


Halifax Regional Council
February 7, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services

DATE: January 17, 2006

SUBJECT: Harbour Solutions Project - Quarterly Report (1 Oct to 31 Dec 2005)

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

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

BACKGROUND

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

- an infrastructure development agreement for the construction of the three Wastewater Collection Systems on October 15, 2003 with Dexter Construction
- a development agreement for the construction of three advanced primary Wastewater Treatment Plants on June 15, 2004 with D&D Water Solutions, Inc.; and
- a development agreement for the construction of a Biosolids Processing Facility on November 30, 2004 with SGE Acres Limited, and
- an operating and maintenance agreement for the Biosolids Processing Facility on November 30, 2004, with N-Viro Systems Canada Inc.

DISCUSSION

Halifax

The majority of the sewage collection system work not dependent on the operation of the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) has been completed. The Duke and Salter streets sewer separation work has been completed with the exception of Upper Water Street which will be completed in the Spring. The Halifax WTP outfall construction has been completed including the repair to the break that occurred during installation.

The structures for the pumping stations and combined sewer overflows are essentially complete with the exception of the Duffus Street Pumping Station, Pier A Pumping Station and diversion piping which are dependent upon the completion of the Halifax WTP.

The connection of the WTP wet well to the sewage tunnel was completed in November and concrete placement in the wet well began in December and continues. All structural, mechanical and electrical work is progressing.

Completion of the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Plant is expected by April 2007.

Dartmouth

Work has been initiated at the Dartmouth WTP. The site stabilization program using dynamic compaction has been completed. The permit for the construction of the footing and foundation has been initiated. Work on site will continue over the winter season with emphasis on concrete formwork. The access driveway to the Dartmouth WTP has been completed. Regulatory approvals from Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour are keeping pace with the work progress.

The rock mattress for the Dartmouth WTP outfall has been completed and outfall pipe fusion work has commenced. Pipe installation work was initiated in several areas along the Dartmouth wastewater collection pipe route. Pipe installation in Dartmouth Cove and from Cuisack Street to Dartmouth WTP has been substantially completed.

Completion of the Dartmouth Wastewater Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Plant is expected by March and August 2007, respectively.

Herring Cove

Clearing work has been initiated on the Herring Cove Access Road to the WTP site. Geotechnical work has been substantially completed and design is getting underway. Completion of the Herring Cove Wastewater Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Plant is expected by March and June 2008, respectively.

In addition to the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project, HRM is in the process of installing water and sewer services in the Herring Cove area. Phase 1A of the project is 80% complete and the residents of Churchill Estates were connected to the central water system just prior to Christmas.

Biosolids Processing Facility

The Biosolids Processing Facility is progressing well and expected to be ready to process biosolids when the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Plant starts to operate. The proposal tender for the trucking of the dewatered biosolids to the processing facility has been closed and staff is evaluating the tender information.

Summary

The overall Harbour Solutions Project remains on schedule and within budget; however, the completion milestone for the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Plant has moved from its original date of September 6, 2006 to April 24, 2007.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Harbour Solutions Project has spent \$34.14 million in the first three quarters of 05/06 and a total of \$110.14 million to December 31, 2005. Projections to meet the capital budget of \$332.7 million are still on target.

Inflation remains the most significant financial risk of the project. History of the Halifax Non-Residential Construction Index over the past twenty years shows average annual inflation of just over 2%. Staff conservatively estimated annual inflation at 2.8% for budget purposes, while fiscal year 2004/05 brought inflation of 7.87%. In the first quarter of 2005/06, annual inflation decreased to 6.3%, with further decreases to 4.15% in the second quarter and 4.06% in the third quarter. Staff have revised the estimate to 6% per year over the life of the contract and has committed a substantial portion of the \$18.2 million contingency to address this issue.

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

Halifax Harbour Solutions Project - Quarterly Report - From 1 October to 31 December, 2005, Attachment 1.

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.

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490-6130

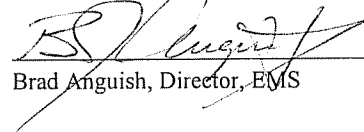
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490-4446

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490-4825

Halifax Harbour Solutions Project
Quarterly Report - 1 October, 2005 to 31 December, 2005

Introduction

The intent of this document is to provide Council and staff with a general overview of the Harbour Solutions Project Quarterly Report covering the period between 1 October and 31 December, 2005.

It is presented in sections:

Section 1 - Wastewater Collection Systems

Section 2 - Wastewater Treatment Plants

Section 3 - Biosolids Processing Facility

Section 4 - Pollution Prevention Program

Section 5 - Water Quality Sampling Program

Section 6 - Financial Information

Section 7 - Public Involvement and Information Program

Wastewater Collection Systems

Halifax Wastewater Collection System

Work during the last quarter of 2005 concentrated on completing the remaining work packages. Excellent progress was made in a number of areas, including the remaining mainline interceptor piping, the remaining structures, the Halifax Plant outfall and the Duke/Salter sewer separation work.

The structures (pump stations and diversion chambers) are essentially complete with some mechanical and electrical work to be finalized. The exceptions are Pier A pump station and the modifications to the Duffus Street pump station. The former will be completed in the early part of 2006, and the second phase of the latter will be constructed in the spring.

The repairs to the Halifax Plant outfall were completed in the fall of 2005 and construction was completed in December. Final exterior and interior video inspections will be available for review by staff in January 2006.

The Duke/Salter sewer separation work has been completed with the exception of the last street in the work package. Work on Upper Water Street (from Duke Street to the Casino Hotel) was delayed to avoid interruption in front of Historic Properties during the month prior to Christmas. This last section will be completed in the spring.

A key element of the remaining work is the installation of diversion piping that connects the mainline interceptors, the pump stations and diversion chambers to the Halifax Treatment Plant. As this work is dependent on the ability of the Halifax Plant to accept sewage flows, this work will occur in latter part of 2006. Planning and coordination of this work is already underway.

Dartmouth Wastewater Collection System

Site work during the latter part of 2005 concentrated on completion of the Dartmouth Plant access driveway. This involved grading, retaining wall installation, sewer and water pipe installation, and paving. Due to Council approval of an agreement between Dexter and the Trails Group, Dexter was able to get a concurrent start on the trail network adjacent to the driveway. As part of the cooperative effort between the Harbour Solutions Project and the adjacent NS Community College Project, this spring the Province will upgrade the intersection at Pleasant Street and Acadia Street; this upgrade will include the installation of traffic signals.

Substantial progress was made on the Dartmouth Plant outfall where the rock mattress was placed, pipe materials purchased and pipe fusion work initiated. It is anticipated that the outfall will be installed by April 2006.

Pipe installation work was initiated in several areas along the north Dartmouth collection route. Further, shore infilling has progressed well and pipe installation work has been substantially completed in Dartmouth Cove and from Cuisack Street to the Plant in south Dartmouth. Three pipe crews are continuing installation work over the winter season to ensure that the Wastewater Collection System's Date Certain for Dartmouth is met.

Council has previously authorized the replacement of the Maitland Street Outfall to be carried out in conjunction with the Harbour Solutions work in the area, the change in the dilution ratio (50:1) of the Dartmouth Plant outfall, and the sewer separation work to eliminate the Tupper Street diversion chamber.

Work on structures has already commenced with civil work completed or underway at the Cuisack Street, Maitland Street and Wallace Street diversion chambers and also underway at the Jamieson Street pump station. Work will also continue on these and other structures over the winter season.

Herring Cove Wastewater Collection System

Clearing work has been initiated on the Herring Cove Plant access driveway and the collection system design work will start early in 2006.

Wastewater Collection System – Overview

Progress is being made on obtaining the last few parcels of land required for the sewage collection system. The major outstanding land issue continues to be a license agreement between CN and HRM. The contractor, at its own risk, continues to work on CN land while attempting to finalize an agreement which must be in a form acceptable to HRM and subject to Council approval.

Section 2

Wastewater Treatment Plants

Halifax Wastewater Treatment Plant

As Council is aware, the Date Certain of the Halifax WTP has been extended to April 24, 2007 due to unforeseen geotechnical conditions encountered during construction. These conditions were overcome as wet well excavation was completed in October, 2005.

Mechanical and electrical work is progressing in several areas of the WTP. Equipment has started to arrive and several pieces of major equipment have been placed in the WTP, including the

generators, sections of the activated carbon reactors and sections of the UV disinfectant equipment.

The resequencing of the work plan has allowed all building work as well as mechanical and electrical work to continue in all zones of the building with the exception of the wet well. As a result, the roof slabs were substantially completed by the end of December and totally completed in January 2006, again with the exception of the wet well. Connection of the wet well to the tunnel was completed in November and concrete placement in the wet well began in December and continues.

Hydrotesting of the Densadeg treatment units started before Christmas and was halted so that identified leaks could be repaired. The decision to coat the inside of these tanks has also been made.

The remaining concrete work and the mechanical and electrical equipment installation work will assume the greater portion of the work activity for the next three months.

Dartmouth Wastewater Treatment Plant

Work has been initiated at the Dartmouth WTP. Site preparation work has been completed. The most important milestone achieved was the successful completion of the site stabilization program via dynamic compaction.

Some initial concrete and underground pipe installation work was also completed in December 2005.

Work on the site will continue over the winter season with the emphasis on concrete formwork

Herring Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant

Geotechnical work has been substantially completed. Current design emphasis is aimed at finalizing the location of the WTP on the site as well as completing the civil guide and general arrangement drawings.

Section 3

Biosolids Processing Facility

Construction work for the Biosolids Processing Facility is well underway. All excavation, concrete for building foundation, push walls and retaining walls and paving have been completed. The installation of building cladding continues. The entire facility is expected to be ready to start commissioning before the commissioning of the Halifax wastewater treatment plant. Negotiations are ongoing to incorporate, and mitigate the impact of the commissioning delay on equipment supply.

The tender proposal for the trucking of the biosolids has been closed and staff are evaluating the proposal. Staff anticipate bringing a contract recommendation to Council in March, 2006.

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 have previously provided updates to Council on the status of this program. Since the last update provided to Regional Council at its meeting of December 6, 2005, activities that P2 staff have undertaken or completed include the following:

- Staff have completed inspections of all HRM owned buildings and workplaces for compliance with HRM's By-Law W-101. Detailed reports regarding environmental issues and impacts for HRM properties have been provided to the EMS Director's office for review prior to distribution to the respective Business Units for consideration and appropriate actions.
- P2 staff have responded to 23 environmental incidents during this quarter. Some of these incidents have involved potential impacts to Smelt Brook, Russell Lake, Lake Charles, Lake Fletcher, Lake MicMac and related environs of Halifax Harbour.
- With the assistance of Clean Nova Scotia and fourth year core science students, a waste chemical management program has been implemented for all laboratories within the Dalhousie University campus. This program educates laboratory users, faculty, staff and students on the proper disposal procedures for liquid waste chemistries. Drain markers have been adhered to all laboratory sinks and proper disposal information has been provided at each laboratory work station. Chemicals and reagents commonly used and previously discarded into the HRM sewer system from these laboratories may have been a source of soluble and total BOD as well as having toxic or corrosive characteristics which may damage wastewater infrastructure.
- Staff had issued a Summary Offence ticket to an industry in HRM for the offence of the discharge of matter which caused an obstruction in the municipal sewer system and for discharge of wastewater which exceeded the permissible level of pH in the municipal sewer

system. During this last quarter, a successful prosecution was completed with a guilty plea entered. Currently, staff are investigating other locations suspected of by-law contraventions within the proposed Halifax Wastewater Treatment Plant sewershed. These locations are subject to periodic inspections and sampling and will be issued with SOT's should evidence support by-law infractions.

- P2 staff have provided seven presentations on Pollution Prevention to Dalhousie University, core programs and Continuing Education Courses, Nova Scotia Community College and the Halifax Regional School Board. These educational seminars and presentations are focussed on identifying the need for compliance by industries and individuals to the provisions of By-Law W-101 and the objectives of the P2 program.
- P2 staff have initiated an intergovernmental pollution prevention project entitled "HRM Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Industry" for 12 industrial sectors located in HRM which will involve HRM's P2 staff, Environment Canada, DOE and the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention. The development of these BMP's will provide businesses with the identification of wastewater characteristics and methodologies to assist them with by-law compliance.
- The Pollution Prevention area of HRM's web site was updated.
- P2 staff completed and produced an information brochure entitled "Citizens Guide - Septic System Use & Maintenance in HRM". Copies of this brochure have been distributed to real estate offices, insurance companies, certified septic system installers and HRM Customer Service Centers.

As indicated in the previous report to Council, the initial phase of P2 activities within the proposed Halifax WTP sewershed has been completed. P2 staff in 2005 additionally focussed on and completed the inspection of an estimated 364 owned or leased HRM buildings and work locations to ensure that process wastewater from HRM operations is in compliance with our by-law. This program was then extended to HRM school buildings. Currently, in 2006, staff have begun inspections for all businesses within the Dartmouth sewershed. This phase of the by-law rollout will include individual site inspections, business education, monitoring and inspections for the serviced area of the future Dartmouth WTP. It is anticipated that P2 activities for this sewershed will be completed in advance of the Dartmouth WTP commissioning.

P2 staff have produced and delivered a number of pollution prevention television advertisements, newspaper articles including regular use of HRM's Naturally Green newsletter, public presentations and industry seminars to educate and promote pollution prevention to ICI locations and to the general public. Educational information will be continued to be provided through related media opportunities to provide for public education and enhanced stewardship of our surface water resources.

Section 5

Water Quality Sampling Program

The Harbour Water Quality Sampling Program is on time and under budget, and samples were collected as scheduled during the past quarter. Weekly data reports have been received up to the end of July, 2005. The third program quarterly report has been finalised, covering the period Dec. 2004 to March 2005 (available on the HHSP web site). The final quarterly report for the first year of the program, covering March to June 2005 is now in draft form.

Section 6

Financial Information

As of December 2005, the Harbour Solutions Project has spent \$110.14 million of its \$332.7 million capital budget. Spending for the quarter just completed was \$21.82 million which is largely comprised of \$10.27 million for the Wastewater Collection System, \$5.85 million for the Wastewater Treatment Plants, \$2.07 million for the new Biosolids Processing Facility and \$2.2 million for the Community Liaison Committees. Contract negotiation and management, the Public Involvement & Information Program, Aggressive Pollution Prevention, water quality monitoring, inflation, and administration make up the remaining \$1.43 million.

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 and third \$0.05 increases became effective in March 2005 and October 2005, respectively. The next increase of \$0.05 will become effective in October 2006. Each \$0.05 increase equates to an approximate \$12.00/year increase to the average residential water rate payer. 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
Total Increase		\$0.29

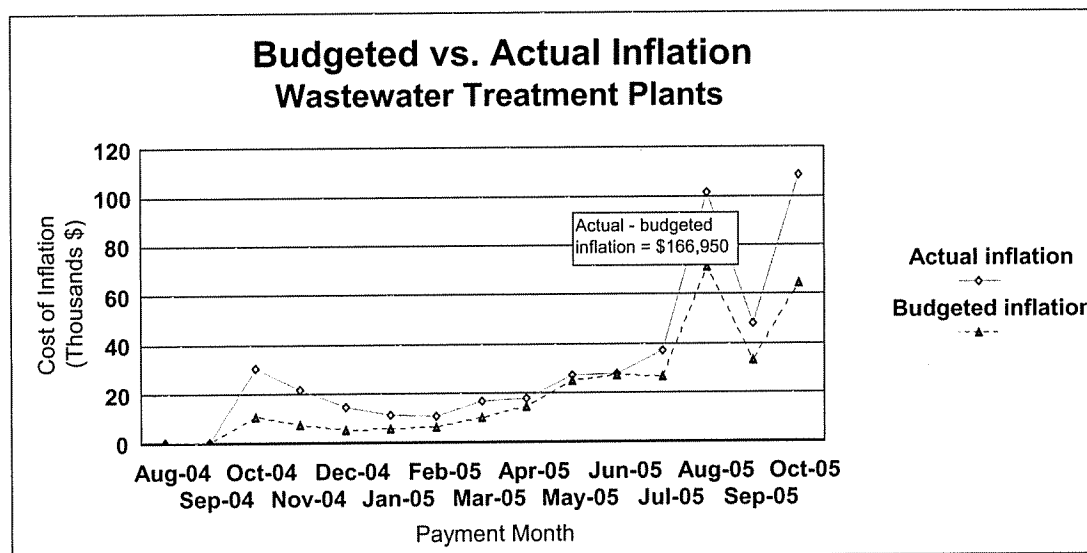
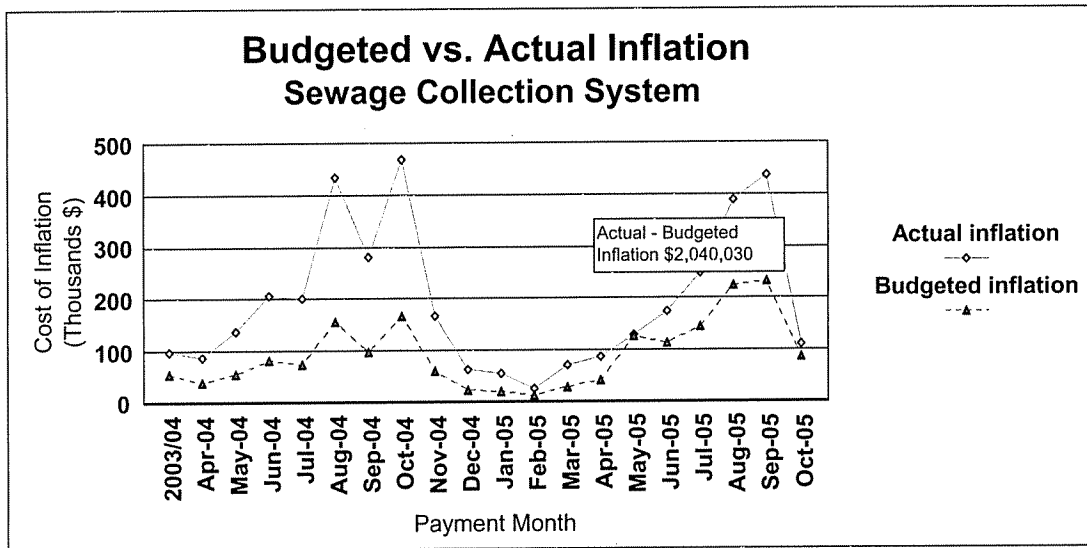
The above rates attributable to Harbour Solutions are just one portion of the Environmental Protection Charge. The charge also funds expenses associated with already existing infrastructure.

All revenues collected are recorded in the Environmental Protection Reserve. Staff maintains an administrative split of reserve balances.

Inflation

Although 2004/05 was an extraordinary year for construction-related inflation in HRM in terms of its strong increase, the inflation trend for the first three quarters of 2005/06 seems to have stabilized, and is now lower than the revised inflation projection of 6%. At this time, however, it is still too soon to revise estimates over the Project's life down from the projected 6% annual inflation. More data is required to determine whether this downward swing will be a continuing trend.

The impact of inflation in terms of dollars is demonstrated in the two charts below for the Wastewater Collection System and the Wastewater Treatment Plants. The difference between the actual and budgeted inflation represents the amount which must be taken from the contingency funds. As of September 2005, \$2.21 million over and above budgeted inflation has been spent on these two contracts.



Contract Amendments to date

As work on the Wastewater Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Plants has progressed, amendments to the contracts have been a necessary part of their administration. The following is a synopsis of contract amendments to date and their impacts on the guaranteed maximum prices (GMP).

Wastewater Collection System - Infrastructure Development Agreement

Amendment #1

General insurance requirements that were set aside during the drafting of the original agreement were clarified and amended. There was no impact on the GMP.

Amendment #2

Substitute piping material for the Duffus Street to Young Street mainline pipe was proposed and accepted, resulting in a reduction of the GMP of \$88,300.

Amendment #3

HRM's covenant regarding insurance deductibles was clarified and amended with no change to GMP.

Amendment #4

This amendment included several items. First and foremost was to upgrade the Halifax diffuser ratio from 20:1 to 50:1. Flow metres, valves, and additional repaving depth on selected streets were also included, increasing GMP by \$1,310,574. The net GMP increase is substantially less as the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund will cover costs for the diffuser upgrade of \$1,075,080. Per the terms of this amendment, inflation is not applicable to the items specifically identified.

Amendment #5

This amendment also addressed several items. In the absence of a license agreement with CN, the Contractor has carried out work on CN lands at its own risk. The amendment agreed to pay the Contractor for work completed while reiterating that any requirement to remove construction, reinstate lands, and make alternate arrangements at another site would be at the risk of the Contractor. There was no impact on GMP, as the work performed is already captured in the Infrastructure Development Agreement

The second item covered was a payment in respect of a Provincial land license. Under the Infrastructure Development Agreement, HRM is responsible for licenses and the Contractor is responsible for easements. It was anticipated that an easement for access to the land would be acquired but agreement could not be reached with the Province. A license was granted and HRM's share of the cost resulted in a \$352,000 increase in GMP. Inflation was not applicable on the license.

Finally, the amendment clarified the inflation base to recognize official quarterly index

releases. Monthly inflation amounts are projected based on the two most recent official index values.

The inflation base was adjusted for the actual index values occurring before and after the effective date. GMP was not affected.

Amendment #6

This amendment, to add sewer separation and water main replacement work in the Duke and Salter Streets sewer sheds, was approved by Council on May 24, 2005. The increase to GMP of \$5,258,535 is funded as follows: Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund \$3,892,535, Halifax Regional Water Commission \$590,000, and a previously approved Salter Street Capital project \$776,000. Inflation, calculated on a revised base, is applicable on this amendment.

Wastewater treatment plants Development Agreement

Amendment #1

Wording detailing the calculation of the monthly inflation index was corrected to reflect intent. There was no impact on GMP.

Financial Summary of Contract Amendments (all prices exclude HST and inflation)

	Guaranteed Maximum Price \$	Required contingency funds, net of cost-sharing \$
<i>Wastewater Collection System</i>	112,300,000	
Amendment #1	--	
Amendment #2	-88,300	-88,300
Amendment #3	--	
Amendment #4	1,310,574	235,494
Amendment #5	352,000	352,000
Amendment #6	5,258,535	
Wastewater Collection System, as amended	119,132,809	499,194
<i>Wastewater Treatment Plant</i>	136,900,000	
Amendment #1	--	
Wastewater Treatment Plant, as amended	136,900,000	--
Total	256,032,809	499,194

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	\$ 2.21
Contract amendments	0.50
Projected inflation in excess of budget	13.18
Uncommitted	<u>2.31</u>
Total	\$18.20

Harbour Solutions Project
3rd Quarter 2005/06
(in millions of dollars)

	Quarter To Date (Oct 1 to Dec 31, 2005)	Year to Date (April 1 to Dec 31, 2005)	Project Total (Start of Project to Dec 31, 2005)	Budget
Firm Price Contracts				
Sewage Collection System	10.27	16.58	62.71	112.3
Sewage Treatment Plants	5.85	10.18	21.30	136.9
Biosolids Processing Facility	2.07	2.30	3.22	12.5
Net HST	-	-	-	9.6
Community Liaison Committees	2.20	2.24	2.35	7.0
Land	-	-	4.92	4.8
Pre-Construction Contract	-	-	7.11	7.1
Total Firm Price Costs	20.39	31.30	101.60	290.20
Variable Costs				
Admin., Contract Mgmt., Communication	0.20	0.82	4.16	12.0
Contingency	-	-	-	18.2
Inflation	1.24	2.02	4.38	12.3
Total Variable Costs	1.43	2.85	8.54	42.5
Harbour Solutions Project Total Cost	21.82	34.14	110.14	332.7
Funding				
EP Reserve Levies	14.71	21.56	77.23	160.2
Long-term debt:				
N.S. Municipal Finance Corporation	-	-	110.00	110.0
Federation of Canadian Municipalities	-	-	20.0	20.0
Cost Sharing:				
Province*	-	-	4.01	10.0
Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund	3.36	3.4	10.6	30.0
Potential short-term debt	-	-	-	2.5
Total Funding	18.07	24.92	221.86	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 (PIIP)

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.

Communication Plan

PIIP staff developed and continue to implement a detailed communication plan for the Project.

Public Messaging

Harbour Solutions continues to be a major player in the Naturally Green Newsletter. This environmentally focussed in-house produced newsletter is distributed to approximately 163,000 households in HRM. The last edition was released in October 2005. The next edition is scheduled for release in early February 2006.

Community Liaison Committees (CLC)

The Halifax CLC and the Herring Cove CLCs continue to meet regularly to deal with the integration of the Wastewater Treatment Plants into their communities.

In December 2005, The Herring Cove CLC, working with Councillor Adams, Corporate Communications and Environmental Management Services staff, brought the long awaited first phase of municipal services to parts of Herring Cove. A press conference was held in Herring Cove to announce the milestone. The Herring Cove CLC is now focussing its efforts on the wastewater treatment plant exterior finishes. Corporate Communications staff will continue to attend meetings to help ensure this process moves along.

In Dartmouth, construction has begun on the sewage collection system(SCS) and wastewater treatment plant (WTP). Residents have been kept informed of work in their specific area through notices delivered door to door. Residents are also kept up to date on the overall project through publications such as Naturally Green.

Staff from Real Property and Asset Management, Harbour Solutions and Corporate Communications continue to work with the Harbourfront Trails Association, area Councillors, and residents on the waterfront trail running through the Woodside area.

Corporate Communications staff also continue to work with Councillor Becky Kent to keep area residents informed of activities regarding the Dartmouth WTP.

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 discs as well. Corporate Communications staff gave a presentation on the Harbour Solutions Project to students at Sacred Heart School in December 2005.

Three new Harbour Solutions display units have been developed for use 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. They saw their first public outing at a trade show held at the WTCC in November.

As part of our presentation materials, Mayflower Models has been contracted to construct 3 scale models of the new wastewater treatment plants. These will prove a valuable tool in explaining the advanced primary treatment process. The Halifax WTP, the first model, is scheduled for completion in early 2006.

Harbour Solutions Website

The Harbour Solutions website has been redesigned to provide a "user friendly" up to date source of information on the Project. Public Involvement and Information Program (PIIP) staff continue to maintain the site for Harbour Solutions. The site has been moved into the new template for the HRM website.

Construction Communications

A PIIP staff member attends the Harbour Solutions construction meetings weekly to liaise with Dexter and D&D Water Solutions, as well as, other HRM departments to stay informed about construction that could impact the public, and to ensure communications are developed to address these impacts. Weekly construction updates are emailed to stakeholders and posted on the website, along with notices of impending construction and their impacts. Newspaper and radio ads are developed for construction that may impact on traffic.

Signage

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

Correspondence

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