

Item No. 2

**Halifax Regional Council
March 4, 2008**

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Brad Anguish, Director of Business Planning & Information Services

DATE: January 27, 2008

**SUBJECT: Harbour Solutions Project - 3rd Quarter Report -
October to December 2007/08**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from the Council session of October 22, 2002 when staff was authorized to submit quarterly reports for the duration of the project.

BACKGROUND

HRM has entered into five contracts to date for the implementation of the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project, namely:

- C an infrastructure development agreement for the construction of the three Wastewater Collection Systems on October 15, 2003 with Dexter Construction; and
- C a development agreement for the construction of three advanced primary Wastewater Treatment Facilities on June 15, 2004 with D&D Water Solutions, Inc.; and
- C a development agreement for the construction of a Biosolids Processing Facility on November 30, 2004 with SGE Acres Limited, and
- C an operating and maintenance agreement for the Biosolids Processing Facility on November 30, 2004, with N-Viro Systems Canada Inc.; and
- C an operating agreement for the transportation of dewatered biosolids from the three new Wastewater Treatment Facilities on May 31, 2006, with Seaboard Liquid Carriers Limited.

DISCUSSION

All deliverables of the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project are progressing well, and within budget. As indicated in the previous quarterly report, D&D water Solutions is undertaking a detailed schedule review of the commissioning of the Herring Cove Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The schedule is still being assessed to determine a commissioning date that can be forecasted with a reasonable degree of confidence.

Halifax

The Halifax Wastewater Collection System (WWCS) work during the 3rd quarter of 2007/08 continued with the remaining mechanical and electrical work at the various regulation structures, final connections of the sewer sheds to the tunnel, as well as reinstatement work such as landscaping and paving. The Duffus Street Pumping Station started up on November 1, 2007, conveying sewage to the Halifax WWTF in as part of the commissioning process.

At the time of writing this report, the Halifax WWTF has been continuously treating sewage since November 2007, from both the north and south ends of the Peninsula via Duffus St., Barrington/Inglis, and the Atlantic School of Theology pumping stations. Several challenges and deficiencies have arisen during and after initial commissioning, which is to be expected for a project of this complexity. A deficiency list is being prepared and will be forwarded to the contractor for remedial action. The contractor continues to make steady progress toward final performance testing against contract parameters however no firm dates have been forecasted.

Dartmouth

The Dartmouth WWCS work during the 3rd quarter of 2007/08 concentrated on reinstatement activities at various structures and street locations including the Dartmouth WWTF access road.

Regarding the Dartmouth WWTF, remaining coatings of the various tanks and channels were completed. Site pads, underground services, the first lift of asphalt on the parking lot, and permanent underground power cabling were also completed.

It is anticipated that dry commissioning will start after the WWTF is connected to permanent power which is expected in early February 2008. Wet commissioning is currently anticipated to begin as early as March 2008.

Herring Cove

The Herring Cove WWCS work during the 3rd quarter of 2007/08 continued at the Roaches Pond retention tank and the Herring Cove Pumping Station.

Regarding the Herring Cove WWTF, construction work concentrated on the foundation including underground pipe installation, form work, reinforcing steel installation and various tanks.

Biosolids Processing Facility

The Biosolids Processing Facility (BPF) continued to process dewatered biosolids from the Aerotech Dewatering Facility, and from the Halifax WWTF since November 2007. The operator of the facility, N-Viro Canada, has submitted the quality test results to CFIA for labeling of the finished products under the Canadian Fertilizer Act. It is expected that labeling will be obtained in the fourth quarter of this fiscal year.

Safety

There were no lost time incidents. NSDEL carried out an inspection at Herring Cove WWTF site in November 2007 and no compliance orders were issued.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Harbour Solutions Project spent \$13.34 million in the 3rd quarter 2007/08 and, since the start of the project, \$268.18 million to December 31, 2007. Projections to meet the capital budget of \$332.7 million are still on target.

Although still a considerable factor, the risk of increases to inflation is gradually decreasing as the project is nearing completion. History of the Halifax Non-Residential Construction Index over the past twenty years shows average annual inflation of just over 2%. At the beginning of the project, staff conservatively estimated annual inflation at 2.8% for budget purposes. However, fiscal years 2004/05, 2005/06, and 2006/07 brought inflation of 7.87%, 4.31%, and 5.25% respectively. In the 1st quarter of 2007/08, annual inflation was 5.8%, the 2nd quarter saw inflation of 7.41% and in the 3rd quarter it remained above 6%, namely at 7.33%. To mitigate this risk and financial impact, staff revised the inflation estimate to approximately 6% per year over the life of the contract and has committed a substantial portion (\$14.7 million) of the \$18.2 million contingency to address this issue.

Staff are currently estimating the actual total inflation to the end of the project to be \$26.1 million, based on an annual inflation rate of 6.5%. This would consume \$3.36 million of the \$4.10 million inflation room available in the contingency budget, leaving the remainder potentially available to deal with potential project risk events.

It should be noted that there remain numerous potential project risks that may require funding from the uncommitted contingency balance. For example, due to recent changes in the electrical code,

D&D Water Solutions Inc. has identified various areas in which the design/construction of the Herring Cove WWTF will be impacted. D&D has not yet finished their analysis of this issue and, therefore, it is not possible to quantify the actual financial impact at this time.

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.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Halifax Harbour Solutions Project - 3rd Quarter Report - October to December 2007.

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

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7 

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Appendix A

Halifax Harbour Solutions Project Third Quarter Report - 2007/08

Introduction

The intent of this document is to provide Council and staff with a general overview of the Harbour Solutions Project progress during the period between October 1 and December 31, 2007.

It is presented in sections:

Section 1 - Wastewater Collection System (WWCS)

Section 2 - Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTF)

Section 3 - Biosolids Processing Facility (BPF)

Section 4 - Pollution Prevention Program

Section 5 - Water Quality Sampling Program

Section 6 - Financial Information

Section 7 - Public Involvement and Information Program

Section 8 - Construction Safety

Section 1

Wastewater Collection Systems

Halifax Wastewater Collection System

Work during the 3rd quarter of 2007/08 continued with the remaining mechanical and electrical work at the various regulation structures as well as reinstatement work such as landscaping, paving, curb work, etc. Final work on the connections of the remaining sewer sheds to the tunnel and the regulation structures as well as final connection work for Heritage Gas was also completed. Construction of the transition chamber at the AST Pump Station started when the Duffus Street Pump Station was started up. This allowed the wastewater flow diversion necessary to initiate the work. In addition, SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) and related communications were installed and progress was made on the calibration, programming, and testing process. As well, permanent power connections have been made.

The Duffus Street Pumping Station start-up occurred on November 1, 2007 supplying effluent flows to the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Close coordination with the commissioning process at the Halifax WWTF continued during the remainder of the quarter. The Barrington/Ingles Pumping Station was also started in late November.

At the time of writing this report, the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) Pumping Station is operational. The remaining work on the diversion piping connection at the Balmoral Pumping Station will be completed later in the 4th quarter and the station will be commissioned. It is anticipated that all commissioning activities for the Halifax wastewater collection system will be completed during the 4th quarter of 2007/08.

Dartmouth Wastewater Collection System

Construction work was concentrated on reinstatement activities at various structures and street locations including the Dartmouth WWTF access road. Work on the Jamieson Street diversion piping was also completed. In addition, the final cap on the Mengoni Avenue contaminated soil disposal cell was completed.

During the latter part of the 4th quarter of 2007/08, it is anticipated that final diversion piping connection work will commence as well as the other remaining work required to send wastewater flows to the Dartmouth WWTF. Timing of this work is dependent upon the readiness of the Dartmouth WWTF to accept flows. Planning and coordination of this work continues.

Herring Cove Wastewater Collection System

During the 3rd quarter of 2007/08, construction work continued at the Roaches Pond Retention Tank and the Herring Cove Pump Station. The structural and architectural work was substantially

completed at these sites during the quarter and mechanical and electrical work was commenced. The Herring Cove interceptor piping was completed during the quarter as well as the Herring Cove WWTF access road. Work on the off-shore section of the Herring Cove WWTF Outfall continues.

During the 4th quarter of 2007/08, it anticipated that most of the remaining work on the collection system will be completed with the exception of reinstatement activities that will be completed in the spring and the final diversion piping connection work that is dependent on the completion of the Herring Cove WWTF.

Section 2

Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility

Civil, Architectural, and Structural Work

During the 3rd quarter of 2007/08, interior finishing such as drywall, painting, etc., were essentially completed. There remain several areas where completion of interior finishing was not completed, such as outstanding mechanical and electrical work in the meeting room and laboratory. Other remedial work on deficiencies was also initiated. Final grading of the site in preparation for landscaping was completed and site fencing was advanced. The pumping station at the bottom of the wet well passed the hydrotest and the remaining wet well concrete repairs were advanced until the WWTF started-up.

Mechanical & Electrical Work

Mechanical and electrical work continued and is substantially complete. All major equipment has been installed, with the exception of the air conditioner.

Commissioning

The commissioning program initiated with sewage on November 1, 2007. During the remainder of the quarter, major systems' performance was closely monitored by the commissioning team and performance deficiencies were investigated and remedial action undertaken. This process continued through the end of the quarter.

4th Quarter 2007/2008

The 4th quarter of 2007/08 will be devoted to the completion of the commissioning program's completion, including the 'performance test' if and when the contractor is ready. In addition, identified deficiencies will commence being addressed.

Dartmouth Wastewater Treatment Facility

Civil, Architectural, and Structural Work

During the 3rd quarter of 2007/08, remaining coating of the various tanks and channels was completed. Interior finishing (i.e., drywall, painting, etc.) continued in coordination with the remaining mechanical and electrical work. Site pads and remaining underground services were completed as well as the first lift of asphalt on the parking lot. Permanent power cabling was also completed.

Hydrotesting of the various tanks and channels continued with the following vessels being passed: sludge tank, scrubbers, wet well, hypochlorite tank containment area, and east Densadeg tank.

Mechanical & Electrical Work

During the 3rd quarter of 2007/08, piping, conduit, and conveyor installation continued with substantial progress continuing to be made.

Commissioning

The first elements of the equipment testing portion of the dry commissioning program were initiated.

4th Quarter of 2007/08

The 4th quarter work will include completion of hydrotesting for all tanks and channels. Interior finishes will also be completed. Remaining landscaping will not likely be completed until the spring. All remaining mechanical and electrical work should also be completed. The dry commissioning program will also continue. It is anticipated that the wet commissioning period will start in the 1st quarter of 2008/09.

Herring Cove Wastewater Treatment Facility

Civil Work

Construction concentrated on foundation work including underground pipe installation, concrete formwork, reinforcing steel installation and concrete placing. In addition, various tanks were advanced (i.e., Densadeg, sludge tanks, etc.). The exterior drainage system was also installed.

Mechanical & Electrical Work

Underground pipe installation and penetration installation continued in coordination with the ongoing concrete work.

4th Quarter 2007/2008

Concrete work will continue, as will in-slab cabling and penetration installation.

Schedule

The schedule is being assessed to determine a substantial completion date that can be forecasted with a reasonable degree of confidence.

Safety

There were no lost time incidents. NSDEL carried out an inspection at the Herring Cove WWTF site in November and no compliance orders were issued.

Section 3

Biosolids Processing Facility

The Biosolids Processing Facility (BPF) continued to process dewatered biosolids from the Aerotech Dewatering Facility and from the Halifax WWTF since November 2007. The Operator of the facility (N-Viro Canada) has submitted the quality test results to CFIA for labeling of the finished product under the Canadian Fertilizer Act. It is expected that labeling will be obtained in the 4th quarter.

The Design/Build contractor continues remedial work on deficiencies previously identified. This includes some re-design in order to increase the efficiency of capturing dust particles in the processing equipment.

Section 4

Pollution Prevention Program

In support of the Harbour Solutions Project and as a requirement of Provincial legislation, HRM initiated a Source Control Strategy, now referred to as the Pollution Prevention (P2) Program. This program has been designed and implemented to reduce the levels of organic and inorganic compounds, toxins and other matter currently entering the municipal stormwater and wastewater sewer systems, and ultimately, freshwater and marine environments including Halifax Harbour.

At the Regional Council meeting of July 17, 2001 (Item No. 9.1), Council approved the adoption of By-Law W-101 respecting the “Discharge of Wastewater into Public Sewers”. This by-law regulates the discharge of specified substances that may comprise paints, inks, solvents and other hazardous, metal-rich and toxic products and wastes to the municipal sewer systems. The P2 program requires compliance with the Wastewater Discharge By-Law through planning, education, inspections and monitoring at the source of these discharges from all industrial, commercial and institutional locations within HRM. Additionally, educational information is provided through various mediums for the residential sector to allow direct participation by the public in the protection of our natural marine and freshwater resources. Staff previously provided updates to Council on the status of this program. Since the last update provided to Regional Council at its meeting of November 13, 2007, activities that P2 staff have undertaken or completed include the following:

- Staff, during this reporting period, have continued with inspections of businesses within the Dartmouth WWTF sewershed for compliance with HRM’s By-Law W-101. It is the intent of staff to have this phase of activities completed prior to the completion and commissioning of the Dartmouth WWTF. To date, an estimated 90% of identified businesses have been

inspected within this sewershed. Staff anticipate having this sewershed completed by March 2008.

- P2 staff responded to 21 separate environmental incidents or related investigations since the previous report. Many of these included lake water quality incidents which resulted in extensive monitoring and inspections for the source of various contaminants. A number of these investigations remain on-going.
- As previously reported, staff have been working with NSEL and Environment Canada preparing a series of Best Management Plans, (BMPs) for various business sectors. These BMPs are designed to provide appropriate pollution prevention information for the various business sectors. The following BMPs have been completed; Auto Repair, Mobile Carpet Cleaning, Concrete, Janitorial, Commercial Laundry, Restaurant, Fleet Washing and Spill response. These BMPs will be available on the P2 web site and will be provided directly to the various businesses during on-going inspections.
- P2 staff produced and continue to deliver on-going pollution prevention television and radio advertisements to promote environmental responsibility and awareness for the general public.
- Staff activities in the monitoring of food preparation sector continues to be a priority area. Reduction of the amount of fat, oil and grease (FOG) that is discharged to municipal sewer systems will correspond to a reduction in Soluble and Total BOD influent loadings to the HSP WWTF's and may result in a reduction of system operation and maintenance costs.

To date, the P2 program has been following a business plan in which the program objective is to have pollution prevention fully implemented on a sewer shed basis consistent with the HSP commissioning. As previously reported, the Halifax WWTF sewer shed has been completed and the Dartmouth WWTF sewershed will be completed by December 2007, which is in advance of the HSP WWTF commissioning. This represents 5,344 inspections to date. The program will then continue with inspections of all non-residential locations for the Herring Cove sewershed and eventually will extend to all businesses within municipally serviced sewersheds throughout HRM.

In addition, the P2 program has been addressing the disconnect of approximately 24 private sewage outfalls to the Harbour, 12 each in Dartmouth and Halifax. To date in Halifax, 7 private outfalls are connected to the new sewage collection system and the remainder are in the process of connecting in 2008. In Dartmouth, 4 private outfalls are already connected and the remainder are in various states of progress. Cooperation from owners has been good overall and no enforcement action appears necessary at this time.

Section 5

Harbour Water Quality Monitoring

The Harbour water quality monitoring program was initiated in June, 2004. Samples are collected at 35 stations in the harbour, from the head of Bedford Basin to the harbour mouth past McNabs Island. Stations are located down the centre of the harbour, and at various additional points including areas of recreational use such as the yacht clubs. Since 2006, additional samples have been taken in Dartmouth Cove, Fairview Cove, and new sampling sites were established at Herring Cove. Additional sampling was performed at Fairview Cove during 2007 to monitor for effects of sewage diversion due to construction at the Duffus Street pumping station.

Regular sampling continues on a bi-weekly basis for bacteria, metals, nutrients and water chemistry. Samples are collected at the surface and 10 metres at each site. The data are compiled into bi-weekly and quarterly summary reports. Testing for oils and biochemical oxygen demand (a measure of organic constituents in the water) has been discontinued at regular sampling sites due to levels which are routinely below detection limits. Methods for more sensitive detection of metals have been instituted. The program remains on schedule and below budget.

The purpose of the program is to establish existing baseline water quality conditions in the harbour, and to track changes as each of the three new treatment plants is commissioned in 2007 (Halifax) and 2008 (Dartmouth and Herring Cove). The sampling program is scheduled to continue through 2009. Based upon oceanographic modelling of the harbour, it is predicted that the water quality objectives set by HRM, adapted from the Halifax Harbour Task Force, will be met through the advanced primary sewage treatment provided for Halifax and Dartmouth.

Water quality objectives differ for different parts of the harbour, but for the Outer Harbour, Northwest Arm and Bedford Basin, it is predicted that guidelines for contact recreation will be met. With full commissioning of the Halifax plant in 2008, conditions in the Northwest Arm and Point Pleasant Park areas will rapidly improve. Contact recreation guidelines should be met by summer of 2008, the only exceptions may be the few days during or immediately following heavy rainfall events, when wet weather overflows will still occur at some points in the collection system.

More intensive monitoring for fecal coliform bacteria is ongoing near key overflow points both prior to and following plant commissioning. Fecal coliform bacteria levels are currently high throughout the middle and inner harbour, exceeding the swimming guidelines, particularly in winter months. Levels in NW Arm and the Basin are periodically elevated. Metals levels are low throughout the harbour, as are BOD levels. Oxygen levels are depressed in the deeper waters of Bedford Basin at various times, likely due to decomposition of organic materials. Oxygen levels are often too low, below the desired objective.

Overall, water quality objectives in the harbour are not currently met except in the outer harbour, based on the various measured parameters.

Quarterly reports and weekly/bi-weekly data reports and spreadsheets are available online at:
<http://www.halifax.ca/harboursol/waterqualitydata.html>.

Section 6

Financial Information

As of December 2007, the Harbour Solutions Project has spent \$ 268.18 million of its \$332.7 million capital budget. Spending for the 3rd quarter of 2007/08 just completed was \$13.34 million which is largely comprised of \$4.73 million for the wastewater collection system and \$5.25 million for the wastewater treatment facilities. Contract management, the Public Involvement & Information Program, aggressive pollution prevention, water quality monitoring, inflation, and administration totalled \$2.19 million. \$1.17 million was spent by the Community Liaison Committees.

In October 2002, Council granted approval in principle to commence a series of increases, not to exceed \$0.29, to the Environmental Protection Charge as a means of funding the Harbour Solutions Project. The first \$0.05 increase was implemented in October 2003. In January 2005, Council approved the schedule of remaining increases necessary to fund the project. The second, third and fourth \$0.05 increases became effective in March 2005, October 2005 and October 2006 respectively. The final increase of \$0.09 became effective in October 2007. The table below shows the implementation dates for the increases totalling \$0.29 for the Harbour Solutions Project:

Date	Environmental Protection Charge-HSP portion	Increase
October 2003	\$0.42	\$0.05
March 2005	\$0.47	\$0.05
October 2005	\$0.52	\$0.05
October 2006	\$0.57	\$0.05
October 2007	\$0.66	\$0.09

The above rates attributable to Harbour Solutions are just one portion of the Environmental Protection Charge. The charge also funds expenses associated with already existing infrastructure.

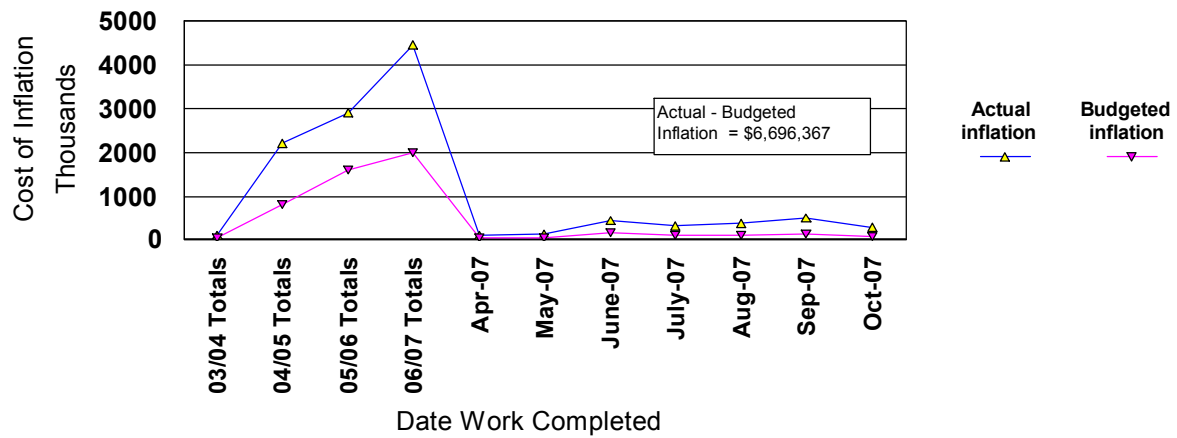
All revenues collected are recorded in the Environmental Protection Reserve. With the merger of the Environmental Management Services department and Halifax Water on August 1, 2007, the Reserve now resides with Halifax Water and the necessary cash will be submitted to HRM on an as needed basis in order to complete the capital portion of the Harbour Solutions Project.

Inflation

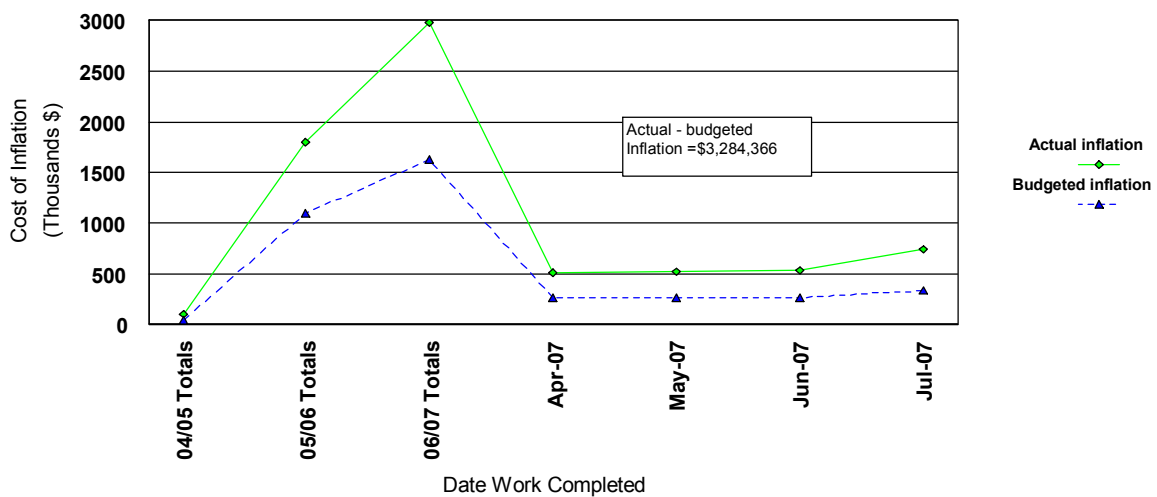
Over the life of the project, 2004/05 was an extraordinary year for construction-related inflation in HRM in terms of its strong increase. In 2005/06 the inflation trend stabilized somewhat, and was lower than the revised inflation projection of 6% (4.31% vs. 7.87% in 2004/05). Inflation for fiscal year 2006/07 was 5.25%. While there was only a slight increase in the 1st quarter of 2007/08 to 5.8%, the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2007/08 saw inflation of 7.41% and 7.33% respectively.

The impact of inflation in terms of dollars is demonstrated in the two charts on the next page for the wastewater collection system and the wastewater treatment facilities. The difference between the actual and budgeted inflation represents the amount which must be taken from the contingency funds. As of December 2007, \$9.98 million over and above budgeted inflation of \$12.3 million has been spent on these two contracts.

Budgeted vs. Actual Inflation Sewage Collection System



Budgeted vs. Actual Inflation Wastewater Treatment Plants



Contingency Spending

The contingency budget of \$18.20 million is largely set aside for addressing inflation beyond budgeted levels. The contingency is also being used to fund small items that have arisen through the contract amendments.

Actual and planned spending of contingency funds is as follows (shown in millions).

Realized inflation in excess of budget	\$ 9.98
Inflation room in excess of budget	4.10
Amount committed for amendments	1.64
Herring Cove Water & Sewer	1.66
Uncommitted	<u>0.82</u>
Total	\$18.20

It should be noted that there remain numerous potential project risks that may require funding from the uncommitted contingency balance. For example, due to recent changes in the electrical code, D&D Water Solutions Inc. has identified various areas in which the design/construction of the Herring Cove WWTF will be impacted. D&D has not yet finished their analysis of this issue and, therefore, it is not possible to quantify the actual financial impact at this time.

Harbour Solutions Project - 3rd Quarter of 2007/08 - (in millions of dollars)

	3 rd Quarter	Year to Date	Project Total	Budget	Budget Adjustments		Revised Budget
					Net HST	Contingency	
Firm Price Contracts							
Wastewater Collection System	4.73	9.72	116.87	112.3	3.9	1.64	117.8
Wastewater Treatment Facilities	5.25	17.87	93.36	136.9	4.7		141.6
Biosolids Processing Facility	-	0.01	12.15	12.5	0.5		13.0
Net HST	-	-	-	9.6	-9.6		-
Community Liaison Committees	1.17	4.27	6.62	7.0		1.66	8.7
Land	-	-	4.92	4.8			4.8
Pre-Construction Contract	-	-	7.11	7.1			7.1
Total Firm Price Costs	11.15	31.87	241.03	290.20	-0.50	3.30	293.00
Variable Costs							
Admin., Contract Mgmt., Communications	0.23	0.81	7.51	12.0			12.0
Contingency	-	-	-	18.2		-13.28	4.9
Inflation	1.96	4.79	19.64	12.3	0.50	9.98	22.8
Total Variable Costs	2.19	5.60	27.15	42.5	0.50	-3.30	39.7
Harbour Solutions Project Total Cost	13.34	37.47	268.18	332.7			332.7
Funding							
EP Reserve Levies	-	4.17	160.20	160.2			160.2
Long Term Debt	-	-	-	-			-
N.S. Municipal Finance Corp.	-	-	110.00	110.0			110.00
Federation of Canadian Municipalities	-	-	20.0	20.0			20.0
Cost Sharing:							
Province*	-	-	6.01	10.0			10.0
Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund	-	-	20.9	30.0			30.0
Potential short-term debt	-	-	-	2.5			2.5
Total Funding	-	4.17	317.06	332.7			332.7

* The Province of Nova Scotia has committed \$30 million to the Project over a 15 year span. The \$10 million shown above in the table represents the portion that will be received during the construction period

Section 7

Public Information and Involvement Program

The Marketing, Design and Print Services section of the Corporate Communications Office assumed responsibility for the Public Information and Involvement Program for the Harbour Solutions Project in the fall of 2003.

Public Messaging

Harbour Solutions continues to be a major player in the Naturally Green Newsletter. This environmentally focussed in-house produced piece is distributed to approximately 162,000 households in HRM. The latest edition was released in November 2007. The next edition is scheduled for March 2008.

An educational video focussing on the biosolids process was developed. A video focussing on the advanced-primary treatment process is in the works.

Corporate Communications designed a user-friendly map outlining the various harbour related activities that will be possible once the HSP is up and running. The map has appeared in a number of publications throughout the quarter.

Community Liaison Committees (CLC)

The Halifax CLC has completed its mandate and has disbanded. The \$1 million CLC fund is now managed by the Community Investment Fund Board/Committee with oversight by the Greater Halifax Partnership. An event was organized at Halifax Hall on Nov.13th to formally recognize the CLC and their efforts.

The Herring Cove CLC has essentially completed their mandate with respect to the WWTF exterior design. The focus of the CLC is now on the landscaping around the WWTF, the Herring Cove Pumping Station and Latter's Pond recreation area. Staff from HRM's Community Development division are now assisting in these efforts.

In Dartmouth, the new trail system is essentially complete. There is approximately \$60,000 of CLC funds remaining to be allocated. Staff will work with Councillor Barkhouse to complete the final allocation of the funds.

Presentations

Presentations are developed on an on-going basis for conferences, workshops and community groups. The presentations are updated regularly to correspond with project progress. These presentations have all been made available on compact disks.

Three new Harbour Solutions display units continue to be used at public meetings, trade/home shows and other events. The new display units focus on the positive message of the project, stewardship and integrating of messaging with HRM's Pollution Prevention Program.

As part of our presentation materials, Mayflower Models has been contracted to construct scale models of the new wastewater treatment plants. These are a valuable tool in explaining the advanced primary treatment process.

Harbour Solutions Website

The Harbour Solutions website has been redesigned to provide a “user friendly” up to date source of information on the Project. PIIP staff continue to maintain the site for Harbour Solutions. The site features a large photo gallery, reference materials, construction notices informing residents of any possible traffic impacts and a large collection of information related to the WWCS, WWTF and biosolids processes.

Construction Communications

A PIIP staff member attends the Harbour Solutions construction meetings bi-weekly to liaise with Dexter and D&D, as well as, other HRM departments to stay informed about construction that could impact the public and businesses, to ensure communications are developed to address these impacts. A PIIP member also attends, where required, meetings with businesses and residents that may be directly impacted by HSP related construction activity.

Construction updates are emailed as required to stakeholders and posted on the website, along with notices of impending construction and their impacts. Newspaper and radio ads, media releases and web postings continue to be developed for construction that may impact traffic.

Signage

PIIP staff liaised with the federal and provincial governments to design, produce and install temporary construction signage for the sites of the three Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

More detailed permanent signage has been designed for the three WWTF sites as well as building mounted plaques.

Correspondence

As requested and/or required, letters and e-mails are drafted to address concerns and enquiries from citizens regarding the Project. PIIP staff also regularly respond to numerous requests for HSP information from the general public, interest groups, media, Mayor Kelly and HRM Councillors, staff and others. Letters are also drafted for the CLC's and other levels of government.

Four meetings have been held with federal and provincial communications officials related to planning for the Halifax WWTF opening. On-going meetings are planned to continue to work on logistics.

Section 8

Construction Safety

There were no lost-time incidents. NSDEL carried out a inspection at the Herring Cove WWTF site in November 2007 and no compliance orders were issued.