



Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Mountview Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Golden Pheasant WWTP Conveyance Strategy

1. Why is the District of Muskoka seeking these upgrades?

The 2014 Class Environmental Assessment (EA) validated the preferred solution first identified in the 1989 Class EA. This preferred solution consists of upgrading and expanding the Golden Pheasant WWTP to receive all current and future sewage generated in the Town of Huntsville; decommissioning the Mountview WWTP, and building a new Mountview sewage pumping station (SPS); and constructing a forcemain to convey all sewage flows from the Mountview SPS for treatment at the Golden Pheasant WWTP.

Golden Pheasant WWTP came into service in 1996, while Mountview WWTP has been in service for more than 50-years. Mountview WWTP has reached an end-of-life condition and will not meet future applicable regulatory requirements. Golden Pheasant WWTP can be upgraded and expanded to treat all wastewater generated in the Town of Huntsville within regulatory requirements. In addition, operational efficiencies, improved effluent quality, and improved Fairy Lake water quality will be achieved by moving to one centralized WWTP.

2. What is an Environmental Assessment?

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a study that assesses the positive and negative potential environmental effects of a proposal. Key components of an EA include:

- The management of potential environmental effects
- Consideration and evaluation of alternative ways to complete the work
- Consultation with government agencies and the public

Conducting an EA promotes good environmental planning before decisions are made about a possible project. The result of a Class EA is in the form of an Environmental Study Report (ESR).

An ESR was submitted for this Project on August 2014. The Environmental Study Report from 2014 can be read [here](#).

3. What is an Addendum and why is the District of Muskoka seeking an Addendum to the 2014 Class EA?

An Addendum is a change to a project as identified in an Environmental Study Report for an existing Class EA. The preferred solution for wastewater treatment servicing in the Town of Huntsville was identified in the 2014 Class EA. Before proceeding with implementation, the District of Muskoka would like to consider an outfall relocation for the Golden Pheasant WWTP into Fairy Lake. This option was not considered in the 2014 Class EA and the option presents an opportunity for reduction of project operational and capital costs with no adverse environmental impacts. Only the proposed change to the project is open for review in the Addendum.



4. What other alternatives were proposed as part of the 2014 EA?

As part of Phase 3 of the Class EA process, alternative design concepts were identified based on a one or two plant configuration according to the preferred solution to *Upgrade WWTP Infrastructure to Meet Capacity Requirements of the Community*. Design Concept 2 - Golden Pheasant only was the preferred design concept of the 2014 Class EA. As part of the conceptual development of the preferred design concept, alternative forcemain routes were evaluated. The evaluation of alternatives can be found in the Environmental Study Report from the 2014 Class EA, which is available on the District's website.

5. How will the public be consulted on this project?

The District of Muskoka will consult with the surrounding communities and stakeholders in order to share information, understand, and respond to questions about the Project, ensuring any adverse impacts on neighbours or the environment are avoided or minimized.

With this in mind, the District of Muskoka will consult using a variety of methods to maximize the opportunities for the public to be involved including:

- Newspaper advertisements
- Direct notifications
- Public Information Centres
- Project website
- One on one meetings with stakeholder groups when possible

Should you wish to speak to someone directly, please contact [us](#).

6. How long does the EA process take before a decision is made?

There is no set time limit for the completion of an EA Addendum process. The length of time depends on a number of factors including the type of proposal, study area conditions, the level of stakeholder interest, the type, and extent of studies needed. We are expecting the process to take less than 6-months before filing of the EA Addendum.

7. Will the water in Fairy Lake still be safe?

Yes, the water will remain safe. Intensive numerical modelling study work has been completed, which indicates that there will be no adverse effects on water quality or public safety associated with the outfall re-location. Overall water quality in Fairy Lake will improve as a result of advanced treatment processes at the Golden Pheasant WWTP, including nitrogen removal, use of ultraviolet light for disinfection (i.e., rather than chlorination) and tertiary treatment.

8. How would construction impact the surrounding area?

The proposed conveyance/outfall alternative reduces the construction impact on Highway 60 by reducing the extent of open trench construction. Installation of the new outfall will require construction activity in



Fairy Lake. Construction techniques are available to mitigate impacts of in-lake pipe and diffuser installation.

9. *Will there be road closures during construction?*

The proposed conveyance/outfall alternative reduces the extent and duration of road closures on Highway 60 by reducing the extent of open trench construction. Residential road works projects will be synchronized with the Town to minimize the extent of road closures in downtown Huntsville.