



Office of the Auditor General / Bureau du vérificateur général

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2007 AUDIT OF THE
CORPORATE PESTICIDE USE POLICY**

2009

**SUIVI DE LA VÉRIFICATION DE LA POLITIQUE DE LA VILLE
CONCERNANT L'UTILISATION DE PESTICIDES
DE 2007**

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
RÉSUMÉ.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 KEY FINDINGS OF THE ORIGINAL 2007 AUDIT OF THE CORPORATE PESTICIDE USE POLICY	1
3 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 2007 AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS ...	4
4 SUMMARY OF THE LEVEL OF COMPLETION	12
5 CONCLUSION.....	12
6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	13

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Follow-up to the 2007 Audit of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy was included in the Auditor General's 2009 Audit Plan.

The key findings of the original 2007 audit included:

- Pest management activities have been consistent with the goals and intent of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy;
- Chemical pesticides have not been applied to City-owned properties for cosmetic or aesthetic purposes since the Policy came into force on August 25, 2004;
- There is a need for more consistent and formalized documentation and record keeping related to pesticide application decisions and the use of alternative practices; and,
- There is also a need for the City to monitor Policy implementation and effectiveness through compilation, analysis and reporting of related data and information on an annual basis. This information should be compiled in an annual report and presented to City Council.

Summary of the Level of Completion

The table below outlines our assessment of the level of completion of each recommendation as of Fall 2009.

CATEGORY	% COMPLETE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS
LITTLE OR NO ACTION	0 – 24	8	1	11%
ACTION INITIATED	25 – 49	-	-	-
PARTIALLY COMPLETE	50 – 74	9	1	11%
SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE	75 – 99	6	1	11%
COMPLETE	100	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	6	67%
TOTAL			9	100%

Conclusion

The City has addressed or substantially addressed seven of the nine audit recommendations agreed to by management, and has determined how it will address the other outstanding recommendations. The City has largely taken adequate, effective and timely action to respond to the audit findings and recommendations. The requirements of Ontario Regulation 63/09 are very similar to the requirements of the former Corporate Pesticide Use Policy, which positions the City well to respond to the new regulatory requirements. It is recommended

that the City use the processes and systems previously established to support implementation of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy, to oversee compliance with Ontario Regulation 63/09, including designation of formal responsibility to track changes to the Regulation, provide information to managing departments, and determine if any situations at the City would qualify for an exception under the ban.

An annual report was produced for the years 2005 to 2007. While data was compiled for 2008, a report was not prepared due to the impending withdrawal of the Policy. However, given that the Policy had been in effect for the entire 2008 calendar year, it would have been appropriate to provide a summary report to Council.

Acknowledgement

We wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance afforded the audit team by management.

RÉSUMÉ

Le Suivi de la vérification de la politique concernant l'utilisation de pesticides sur les propriétés de la Ville d'Ottawa de 2007 était prévu dans le Plan de vérification du Bureau du vérificateur général de 2009.

Les constatations principales de la vérification de 2007 étaient les suivantes :

- la gestion des activités de lutte antiparasitaire a été conforme aux intentions et aux objectifs poursuivis par la Politique de la Ville concernant l'utilisation des pesticides;
- aucun pesticide chimique n'a été épandu à des fins esthétiques sur les propriétés municipales depuis l'entrée en vigueur de la Politique, le 25 août 2004;
- on doit avoir recours à des méthodes de documentation et de tenue de dossiers plus homogènes et officielles en ce qui a trait aux décisions de procéder à l'épandage de pesticides et au recours à des pratiques de rechange; et,
- la Ville doit aussi assurer le contrôle de l'application de la Politique et de son efficacité par la compilation, l'analyse et la préparation de rapports regroupant des données et des renseignements connexes, chaque année. Ces renseignements devraient être regroupés dans un rapport annuel présenté au Conseil municipal.

Sommaire du degré d'achèvement

Le tableau ci-dessous présente notre évaluation du degré d'achèvement de chaque recommandation à l'automne 2009 :

CATÉGORIE	POURCENTAGE COMPLÉTÉ	RECOMMANDATIONS	NOMBRE DE RECOMMANDATIONS	POURCENTAGE DU TOTAL DES RECOMMANDATIONS
PEU OU PAS DE MESURES PRISES	0 – 24	8	1	11 %
ACTION AMORCÉE	25 – 49	-	-	-
COMPLÉTÉE EN PARTIE	50 – 74	9	1	11 %
PRATIQUEMENT COMPLÉTÉE	75 – 99	6	1	11 %
COMPLÉTÉE	100	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	6	67 %
TOTAL			9	100 %

Conclusion

La Ville a complété ou pratiquement complété sept des neuf recommandations de la vérification avec lesquelles la direction était d'accord. Elle s'est également penchée sur les mesures qu'elle entend prendre pour les recommandations encore en suspens. La Ville a, en grande partie, adopté des mesures adéquates, efficaces et en temps opportun en réaction aux constatations de la vérification et à ses recommandations. Les exigences du *Règlement de l'Ontario 63/09* sont très similaires à celles de l'ancienne *Politique municipale sur l'utilisation des pesticides*, ce qui permet

à la Ville d'être bien outillée pour se conformer aux nouvelles exigences de la réglementation. On recommande à la Ville d'utiliser les processus et systèmes déjà en place pour l'application de la *Politique municipale sur l'utilisation des pesticides* et pour encadrer la conformité au *Règlement de l'Ontario 63/09*, notamment pour assigner les responsabilités officielles de contrôle des changements à ce règlement, pour fournir l'information nécessaire aux services en charge et pour déterminer si une situation particulière prévalant à la Ville pourrait répondre aux critères qui en feraient une exception à l'interdiction.

Des rapports annuels ont été produits de 2005 à 2007. Même si des données ont été compilées pour 2008, aucun rapport n'a été préparé en raison du retrait imminent de la Politique. Toutefois, compte tenu du fait que la Politique a été en vigueur durant toute l'année civile 2008, il aurait été opportun de présenter un rapport sommaire au Conseil municipal.

Remerciements

Nous tenons à remercier la direction pour la coopération et l'assistance accordées à l'équipe de vérification.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Follow-up to the 2007 Audit of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy was included in the Auditor General's 2009 Audit Plan.

The key findings of the original 2007 audit included:

- Pest management activities have been consistent with the goals and intent of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy;
- Chemical pesticides have not been applied to City-owned properties for cosmetic or aesthetic purposes since the Policy came into force on August 25, 2004;
- There is a need for more consistent and formalized documentation and record keeping related to pesticide application decisions and the use of alternative practices; and,
- There is also a need for the City to monitor Policy implementation and effectiveness through compilation, analysis and reporting of related data and information on an annual basis. This information should be compiled in an annual report and presented to City Council.

2 KEY FINDINGS OF THE ORIGINAL 2007 AUDIT OF THE CORPORATE PESTICIDE USE POLICY

1. Policy Application to City-owned Properties

Chemical pesticides have not been applied to City-owned properties for cosmetic or aesthetic purposes since the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy came into force on August 25, 2004. There is evidence that the City has used mechanical and cultural practices, as well as investigated and used a small number of alternative methods to chemical pesticides in its pest control activities. Chemical pesticides have only been used in circumstances where a pest must be controlled and other pest control techniques cannot be applied or have previously failed.

City staff is adhering to the fundamental principles of the Policy aimed at protecting residents and the environment, while at the same time protecting community and City-owned assets. The required process for determining which management practice to use in controlling a pest, as provided in *5.0 General Provisions* of the *Corporate Pesticide Use Policy*, is consistently applied. There have been no known contraventions of the Policy to date.

City staff does not select the specific pesticide to be applied when approval for pesticide use is provided, but rather delegate this decision to professional pesticide contractors. City staff consistently noted that a very small number of pesticides are available to choose from and they were familiar with the results achieved by these different pesticides. City staff are accountable for ensuring that the City is in

accordance with the terms of the Policy and, as such, appropriate oversight and controls should be established for delegation of the responsibility for choosing the pesticide to apply to a third party.

2. Policy Application to Outdoor Property Owned by Other Parties and Outside Contractors

The City has applied the Policy to some outdoor property owned by other parties upon which the City operates programs, activities or provides services (i.e., where it is the tenant/lessee) through standard use and lease agreements, taking into consideration the City's complex leasing arrangements. It was noted that the City has varying degrees of control over property maintenance practices at these facilities. The City is able to have more control in instances where it is leasing the land or facilities to other parties and in cases where it is leasing the majority, or all, of a facility. The City has less control over property maintenance practices in instances such as where the City is leasing part of a facility, owns land that is subject to federal legislative requirements (i.e. rail corridors), small parcels of land it leases to the public, and community gardens.

The Policy has not been incorporated into all relevant agreements with outside contractors. There is a risk that the Policy will not be implemented on all City-owned or leased property as relevant lease agreements and contracts do not require conformance with the Policy as part of the contractual requirements.

3. Documenting and Reporting Pest Management Decisions and Pesticide Use

City staff does not use the City of Ottawa Pest Monitoring Report as required by the Policy. The Medical Officer of Health gave City staff approval to provide required information via email because it was found, by both staff and the Medical Officer of Health, that the Pest Monitoring Report was labour intensive, inefficient, and focussed on sports field applications. City staff and the Medical Officer of Health both report that all parties provide enough information and sufficient communication via email and telephone to make a valid decision on pesticide application in compliance with the Policy, without using the Pest Monitoring Report. In instances where an alternative method of pest control has been implemented, the decision and results of the practice were not documented or reported.

There is a low risk that there would be insufficient communication and/or documentation between the Medical Officer of Health and City staff by not using the City of Ottawa Pest Monitoring Report if there were to be a controversial or appealed pesticide application decision.

4. Public Notification

The City has placed notices on its website that inform residents of planned sports field management activities, including information on when the application will occur and the specific pesticide that will be used.

There is evidence that City staff ensures that signs have been posted by contractors in accordance with all federal and provincial regulations, to both inform the public of a pesticide treatment and to remind them to keep away from the treated area for the requisite time. A check of signage is completed by either the project manager for the field or by Surface Operations staff.

Signs have not been posted when the City is implementing an alternative pest management practice (as required by Section 7.4 of the Policy) to make the community aware there is a pest present and that the City is addressing the situation through alternative practices.

During on-site observation of an upcoming pesticide application on O-Train property, the audit team observed that a sign was posted to inform the public of pesticide application activities, identify pesticides to be sprayed as required by Transport Canada, and provide the name and phone number of a contact person. The contact person, who was a contractor, was not informed that his name and phone number were placed on the sign and was not provided with speaking points by the City. The contractor was not able to provide the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or specific name of the pesticides being used and was not sure how long people were required to stay off the sprayed area. The contractor indicated that he had received numerous calls about the pesticide application.

When signs are posted with contact information for the public, there is a risk involved when the City, or a contractor working on its behalf, is not able to provide sufficient information about the pesticide application. This situation may undermine public confidence in the Policy.

5. Annual Report

Part 6.0 of the Policy states that an annual report is to be compiled by Planning, Transit and the Environment and presented to Council. The City has not identified the specific data and information required for the Annual Report, and it was noted that managers and supervisors of the departments responsible for implementing the Policy do not actively monitor conformance with the Policy.

No annual reports have been prepared to date or presented to Council. Without annual compilation of information, it is difficult for the City to monitor corporate pesticide use, evaluate effectiveness of the Policy and the approval process, and develop recommendations to improve the process. With pesticide use being such a controversial issue, the City may be vulnerable to criticism from the public for not reporting on its use of pesticides.

6. Policy Review

The Policy has not been reviewed or updated since it came into force on August 25, 2004. In the absence of any review or update of the Policy since its coming into force, any changes in City organization, changes in responsibilities, content updates, and/or lessons learned in the initial years of Policy implementation have

not been incorporated into the Policy. Without regular review of the Policy, the City is unable to fully understand the impact, relevance, and effectiveness of the Policy in achieving its goals.

3 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 2007 AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall Management Representation of Status of Implementation of Recommendations as of Winter 2010

On April 22, 2009, Council endorsed the report from PEC to revoke the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy as the new provincial regulations came into effect the same day. Ontario Regulation 63/09 supersedes local municipal pesticides bylaws in Ontario. The disposition of the report was that operating departments are responsible for adhering to the requirements of the Provincial Regulations 63/09 regarding the ban on cosmetic use of pesticides. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment is responsible for its administration. Responsibility for compliance with the provincial legislation rests with senior management in all operational departments.

2007 Recommendation 1

That all City lease agreements and relevant contracts incorporate the requirements of the most current Corporate Pesticide Use Policy, taking into consideration the City's complex and unique leasing situations, and that situations where implementation of the Policy is not possible be identified in Section 10 Exemptions of the Policy.

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with this recommendation.

Since May 2007, the requirements as outlined in the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy for City of Ottawa Property 2004 have been incorporated into new lease agreements as part of standardizing lease contracts.

Post amalgamation leases (2000 to 2006) contain a general clause that the lessee must abide by City policies. As these leases come up for renewal, specific reference to the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy for City of Ottawa Property 2004 will be specifically identified. In addition, all new relevant Purchase of Service Agreements with outside contractors will contain specific reference to the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 1 at December 31, 2008

Management: % complete

100%

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 1

The City has incorporated requirements reflecting the City's Pesticides Policy in some of its lease agreements. Joint Development Use Agreements did not include reference to the Policy, however, the updated agreements now contain reference to O.Reg.63/09. It was clarified that inclusion of pesticide use requirements is not applicable to Real Estate Purchase of Service Agreements.

OAG: % complete *100%*

2007 Recommendation 2

That management amend the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy to include a clear statement on the frequency of policy review, and update the Policy to reflect current City organization, responsibilities, and refinements based on Policy implementation to date.

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with this recommendation.

A formal review of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy is scheduled for early 2008. The review will include revisions to the policy to clearly set out the frequency of future policy reviews, and will update the policy to reflect corporate reorganizations, changing responsibilities, and other revisions related to implementation. It is anticipated that this activity will be completed by June 2008.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 2 at December 31, 2008

Management: % complete *100%*

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 2

The revised Corporate Pesticide Use Policy was submitted to the Planning and Environment Committee on October 28, 2008 and approved by Council on November 12, 2008. The City organization and roles and responsibilities were current at the time of the Policy preparation.

OAG: % complete *100%*

2007 Recommendation 3

That management formally assign responsibilities for compiling data and information required to monitor conformance and implementation of the Policy.

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with this recommendation.

While the audit confirms that the Policy provisions are being followed when going through the pesticide application approval process, clarification of the compliance

monitoring responsibilities will be made as part of the scheduled review of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy scheduled for completion by June 2008.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 3 at December 31, 2008

Management: % complete *100%*

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 3

Responsibilities for compiling data and information required to monitor the conformance and implementation of the Policy were formally assigned to the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) during the Policy revision.

OAG: % complete *100%*

2007 Recommendation 4

That management review and revise the Pesticide Monitoring Report Form in consultation with operations staff and the Medical Officer of Health to collect the data and information required to make and record pesticide application decisions for all types of City properties (i.e., not just sports fields).

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with the recommendation.

The current form was designed prior to implementation of the policy with a narrow focus on sports field weed issues. The policy affects many more properties than sports fields. During the formal review of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy scheduled for completion in June 2008, representatives from affected departments, including the Medical Officer of Health, will assist in revising the form. The revisions will ensure that the form is an effective tool for collecting information required for the annual report and for decision-making regarding the use of pesticides on all City properties.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 4 at December 31, 2008

Management: % complete *100%*

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 4

Responsibilities for compiling data and information required to monitor the conformance and implementation of the Policy were formally assigned to the MOH during the Policy revision.

OAG: % complete *100%*

2007 Recommendation 5

That City staff develop a short list of approved pesticides for use by pesticide applicators for specific and recurring circumstances that meet the requirements of the Policy. (Approval of the Medical Officer of Health would still be required prior to applying these approved pesticides.)

2007 Management Response

Management disagrees with this recommendation.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the Federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) are mandated to approve and review pest control products that are available for use. The choice of pesticide selected needs to be justified on a site-by-site basis in consultation with the pest control applicator working on the site. The development of a short list would be time consuming and may restrict the number of options available.

In order to ensure that pest control product proposed for use on City properties meet the requirement of the policy (i.e. the least hazardous), management proposes that the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) review each proposal in order to assess that the least toxic product is being used in each situation.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 5 at December 31, 2008

Implementation of this recommendation has not yet begun. This item is on the agenda for discussion at the February 19, 2009 CAWG meeting.

Management: % complete _____ **0%**

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 5

The discussion at the February 19, 2009 meeting of CAWG resulted in the following proposed resolution:

Ontario government has passed Bill 64 - Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act, 2008 that is scheduled to come into effect in the spring of 2009. Regulations may be set out to prescribe specific pesticides that may or may not be used in Ontario. Until this legislation comes into force, it would be premature to develop a short list of pesticides for use on City of Ottawa properties. It is proposed that existing protocols be enhanced with the Office of the Medical Officer of Health consulting both the contracted applicator and the requesting staff to determine the most appropriate and least toxic pesticide suitable for each pest condition being considered.

Ontario Regulation 63/09 does not prescribe specific pesticides which may or may not be used in Ontario. However the Ministry is mandated to maintain a compendium of pesticides which does specify any restrictions on usage. As such reliance on the Ministry compendium is deemed adequate in responding to this recommendation.

*OAG: % complete**100%***2007 Recommendation 6**

That management ensure that staff and contractors working on the City's behalf are familiar with the City's Corporate Pesticide Use Policy, and are able to provide information on the type of pesticide being used and any health and safety concerns surrounding its application.

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with this recommendation.

Managing Departments will be responsible for informing staff and contractors, working on the City's behalf, of this policy. Managing Departments will provide information on the type of pesticide being applied and the health concerns. This information will be forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health as required for reporting purposes.

As part of the policy review to be completed in June 2008, all managing departments will develop a communications strategy to ensure that staff and contractors working on behalf of the City are familiar with the policy.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 6 at December 31, 2008

Implementation of this recommendation has not yet begun. In light of the fact that the Province has passed Bill 64 with respect to the banning of the cosmetic use of pesticides, staff have not prepared briefing material for outside contractors or for City staff. The tasks associated with this recommendation will not be completed until the end of Q1 and possibly as late as mid Q2 2009 as information is made available from the Province. As soon as an implementation date and final details about the regulations associated with Bill 64 are received, staff will prepare briefing information.

*Management: % complete**0%***OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 6**

City staff contact was identified for each pesticide application and provided with Q&A regarding the application. Contractors applying pesticides on City property were provided with a copy of the Policy by the appropriate managing department, which was included in contract documents (i.e., Ravine Park). Operating departments provided the MOH with information on the type of pesticide being applied. A formal communications strategy was not developed by managing departments.

*OAG: % complete**85%*

Management Representation of Status of Implementation of Recommendation 6 as of Winter 2010

Management disagrees with the OAG's follow-up audit finding that implementation of this recommendation is only substantially complete.

The Corporate Pesticide Use Policy was revoked on April 22, 2009 when the new Ontario Provincial Regulation 63/09 came into effect. The new regulation has more restrictive requirements than the former corporate policy.

A web page was created on Ottawa.ca to inform the public of the changes to the Pesticide Use Policy at the City of Ottawa. It directs people to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment web site for further information (http://ottawa.ca/residents/environment/city_hall/pesticide_en.html). In light of this information being available on Ottawa.ca managing departments did not develop a formal communications strategy. Management considers this recommendation complete.

Management: % complete *100%*

2007 Recommendation 7

That procedures be put in place to ensure the person whose name is posted as the contact for a given pesticide application is aware that their name and number is posted, and is provided with speaking points to ensure accurate and consistent information is provided to the public.

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with this recommendation.

During the formal review of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy scheduled for completion in June 2008, specific procedures will be developed which incorporate the directives, within this recommendation, to ensure accurate and consistent information is provided to the public through identified contacts.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 7 at December 31, 2008

Management: % complete *100%*

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 7

Procedures have been put in place to ensure the person whose name is indicated as the contact for a pesticide application is aware that their name and number is posted and are provided with speaking points to ensure accurate information is communicated. The City's 3-1-1 Contact Centre was also to be informed of this process.

OAG: % complete *100%*

2007 Recommendation 8

That the City post signs when it implements an alternative pest management practice to promote community awareness of the practice and to conform with the public notification requirements of the Policy.

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with this recommendation.

Management recognizes the importance of educating the public to promote community awareness of the practice of alternative pest management processes.

During the formal review process of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy scheduled for completion in June 2008, management will develop a communications strategy to achieve this objective.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 8 at December 31, 2008

Implementation of this recommendation has not yet begun. A communications strategy for educating the public about the changes that will be made to the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy following implementation of Bill 64 will be crafted in Q1 of 2009. The City web site will be updated with information about innovative ways the City is maintaining its properties without the use of chemical pesticides and this strategy may include the use of signs as part of the communication plan.

Management: % complete *0%*

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 8

No alternative pest management practices have been implemented since the original audit that could be used to promote community awareness. A formal communications strategy to promote community awareness of pesticides alternatives has not been developed.

OAG: % complete *0%*

Management Representation of Status of Implementation of Recommendation 8 as of Winter 2010

Management disagrees with the OAG's follow-up audit finding that there has been little or no action taken to implement this recommendation.

A formal communications strategy to promote community awareness of pesticide alternatives used on City properties has not been developed because the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy was revoked on April 22, 2009. No innovative alternative pest management practices have been implemented on City properties since the original audit that could be used to promote community awareness.

The City has widely promoted alternative pest control management practices to the public for many years via public workshops and exhibits and by maintaining a

large amount of information on Ottawa.ca. In 2009, nine public workshops were held and the City participated in three large exhibitions. Management considers this recommendation complete.

Management: % complete 100%

2007 Recommendation 9

That the City identify and systematically collect the information required for the annual report on pesticide applications and compile an annual report as per the requirements of the Policy.

2007 Management Response

Management agrees with this recommendation.

Clarification of departmental responsibilities for data and information gathering and reporting, and the production of appropriate reports will be undertaken as part of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy review scheduled for completion in June 2008. Staff is preparing the first report on pesticide application on City owned property, covering 2005 - 2007, which is scheduled for completion by the end of the first quarter 2008. Future reports will be strengthened by the outcomes of the first policy review, scheduled for early 2008.

Management Representation of the Status of Implementation of Recommendation 9 at December 31, 2008

Management: % complete 100%

OAG's Follow-up Audit Findings regarding Recommendation 9

The MOH is responsible for the collection of information required for the annual report, and has done so for each of the years. Planning, Transit and the Environment is responsible for compiling the annual report. An annual report was produced for years 2005-2007. While data was compiled for 2008, a report for Council was not prepared due to the impending withdrawal of the Policy. However, given that the Policy had been in effect for the entire 2008 calendar year, it would have been appropriate to provide a summary report to Council.

OAG: % complete 50%

Management Representation of Status of Implementation of Recommendation 9 as of Winter 2010

Management disagrees with the OAG's follow-up audit finding that implementation of this recommendation is only partially complete.

At the time the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy was revoked (April 22, 2009), the annual reports for 2005 to 2007 had been submitted to EAC on June 8, 2008. The 2008 report was not prepared pending the Policy cancellation.

In 2008 the Medical Officer of Health approved one sports field pesticide application, and one O-Train pesticide application. One pesticide application request was rejected because it did not meet the requirements of the Policy. In addition, there were 56 small applications of pesticides for poison ivy, and bee and hornet nests on play structures. All applications were posted on Ottawa.ca to ensure the public was informed and signs were posted at each site. Management considers this recommendation complete.

Management: % complete

100%

4 SUMMARY OF THE LEVEL OF COMPLETION

The table below outlines our assessment of the level of completion of each recommendation as of Fall 2009.

CATEGORY	% COMPLETE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS
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5 CONCLUSION

The City has addressed or substantially addressed seven of the nine audit recommendations agreed to by Management, and has determined how it will address the other outstanding recommendations. The City has largely taken adequate, effective and timely action to respond to the audit findings and recommendations. The requirements of Ontario Regulation 63/09 are very similar to the requirements of the former Corporate Pesticide Use Policy, which positions the City well to respond to the new regulatory requirements. It is recommended that the City use the processes and systems previously established to support implementation of the Corporate Pesticide Use Policy to oversee compliance with Ontario Regulation 63/09, including designation of formal responsibility to track changes to the Regulation, provide information to managing departments, and determine if any situations at the City would qualify for an exception under the ban.

An annual report was produced for the years 2005 to 2007. While data was compiled for 2008, a report was not prepared due to the impending withdrawal of the Policy. However, given that the Policy had been in effect for the entire 2008

calendar year, it would have been appropriate to provide a summary report to Council.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to express appreciation to the staff and management for their cooperation and assistance throughout the audit process.