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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Works
Report: #2026-INFO-006
Date: February 6, 2026

Subject:

Oshawa Water Supply Plant Emergency Upgrades Update

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the upcoming emergency upgrades occurring at the Oshawa Water Supply Plant (WSP), scheduled to begin the first week of February and continue for approximately 4–6 weeks. During this time, the Oshawa WSP will be temporarily off-line (shutdown). Water supply will continue to be uninterrupted for users and conveyed through our interconnected drinking water systems and pumping stations from the Whitby WSP and Ajax WSP.
- 1.2 Contingency planning in anticipation of this shutdown has been completed, and a short-term shutdown was successfully trialed for a week in January 2026. In the unlikely event of a major incident, such as a significant watermain break or a power-related event affecting these interconnected systems, temporary water conservation measures may be requested from high-volume water users. These measures would help reduce system demand, preserve reservoir storage, and maintain adequate water pressure and supply while response and recovery actions are implemented. While this is a low probability event, advance notice of

this potential requirement has been provided to these users to ensure they are prepared to respond promptly if requested. If required, as a secondary measure, the Region will implement water restrictions through public notices and social media forums. The required communications for water restrictions have been prepared and pre-approved so they can be implemented expediently.

2. Background

- 2.1 The temporary Oshawa WSP shutdown is required to complete critical asset renewal and rehabilitation works necessary to ensure the long-term functionality and reliability of the Oshawa WSP. The project, predominantly funded through the Province of Ontario's Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF), includes replacement of the main filter backwash header and associated valving originally installed in the 1960s and is now at the end of its service life, rehabilitation of Filters 1 through 6, replacement of the header, backwash valves, and associated piping, replacement of motor control centres (MCCs), upgrades to the generator control system, installation of a centrifugal blower to provide system redundancy, replacement of the low-lift pumping station, and replacement of the plant's primary valve chamber.
- 2.2 The supply of water to the service area during this time (with Oshawa WSP off-line), will rely on drinking water supplied by the Whitby WSP and Ajax WSP and various pumping stations designed to transfer water within the interconnected distribution system serving Courtice, Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax and Pickering.
- 2.3 As part of the planning and risk assessment for the project, this portion of the work has been scheduled for the February/March 2026 window, during the low demand period, to minimize the overall impact on the supply of drinking water to Courtice, Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax and Pickering.
- 2.4 The Region has confirmed, through hydraulic modelling and a recent trial shutdown of the Oshawa WSP, that normal system demands can be satisfied with the Oshawa WSP off-line during this low demand (February/March) window. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has been notified of the planned works and upcoming shut-down.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 Report #2024-W-16 provided an update and details regarding the HEWSF and project schedule.

3.2 The Region received substantial grant funding for the project of approximately \$35 million.

4. Relationship to Strategic Plan

4.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

a. Connected and Vibrant Communities

- C1. Align Regional infrastructure and asset management with projected growth, climate impacts, and community needs.

b. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

- E5. Respect the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, and agricultural lands.

c. Strong Relationships

- S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.

4.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

a. Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.

b. Technology: Keeping pace with technological change to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

5. Conclusion

5.1 This work is part of the ongoing, multi-phase, Oshawa Water Supply Plant Rehabilitation project. The project began in 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2027.

5.2 Water users are not anticipated to be impacted, and supply will be conveyed through an interconnected water distribution system fed from the Whitby WSP and the Ajax WSP.

- 5.3 Contingency measures and communications are in place should water supply be impacted by unforeseen major incidents.
- 5.4 For additional information, contact: Mike Hubble, Director, Environmental Services, at 905-668-4113 extension 3460 and Dan Waechter, Director, Capital Projects Delivery, at 905-668-4113 extension 3550.

6. Attachments

Attachment #1: Notice to High volume users

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by:

Ramesh Jagannathan, MBA, M.Eng., P.Eng., PTOE
Commissioner of Works



Sent via email

Date: February 2, 2026

Industrial Facilities,

RE: Upgrades to Oshawa Water Supply Plant and Contingency Planning

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Works Department

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Mike Hubble, P.Eng.
Director, Environmental Services

You are receiving this notice because you are one of the highest volume water users within the Region's drinking water system.

This letter is to advise you of upcoming capital upgrades at the Oshawa Water Supply Plant (WSP), scheduled to begin in the first week of February and continue for approximately 4–6 weeks. During this time, the Oshawa WSP will be temporarily off-line (shutdown).

The supply of water to the service area during this time (with Oshawa WSP off-line), will rely on drinking water supplied by the Whitby WSP and Ajax WSP and various pumping stations designed to transfer water within the interconnected distribution system serving Courtice, Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax and Pickering.

The work (requiring this temporary Oshawa WSP shutdown) is considered a necessary step in asset renewal/rehabilitation for the long-term functionality of the Oshawa WSP.

As part of the planning and risk assessment for the project, this portion of the work has been scheduled for the February/March 2026 window (during low demand period) to minimize the overall impact on the supply of drinking water to Courtice, Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax and Pickering.

The Region has confirmed, through hydraulic modelling and a recent trial shutdown of the Oshawa WSP, that normal system demands can be satisfied with the Oshawa WSP off-line during this low demand (February/March) window. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has been notified of the works and upcoming shut-down.

This work is part of the ongoing, multi-phase, Oshawa Water Supply Plant Rehabilitation project. The project includes rehabilitation works of filters 1 to 6, replacement of the header & backwash valves and associated piping, replacement of motor control centres (MCC's), upgrades to the generator control system & installation of centrifugal blower for system redundancy, low lift PS replacement, and the replacement of the plants primary valve chamber. The project began in 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2027. Durham Region received substantial grant funding for the project of approximately \$35 million through the Province of Ontario's Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund.

We expect that your water supply will continue to be uninterrupted as we convey water through our interconnected drinking water systems and pumping stations during this period. In the unlikely event of a major incident, such as a significant watermain break or a power-related event impacting these alternative systems, we may request temporary water conservation measures from you to help maintain reservoir levels. In the event water conservation measures are requested, once the water conservation measures are no longer required, we will notify all impacted water users.

No action is required at this time. This notice is intended to ensure awareness and preparedness should extraordinary circumstances arise. Please confirm receipt of this letter and email the undersigned with the appropriate contact information in the event of an emergency.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tavis Nimmo', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tavis Nimmo
Manager, Water Resource Monitoring and Protection