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NEWS RELEASE

Ministry of the Environment Approves Picton Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

Picton, ON - The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has advised the County of Prince Edward that it can proceed with the Picton Wastewater Treatment Plant Project as per its submitted Environmental Study Report (ESR). The project has been on hold due to a request to the Minister of the Environment from a member of the public, Mr. Don Carr, for an individual environmental assessment.

"We are pleased to receive this decision so we can provide safe and adequate sewage treatment for the Picton-Hallowell urban area and septage disposition for our rural areas well into the future", said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "A project of this size requires significant effort to ensure the public remains informed and the process is open and transparent. It is important that all concerns raised by the public, such as Mr. Carr's, are taken seriously and thoroughly examined."

In a letter dated September 10, 2007 to Mr. Carr and copied to the municipality, the Honourable Laurel C. Broten, Minister of the Environment stated, "The issues and concerns raised by you were extensively reviewed. I am satisfied that the issues and concerns have been addressed by the work done to date by the County, or will be addressed in future work that is required to be carried out."

During the lengthy ESR process, the County investigated alternative sewage treatment processes such as greenhouse sewage treatment, lagoons, mechanical plants and hybrids with the advice and assistance of experienced engineering consultants who are experts in the field.

"We are meeting with the MOE and other agencies, as needed, to finalize our design," said Commissioner of Public Works, Steve Carroll. "We should be prepared to tender and award the work by the end of January."

A presentation on the new plant will be made to an upcoming Public Works Committee meeting, followed by a public information session.

The County received a COMRIF grant from the federal and provincial governments in the amount of \$10.3 million towards the project, which will total approximately \$23,000,000.

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For further information, please contact Mayor Leo P. Finnegan at 613-476-2148 or Steve Carroll at 613-393-2011.