



# INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

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**DATE:** September 30, 2021

**TO:** Elizabeth Taschereau, Director - Development Services Department

**FROM:** Curt A. Keyser, P.E., Director *CAK*

**RE:** First Gate Commerce Centre - Underground Wiring Waiver Application

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First Gate Commerce Centre has applied for a waiver of the Underground Wiring requirement for overhead utilities that include but are not limited to gas, telephone, cable, fiber, internet, broadband, telecommunications, and other electrical distribution and transmission facilities. This waiver referred to as the Underground Wiring Waiver (UWW), is regulated by section 31-2 of the City Code of Ordinances.

The applicant provided an opinion of cost for converting overhead Electric facilities to underground in a letter report dated February 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 from RGrid Power PLLC. Although required, the report did not address undergrounding of other existing facilities. In addition, the existing utility poles support streetlights and when undergrounding occurs, they would need to be replaced with dedicated street light poles. The dedicated street light pole shall match existing dedicated street light poles in the City.

In principle the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services has no objection to the request for UWW and, therefore, approves the request, subject to the following conditions:

1. Amend the cost estimate to include undergrounding of other overhead facilities;
2. Amend the cost estimate to include dedicated street light poles;
3. Include a minimum of 15% contingency to the overall project costs;
4. Receive the DEES Director's approval of the final amended cost estimate.