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CANADA

Erin council has first look at design of wastewater treatment plant

By **Joshua Santos, Local Journalism Initiative reporter** Orangeville Banner

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A groundbreaking ceremony is still months away for the proposed Erin wastewater treatment plant, but council had its first look at the facility design in a WSP Canada Group presentation at its regular council meeting on Tuesday, March 16.

The tender for the construction of Phase 1 of the plant could be issued in May. The design will be almost 100 per cent ready for approval close to that time.

“A lot of the plant will be running in around about October 2022, which is the area we’re looking for doing that,” said Gary Thorne, water and wastewater technical lead for WSP.

The design is close to being 75 per cent complete. The town has issued a tender for the pre-selection of contractors to construct the plant and is working toward issuing a tender for some equipment’s pre-selection.

“We have a compact size, as you can see based on the plant layout,” said Thorne. “We even allowed, what you don’t see there, future space for anything that you might decide to do in the future. You can expand it past its design capacity.”

They have to make sure there is clear room around the plant for fire trucks, septage and chemical deliveries. They can move this around the site.

“We have a single entry coming in and a single exit coming out,” said Thorne.

The plant will have a septage receiving station, biosolids management and disposal and an effluent pumping station, discharge pipeline and outfall that goes into the Credit River.

As Mayor Allan Alls recalls, Thorne was asked what he would say to the plant’s detractors. He heard and read comments.

“One of the things we try to put in is the water quality,” said Thorne. “That water quality is the most stringent in North America. I have several projects going on where we get nice and clear water.”

“This water quality is not far from drinkable quality.”

Coun. John Brennan wanted to know if they can take care of septage in the early stages and decline when more people contribute to the plant itself.

“Based on the information for when we did our septage study, we feel two or three trucks a day is typical of what we will be receiving,” said Thorne.

It will be built in three phases. The first phase will consider Erin Village, the second phase will consider Hillsburgh and the third phase will be the final build-out.

“All the concrete structures will be constructed within the first phase, but the mechanical installation varies in the three

phases,” said Thorne. “Based on the developer’s details, we see Phase 1 running around 3,500 cubic metres per day. Potentially, a short time afterwards, it will increase that to 5,500 cubic metres per day. The total design capacity of the plan is 7,000.”

WSP considered the impact of climate change by limiting solar gain on water storage tanks and exposed aeration pipes in the first construction phase.

The tank is construction grade, and the pipe will have a heat deflecting coating. All other pipes run below ground.

The second phase of construction will have shading based on historical effluent temperature values obtained in the first phase.

“This is new,” said Thorne. “There is no historical data,” said Thorne. “We’re including upstream and downstream temperature monitors within the credit river, as well as inlet and outlet temperature monitors.”

They will also lean toward a greener approach by placing flat roofs to enable panels to be installed, generating biogas to the digesters and using high-efficiency hybrid blowers to reduce power requirements.

A request for approval (RFP) was awarded to WSP on May 5, 2020, for about \$1.5 million.

The ministry approved the environmental assessment of the environment, conservation and parks (MECP) on Aug. 29, 2019, allowing the wastewater treatment plant project to proceed.

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