

File No.: 04-1000-20-2020-212

May 13, 2020

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")

I am responding to your request of April 1, 2020 for:

Records related to City of Vancouver's corrosion mitigation program for its water mains, since the inception of the corrosion mitigation program, and any subsequent versions* up to March 31, 2020.

***Specifically documents which detail methods the City uses to prevent corrosion in its water mains, (for example, does the City analyze the frequency of breaks which occur on a water main? Is there a policy in place for the replacement or rehabilitation of older water mains? Does the City use cathodic protection systems?).**

We have completed the search for responsive records for this request and no responsive records have been located. Please note that the Waterworks Design Branch provided the following information:

Location: On E 2nd Ave, near corner of E 2nd Ave and Prince Edward St. (45.2 m East of Brunswick St., south of the school site at 426 Great Northern Way).

Date: February 7, 2019.

Pipe Material: 200 mm diameter cast iron pipe with lead joints, installation date undocumented in City's records; based on the type of failure and visual assessment during the repair it is expected that this pipe is of pipe classification, Pit Cast Iron, which was a type of pipe installed in Vancouver between 1889 and 1929.

Failure Type: Blowout due to suspected corrosion activity.

Repair Type: Section cut out and replaced with new ductile iron pipe.

Maintenance History: Prior to the main break of February 2019, the City does not have record of other main breaks or leaks along this section of E 2nd Ave. or along Prince Edward St. in our main break and leak databases.

We also use GIS to analyze main break and leak spatial patterns, and this area of the City has a relatively low number of breaks and is not known to have excessively corrosive soils. There is no cathodic protection in this neighbourhood.

Notes about water main pipe data and classification for infrastructure management:

- Pit cast iron mains were installed between 1889-1928, and are estimated to have an average service life of 125 years, with many at or approaching end of expected service life.
- Pit cast mains have been a key target of our replacement program over the last decade, but are not the only focus as we have various pipe material classes with different performance characteristics across the City.
- Approximately 27 km of pit cast iron pipes remain in the Water Distribution System, which accounts for about 2% of our total distribution pipe inventory. They typically have greater wall thickness than more modern cast and ductile iron pipe, so are more resilient to corrosion; however, they can be more brittle than modern pipes which impacts failure mechanisms.
- Due to age, pit cast iron mains account for approximately 7% of our main failures each year.
- When prioritizing water mains for replacement we look at pipe material classification, age, maintenance history, location and available condition information.
- This water main will likely be scheduled for replacement in the next 10 years through our infrastructure asset management program for water mains.

Under section 52 of the Act, and within 30 business days of receipt of this letter, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (#04-1000-20-2020-212); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,

Cobi Falconer, FOI Case Manager, for

[Signature on File]

Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA
Director, Access to Information & Privacy

Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca
453 W. 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

*If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. Or you can call the FOI Case Manager at 604.871.6584.

Encl.

:kt