



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

---

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Planning Committee  
**From:** Hurania Melgar, Emergency Manager/CEMC  
**Date:** Thursday, January 13, 2022  
**Subject:** **Paging/Radio Site Generators Update**

---

### Background

Since the late 1990's, the County of Wellington has owned and operated a simulcast paging system for the municipal fire departments in the County. The County leases and/or owns tower space for the system and costs incurred include annual maintenance of the system and the license fees.

There are currently twelve fire paging sites across the County. All sites contain a battery backup that is built to last 12 hours. Conn, Arthur and Puslinch sites had automatic generators installed in 2008 to ensure reliability in case of an extended power failure due to their criticality to the network. These generators were paid for fully by the County and the County pays for their annual maintenance. At the time these generators were put in place the network only had seven paging sites. Since that time five more paging sites have been added to the network to increase coverage. These sites also host the County-wide Radio system used by the County Roads department year round.

The County has experienced several power outages that have affected many paging sites beyond the 12-hour battery backup capacity. When outages occur, MRC advises of an outage and their staff are then deployed to the site to provide a portable generator with backup power. This is costly as we are required to pay for both the staffing hours to sit and make sure the generator keeps running and the fuel to run it, for however long it takes for the power to return to the site.

### Replacement Plan Required

In order to continue to support the redundancy and resiliency to the paging site network a plan needs to be established for generators at the other sites, and for the replacement of the generators already installed. However, not all paging sites are created equally and have differing needs. Some sites are at municipal water infrastructure. Some municipalities would like to input generators that would also power the water infrastructure which would require a much larger generator capacity than what we would normally put in to power just a paging site. Other sites have lower cost needs due to issues with the land the paging site is on.

Through the 2022 budget process we will establish a generator replacement fund for the County's member municipalities so they can draw from it when the time comes to install and replace generators for the paging sites. Commencing with the 2022 budget, we have confirmed with the Town of Erin (1 paging site), Town of Minto (3 paging sites) and the Township of Centre Wellington (1 paging site) will be moving forward with generator replacements for the paging sites, pending municipal Council budgetary approval.

## **Generator Costs**

According to our discussions with MRC and Gencore we have found that a generator for a paging site would normally cost about \$30,000 which includes installation (Allocation of half the amount is approximately \$15,000 per generator). The attached Appendix A provides a list of the new generators to be installed in the coming year and the County's contribution for those units.

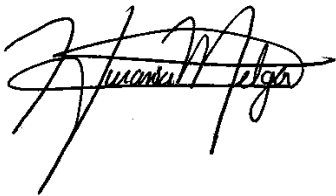
## **Summary**

The County has assisted our municipalities' redundancy at paging sites in the past with the installation of generators. Staff recommend that we continue this redundancy and, as budget allow, work with member municipalities to install new generators where they are none and to address life-cycle replacement of this equipment.

## **Recommendation:**

That the Planning Committee accept this report for information, subject to County Council budget approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hurania Melgar', written over a horizontal line.

Hurania Melgar  
Emergency Manager/CEMC

Attach.

## Appendix A: Estimated Cost and Schedule for New/Replacement Generators for 2022

Site	New/Replacement Generator	Year	Cost	Notes
Town of Erin	New	2022	\$7500	Transfer switch & plug
Fergus Scottsdale Water Tower	New	2022-2023	\$15,000	Generator for water infrastructure and paging site
Clifford	New	2022	\$15,000	Generator for water infrastructure and paging site
Palmerston	New	2022	\$15,000	Generator for water infrastructure and paging site
Harriston	New	2022	\$15,000	Generator for water infrastructure and paging site