

Chapter 47

Water Security Agency – Co-ordinating Flood Mitigation

1.0 MAIN POINTS

The Water Security Agency (Agency) is mandated to promote and co-ordinate the management, administration, development, conservation, protection, and control of water within the province. As part of its mandate, the Agency is responsible for co-ordinating flood mitigation in the province.

In 2014, we audited the effectiveness of the Agency's processes to co-ordinate flood mitigation. We made two recommendations. By September 23, 2016, the Agency improved some of its flood mitigation processes. It was creating a list of municipalities with ongoing flood risks. Once the Agency completes this listing, it needs to work with others to evaluate gaps in flood mitigation initiatives in municipalities with ongoing flood risks.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes our first follow-up of management's actions on the two recommendations we made in our *2014 Report – Volume 2*, Chapter 40, resulting from our audit of the Agency's processes to co-ordinate flood mitigation.

To conduct this review engagement, we followed the standards for assurance engagements published in the *CPA Canada Handbook – Assurance*. To evaluate the Agency's progress towards meeting our recommendations, we used the relevant criteria from the original audit. The Agency's management agreed with the criteria in the original audit. To carry out this engagement, we discussed with management the actions taken by the Agency to implement our recommendations, and examined related documents.

3.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out each recommendation including the date on which the Standing Committee on Public Accounts agreed to the recommendations, the status of the recommendations at September 23, 2016, and the Agency's actions up to that date.

3.1 Identification of Ongoing Flood Risk Areas Improving

We recommended that the Water Security Agency work with others (e.g., municipalities and the Ministry of Government Relations) to determine and document municipalities with ongoing flood risks. (2014 Report – Volume 2; Public Accounts Committee agreement January 14, 2016)

Status – Partially Implemented



We expected the Agency to have a formal record of municipalities that have experienced damage from floods or that face an ongoing risk of damage from floods.

Since 2014, the Agency started to identify and document which communities are prone to flooding and to assess their risks. Its draft listing contained and assessed risks of approximately 85 communities. The listing included risk information for each community such as community population and recent flood experiences (e.g., frequency and impact of recent flooding events).

By September 23, 2016, the Agency had not finalized its listing. Management indicated the Agency expected to approve the final listing in 2016-17.

Such a record would aid the Agency in determining where to plan and prioritize future flood mitigation initiatives with others (e.g., Ministry of Government Relations).

3.2 Evaluation of Flood Mitigation Initiatives Needed

We recommended that the Water Security Agency work with others (e.g., municipalities and the Ministry of Government Relations) to evaluate gaps in flood mitigation initiatives in municipalities with ongoing flood risks. (2014 Report – Volume 2; Public Accounts Committee agreement January 14, 2016)

Status – Not Implemented

We expected the Agency to evaluate gaps in flood mitigation initiatives in municipalities with ongoing flood risks.

By September 2016, the Agency had not finalized its list of municipalities with ongoing flood risks. Once it does, it needs to evaluate gaps in flood mitigation initiatives to protect areas at risk.