

Town of BWG improves processes to ensure highest level of accuracy and safety at water pollution control plant

Bradford West Gwillimbury, ON (*July 25, 2019*) – In December of 2016, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury encountered an operational occurrence that resulted in a brief exceedance of the total ammonia nitrogen limit for the water pollution control plant (WPCP). As a result, the Town of BWG formally acknowledged the exceedance by entering a guilty plea for the breach of condition of the Environmental Compliance Approval for the WPCP.

At the WPCP, wastewater goes through three main stages of treatment during which debris is filtered out, organic matter is broken down, and the remaining material is disinfected so that all bacteria and pathogens are destroyed. Once fully treated, the water is safe to return to local water bodies, while the solids are trucked offsite for use as fertilizer. Samples are analyzed regularly to ensure the effluent meets all applicable standards.

The exceedance relates to a single reading in December 2016. Town staff were monitoring the situation and worked around the clock to correct the operation. Total ammonia nitrogen dissipates quickly into the air and, at the level found, would not have reached any body of water or presented any risk to the environment.

The Town of BWG takes great care to ensure the safety of residents, protection of the environment and compliance with all legal requirements. There have been no exceedances since 2016. Town staff worked cooperatively with the Ministry at all times and initiated corrective actions and implemented process improvements voluntarily to ensure the situation does not happen again.