

Report

Date November 1, 2023
Subject Earthquake Early Warning System in Municipal Hall Building

File:

PURPOSE

To consider a request from Natural Resources Canada to install an Earthquake Early Warning system in the Municipal Hall building.

BACKGROUND

Natural Resources Canada (NRC) is developing an Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system for at-risk regions of Canada. The system will use a specially designed network of seismic sensors to provide seconds to tens of seconds of warning in the event of a significant earthquake, allowing protective actions to be taken. To establish an adequate network of sensor stations, NRC is seeking suitable and willing hosts for the stations.

DISCUSSION

The Municipality of North Cowichan has been identified as an ideal location for the EEW network in the region. Usually, these are installed in utility rooms, close to power and Internet. Staff have identified the boiler room on the ground floor in the Municipal Hall building as the ideal location for the equipment. The equipment size is 52" l x 17" w x 20" h, and the room has sufficient area to accommodate the installation. NRC will pay for the work required to provide power and Internet in the room. The IT Department has approved a connection to the Internet. The power requirement is minimal (less than \$30 per year). NRC will take IT security precautions to protect both the host and NRC equipment. All costs associated with the installation, maintenance and removal of the equipment will be borne by NRC.

NRC is requesting that North Cowichan enter into a 30-year term with a 20-year extension option to install and operate the equipment at the Municipal Hall building. NRC will provide a yearly payment for the use of the space equivalent to the power cost.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council direct the CAO to enter into an agreement with Natural Resources Canada for the installation of an Earthquake Early Warning system at the Municipal Hall building at 7030 Trans-Canada Highway for an annual consideration of \$30 payable November 1st each year.
2. THAT Council deny the request to install an Earthquake Early Warning system at the Municipal Hall building.

IMPLICATIONS

There are no costs to the Municipality.

The benefit of hosting an EEW station is that post-earthquake, hosts will be provided with a report of shaking to aid in damage assessment and business resumption planning.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct the CAO to enter into an agreement with Natural Resources Canada to install an Earthquake Early Warning system at the Municipal Hall building at 7030 Trans-Canada Highway for an annual consideration of \$30 payable November 1st each year.

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Attachment: License Agreement BCV25