

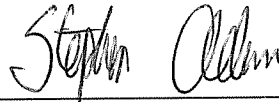
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P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council  
July 6, 2004

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair, Pipeline Review Committee

**DATE:** June 29, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Expansion of Mandate - Pipeline Review Committee

**ORIGIN**

Pipeline Review Committee of May 20, 2004.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Halifax Regional Council approve the expansion of the Pipeline Review Committee to include Energy and Underground Services, that is, utility related issues, and further the Committee's name be changed to the Energy and Underground Services Committee with the current membership remaining intact.

**BACKGROUND**

Staff advanced the possibility of an expanded mandate for the Pipeline Review Committee at the May 30, 2004 meeting of the Committee as set out in the June 29, 2004 staff report.

**DISCUSSION**

The Committee, recognizing that there were a number of related issues and projects around energy, endorsed staff's suggestion and approved the above recommendation.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

See attached staff report.

**MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

**ALTERNATIVES**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

June 29, 2004 staff report re Expansion of Mandate - Pipeline Review Committee


Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Sherryll Murphy, Legislative Assistant



**TO:** Pipeline Review Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** June 29, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Expansion of Mandate - Pipeline Review Committee

### **ORIGIN**

There are a number of inter-related issues and projects around energy, utilities and underground services which are being worked on by staff in various business units. An interdepartmental team has been formed to try to co-ordinate these activities and ensure HRM's approach is integrated in supports the HRM Corporate Scorecard objectives for a Healthy, Sustainable, Vibrant Community. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Pipeline Review Committee approved a staff suggestion that a report be prepared for Council to expand the mandate of the Pipeline Review Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended:

- HRM Council agree to expand the mandate of the Pipeline Review Committee to include Energy and Underground Services - utility related issues. The Committee's name shall be changed to Energy and Underground Services Committee; and the current membership shall remain intact.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Pipeline Review subcommittee of Council, was created to help provide staff with direction in forming HRM's position and response to natural gas issues and opportunities such as the Maritimes Northeast Pipeline, Sempra project, and Heritage Gas franchise application and distribution. This Committee has proved invaluable in providing staff with advice and direction; and as a means of disseminating information to and from the remainder of HRM Council on a number of very complex issues.

## **DISCUSSION**

Some examples of the projects/issues various staff are working on which are inter-related are:

- Co-location of underground services where possible (ie: incorporating natural gas distribution pipe, fibre optice cable conduit, or underground wiring with large capital projects such as Harbour Solutions)
- RFP for Underground Services Analysis, to gather information on cost and benefits from an operational, financial, environmental, and aesthetic perspective regarding overhead versus underground wiring in new and existing developments.
- On going support to Heritage Gas distribution
- Research regarding windenergy / wind turbines within HRM
- Research and coordination regarding HRM's response to Nova Scotia Power issues
- Energy efficiency and management to achieve our greenhouse gas emission reduction targets
- District Energy concept

Working together as an interdepartmental group, we can share information more efficiently, take a look at issues from a broader corporate perspective and develop more expertise in these various subject areas.

The following objectives are proposed for the the inter-departmental work group and the Energy and Underground Services Subcommittee :

- Ensure there is a variety of energy choices to HRM residents
- Promote sustainable, renewable sources of energy
- Live up to green house gas emission reduction commitments
- Diversify municipal revenue streams through seeking investments in utilities such as natural gas and wind energy
- Maximize HRM capital dollars through co-location of utilities and coordination of projects
- Develop a corporation position on environmental, aesthetic, financial, and operational qualities of underground versus overhead services, to shape future growth.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The 2004/05 budget included \$250,000 in capital to be used toward co-location of underground services. The inter-departmental working group will bring forward recommendations to the Subcommittee of Council, and then to HRM Council, regarding how these funds will be expended.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

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

ALTERNATIVES

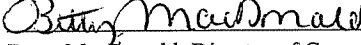
N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Reporting Structure EUGS (Energy & Under Ground Services Group)

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Cathie O'Toole, CGA - Executive Assistant, CAO's Office

Approved by:   
Betty MacDonald, Director of Governance and Strategic Initiatives

Halifax Regional Council

Energy & Under Ground Services  
Subcommittee of Council

Healthy Sustainable Vibrant  
Communities Theme

Energy & Under  
Ground Services Group  
EUGS

Environmental  
Initiatives Group

Halifax Utility  
Coordinating Group  
(HUCC)

SubGroups focused on specific areas  
Nat Gas Working Group  
Wind Turbine Working Group  
NSPI 2005 Rate Application  
Underground vrs Overhead Services  
District Energy Concept