeholders have in the decision-making process?	Feedback from residents and key stakeholders is a crucial part of the MCEA process. Following PIC #1, a 30-day comment period was provided to allow interested parties an opportunity to submit their feedback. This feedback is reviewed by the project team and considered when refining the recommended solution into the preferred solution. Once the preferred solution is finalized, the study moves into Phase 3 of the MCEA. During Phase 3, alternative design concepts to implement the preferred solution are developed. The alternative design concepts will be presented during a second PIC and comment period later this year.
4. Why does the information package from PIC #1 not provide more details on how the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) will be expanded?	The purpose of PIC 1 is to present findings from phase 1 and 2 of the MCEA process and introduce the public and key stakeholders to the study. This includes background information, the problem and opportunity statement, and the evaluation of high-level alternative solutions, which is informed by several ongoing technical studies. During phase 3 of the MCEA (refer to answer #3) design concepts will be developed and evaluated based on the preferred alternative solution. Establishing the alternative design concepts will allow the study team to provide more details on the expansion and how it will be executed. These details will be presented at PIC #2 to gather further comments and feedback.
5. What criteria were used to evaluate the alternatives and will	Several high-level criteria were used to screen and evaluate the alternative solutions presented in PIC #1. This includes technical, social, environmental and

Comment / Question	Project Team Response
more detail on the evaluation be provided?	financial criteria. During Phase 3 of this MCEA, alternative design concepts for each process unit will be evaluated using more detailed evaluation criteria. After this study is complete, the preferred design concepts from the MCEA process will be further developed during detailed design. The evaluation criteria are standard across Water and Wastewater projects in the Region.
6. Will the Region disclose any potential negative impacts of the expansion?	The MCEA process is designed for meaningful public transparency through consultation and accessible project documentation. It is a requirement of the MCEA process that alternative expansion solutions and design concepts be evaluated based on their potential impact. These impacts are evaluated under various criteria (refer to answer #5). This includes potential negative impacts such as environmental concerns, odour issues and disruption to nearby residents during construction. An Environmental Study Report (ESR) will be completed during Phase 4 of this study, where all background information, assessments, technical memoranda, field investigations, consultation materials, correspondence, feedback and a summary of the decision-making process will be compiled as per MCEA requirements. Once finalized, a notice of completion of the ESR and its filing on the public record will be issued to the public and all interested parties. In addition to the comment periods following PIC #1 and PIC #2, the public will have another opportunity at this time to comment on the ESR and its findings.

For further details regarding the MCEA process and its requirements and expectations please visit the Environmental Registry of Ontario or click on the following link to see a PDF of the 2024 amended MCEA manual: [Municipal Class EA.pdf](#)

Technical Impacts and Considerations:

7. Why is the Region proposing an expansion of the existing plant on the current site instead of	Construction of a new WWTP in a different location was considered, however relocation was not recommended for technical, financial, and environmental reasons. Constructing a new plant at another location would require modifying local sewers to redirect sewage to the new location. This option would also require a high
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Comment / Question	Project Team Response
relocating the plant to a different site?	capital investment compared to expanding the current plant and impose a cost burden that the Region cannot currently support. Relocating the plant would also require acquiring land with access to a receiving watercourse (Lake Ontario). The construction and land acquisition required would all have a high social impact, from additional construction and traffic impacts on local residents and businesses, to long-term impacts on access to the Lake at the newly selected site. The new site would also need to be fully integrated into a new servicing, regulatory, and infrastructure framework while maintaining full compliance with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) requirements, which have evolved alongside the existing plant and its current location. By contrast, the existing WWTP is already fully integrated with the established sewer network and supporting systems, making expansion within the current footprint the more practical and reasonable option, with the lesser social impact.
8. Will the current plant footprint be large enough to accommodate future growth?	At this time, the project team anticipates that the footprint of the required plant expansion will remain within the existing fenced-in property boundaries. However, it is anticipated that the outfall expansion may require construction on Baker Road, as this is the most practical route to direct treated effluent to Lake Ontario. Alternative design concepts for the plant and outfall expansion footprint are currently being explored. Further information will be presented at PIC #2 later this year.
9. How will overflow risks be addressed under the proposed expansion?	Overflow risks will be addressed by designing the expanded system to operate safely and reliably under both normal and peak conditions, while incorporating the infrastructure, controls, and operational safeguards needed to reduce the likelihood of overflow events.
10. What circumstances have prompted consideration of a new expansion considering one was completed in the recent past, and when will further	Consistent with the 2021 Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update, the Region is seeking a preferred servicing solution that supports the long-term sustainability of the wastewater system and addresses immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs. While the existing plant has capacity in the near term, this expansion is being considered to accommodate growth

Comment / Question	Project Team Response
expansions be required in the further?	into the 2040s and beyond. The Region cannot forecast specific future improvements beyond the current assignment. Longer timescales (40 - 50 years, etc.) can overestimate required WWTP capacity, resulting in facilities that are more costly than necessary or are under utilized and therefore require refurbishment before the asset can be sufficiently utilized. It is considered better practice to size the facility appropriately and allocate space to make future expansions more straightforward.

Social Impacts and Considerations:

11. What measures will be implemented to manage noise, dust, traffic during construction?	At the appropriate time, the construction manager will be required to develop a mitigation plan that follows established best practices and complies with applicable standards, including MECP NPC-115 for noise, and the Region's applicable by-laws. These potential impacts are also part of the evaluation criteria being used in the decision-making process to identify measures to avoid, reduce, or mitigate disruptions wherever possible.
12. How will the park be affected by the outcome of the study and future construction impacts?	As noted in answer 8 above, the Region anticipates the expanded footprint of the plant to remain within the current fenced area of the existing site. The park lands on the south side of Lake Street, which are adjacent to the plant property, are expected to remain open throughout construction. However, construction of the outfall expansion will likely occur in the municipal right-of-way along Baker Road. This could result in temporary impacts to park access via the east entrance along Baker Road. In addition, it is expected that construction traffic will utilize Lake Street and Baker Road.
13. How will visual impacts such as light pollution and landscaping be managed?	The current Regional lighting standards states "the lighting system shall serve as a deterrent to intruders; provide visibility for tenants, site visitors, Region staff, and first responders; and, ensure proper operating levels for the CCTV system cameras, so they will be able to produce usable video images for intrusion alarm assessments by Region staff." The Region will work with nearby residents to mitigate lighting concerns caused by

Comment / Question	Project Team Response
	the plant expansion while adhering to the lighting standards. In general, the Region intends for landscaping to maintain an appealing visual interface between the facility and surrounding properties and to support screening, compatibility, and overall site appearance. The specific landscaping proposed around the plant will be confirmed during detailed design.
14. How will current odour issues be reduced or eliminated, and how will future odour from an expanded facility be prevented?	The Region is sensitive to the concerns of community members that are impacted by proximity to the plant, especially with regards to odour. The Region logs all odour control complaints in an internal tracking system to track and correlate odour complaints in the area. An upgrade to the odour control system at the WWTP was recently completed, with the intent of significantly reducing or eliminating the odour issues that the nearby residents experience. Since the recent completion of the odour control upgrade, the number of complaints during the summer months has decreased. It is the Region's goal that the plant expansion will accommodate similar odour control technologies to continue mitigating odour issues as much as possible.
15. How will current and future truck and recreational vehicle traffic associated with the facility be managed?	The expansion of the plant is intended to accommodate an expected increase in sewage flows via local gravity sewer pipes. It is not currently forecasted that the volume of hauled waste (via trucks or other vehicles) will increase as a result of the Plant expansion. However, it is important to note that the WWTP is one of the Region's seven Hauled Waste disposal sites, one of three recreational vehicle (RV) disposal sites, and is centrally located in the north end of the Region with easy access from the QEW. As such, the plant provides a critical resource for regional travelers. Future truck and RV traffic associated with the expansion will continue to be managed in accordance with applicable best practices, operational requirements, and any traffic management measures identified through the design

Comment / Question	Project Team Response
	and review stages of this MCEA study and future detailed design of the plant.

Environmental Concerns and Considerations:

16. What are the expected impacts on nearby water bodies, fish habitats and the surrounding environment?	In general, microbial risk and risks to nearby habitats are associated with the potential release of insufficiently treated wastewater, including through overflow, bypass, spill, or other upset conditions. The Region is committed to overseeing that the project is planned and operated in a way that protects the surrounding terrestrial environment, water bodies and meets all applicable regulatory standards. This is reflected in the Evaluation criteria used, where environmental considerations are a significant part of the evaluation. Several technical studies are also being completed to determine impacts on the environment and their respective mitigation measures. As part of this work, an assimilative capacity study (ACS) is being undertaken. In consultation with the MECP the outcome of the ACS will be used to guide the conceptual design of the expansion, and to limit any additional impacts to the water body, fish habitats and surrounding environment.
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Financial Impacts and Considerations:

17. How will the project affect nearby property values?	Property values are an understandable concern for nearby residents. However, the Region is not in a position to speculate on individual property value impacts unless that has been assessed through a qualified real estate or land economics review. If the project proceeds, the Region's responsibility is to incorporate appropriate mitigation measures, clearly communicate what changes are expected, and demonstrate how potential impacts on the surrounding area will be reduced wherever possible. That includes attention to odour control, traffic management, lighting, landscaping, screening, and environmental performance.
18. What proportion of the proposed expansion is	Wastewater infrastructure in the Niagara region is planned and operated as part of an interconnected

Comment / Question	Project Team Response
driven by growth in Grimsby compared to growth in other municipalities?	regional system, not solely on a town-by-town basis. This means that facilities are assessed based on how they function within the broader servicing network, including existing pipes, pumping arrangements, treatment capacity, environmental approvals, and overall long-term system efficiency. In some cases, including for this project, the most practical and cost-effective way to serve forecasted growth across the system is to improve an existing facility.
19. How is the financial burden of regional wastewater servicing being allocated fairly among communities and taxpayers?	Wastewater infrastructure is planned as part of an integrated regional system. Costs are generally assigned based on the nature of the work, including maintaining existing service, meeting regulatory or operational needs, or adding capacity for future growth. Where work is needed to support growth, the Region's approach is to recover those costs through applicable funding and cost-recovery tools, rather than placing them entirely on existing taxpayers or ratepayers. Costs for maintaining or renewing existing infrastructure are typically treated differently from costs that add new capacity. The Region recognizes that the effects of infrastructure upgrades are not experienced equally by all communities, and that those closest to infrastructure may experience more direct effects. The Region will consider these local impacts and identify reasonable ways to avoid, reduce or mitigate them whenever possible.