



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No.
Western Region Community Council
October 24, 2011

TO: Councillor Steve Adams and Members of the Western Region Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: *Brian Dempsey*
for Mr. Brian Dempsey, Chair, Herring Cove Advisory Steering Committee

DATE: September 23, 2011

SUBJECT: Transport of External Sewage Sludge to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant

ORIGIN

The September 22, 2011 meeting of the Herring Cove Advisory Steering Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Western Region Community Council:

1. Advise Halifax Water of the Herring Cove Advisory Committee's non support of the proposal to transport sewage sludge from Bedford to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant for reasons outlined in this report, and request that the Western Region Community Council also support the Committee's position.
2. Request that staff provide information to the Community Council and the Herring Cove Advisory Steering Committee in regard to who has the authority to make the decision to transport sewage sludge to Herring Cove, has the decision been finalized, and if so, what is the time frame for the transport of external sewage sludge to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant.

BACKGROUND

The Chair of the Herring Cove Advisory Steering Committee explained that he had received a phone call from Halifax Water on September 22, 2011 advising him that sewage sludge would be transported from Bedford to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant in three to four weeks time. The process would be to remove the liquid from the sludge and the solid material transported to the Aerotech facility. Approximately three to four trucks per week would be sent to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant.

The Chair explained that he had contacted a few members of the community immediately following the phone call from Halifax Water in order to obtain some input from the community in regard to the transport of external sewage sludge to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant. Comments from those community members contacted indicated that the community of Herring Cove does not agree with the transport of external sewage sludge to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant.

DISCUSSION

The Herring Cove Advisory Steering Committee discussed the issue of external sewage sludge being transported to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment plant and agreed with those community members contacted that they did not want external sewage sludge transported to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant for the following reasons:

- a) The Community of Herring Cove was promised that the Herring Cove sewer and water services project would be completed without delay if they agreed to the placement of a sewage treatment plant in Herring Cove; that project has not as yet been completed and many residents are not yet connected to the municipal services. If the transport of external sewage sludge to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant is to occur, it should not take place until the Herring Cove Sewer and Water Servicing project is complete and all residents are connected to the system.
- b) Concern was expressed with the potential for more frequent trips than the proposed three to four trips per week along the small road;
- c) Concern was expressed in regard to odour;
- d) Concern was expressed with the potential for setting a precedent that sewage sludge from other areas could be transported to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant if/when other sewage treatment plants reach capacity such as Eastern Passage or Halifax.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None associated with this report.

Western Region Community Council Report

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Herring Cove Advisory Steering Committee is comprised of eight (8) members of the community of Herring Cove and the District Councillor as an ex officio member. The Chair of the Committee had contacted members of the Herring Cove community.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The Western Region Community Council may choose not to advise Halifax Water of the Herring Cove Advisory Committee's non support of the proposal to transport sewage sludge from Bedford to the Herring Cove Sewage Treatment Plant. This is not the recommended option.

ATTACHMENTS - NONE

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant, 490-6732
