



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

BRIEFING FORM

SUBMITTED TO: Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

MANAGER'S APPROVAL: Gord Helm

DATE OF MEETING: 6 January, 2011

SUBJECT: Solid Waste Resources Operational Issues Overview

ORIGIN

To provide a brief overview of the ongoing and pending operational issues and initiatives managed by the Solid Waste Resources (SWR) Business Unit.

RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION REQUIRED (NONE REQUIRED IN THIS CASE INFORMATION ONLY)

BACKGROUND

An introduction to the issues and initiatives being dealt with by SWR and the HRM Waste Management Program (WMP)

SWR is largely a contract management BU (10 personnel) overseeing the WMP for residential collection and facility operations in support of the Municipality's waste, recycling, composting and regulatory compliance with Provincial waste policy. SWR also provides an enforcement and educational program (9 personnel) which is supplemented in staff compensation by provincial funding through the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB) which is funded through the Provincial container deposit tax.

Ongoing projects and initiatives:

- A. Waste Stabilization Facility Roof Replacement Project – Completed in early December, this project was a part of the Federal stimulus funding effort.

- B. Compost Maturity Assessment Project – this is an ongoing 18 month 4 phase compost testing analysis project. The intent is to confirm the maturity of HRM compost following its initial phase of processing at the two HRM compost facilities. The issue is the recently implemented (2006) national compost standards which stipulate required compost maturity prior to transportation to the secondary site for uncontrolled windrow staging and final curing. Preliminary test results indicate that HRM’s stage one processed compost does not meet provincially adopted national standards and would require changes to the current operational profile. Following the project testing, HRM will have a year to review and develop a plan to meet the standards. Submission of the plan and implementation of any changes is required by 2014.
- C. Waste Characterization Test – Commencing in mid-January, this project will provide the caloric and BTU content analysis of the residual waste stream, and also some materials from the construction and Demolition stream and compost stream. The intent is then to go to industry with a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) to identify options for evolving the HRM WMP. This could include technology options to alter the current land fill model and or address the next plan following the currently scheduled closure of the Otter Lake Landfill site in accordance with its 1997 contract.
- D. HRM is currently negotiating with Mirror N.S. for a new supplemental agreement for the management and operations of the Otter Lake landfill site. This will be the third supplemental agreement for the site.
- E. Upcoming contract renewals include the Household Hazardous Waste contract, CFC removal contract, and the Sackville Landfill site monitoring and analysis contract.
- F. Leachate processing is a critical issue for HRM and one that is currently not resolved. Halifax Water Commission is currently processing HRM compost leachate at the Mill Cove processing plant under a temporary permit issued by the Province. However, HRM requires a more practical and permanent solution. HRM does have a leachate processing plant at the Sackville landfill site and an assessment is currently being conducted to see if this site would be able to process all HRM leachate. If this assessment comes in positive, then SWR will request permission from this committee to engage Council and the public on utilizing this asset to support HRM operational leachate processing.
- G. Otter lake Construction Projects for 2011 include the development of the clay borrow pit Carmichael Road Upgrade, Construction of cell 6, ongoing work with gas extraction system in cell 5 and preparations for closure of cell 5. Cell 5 is anticipated to reach capacity by January 2012 at which time cell 6 needs to be ready and approved for operations.

ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

N/A

IMPACT/BENEFITS:

N/A

COMMUNICATION ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

KEY STAFF CONTACT: (Contact information)

Drafted by: Gord Helm, Manager, SWR (902) 490-6606