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Halifax Regional Council
February 7, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Michael E. Eddy
Michael E. Eddy, Chief Director

DATE: January 31, 2006

SUBJECT: **Municipal Involvement - Issuing Department of Natural Resources
Burning Permits**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the May 24, 2005 Council meeting the issue of amending By-Law O-103, respecting Open Air Burning was raised to allow for more local municipal involvement and control over the issuance of Department of Natural Resources Burning Permits. The issue was referred to the Rural Fire Chiefs to determine the viability of issuing these Burning Permits from rural fire stations.

BACKGROUND

The practice of issuing Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Burning Permits stopped upon the passing of ByLaw O-103 which restricted burning outside the No Burn Zone to October 16th to April 14th only. This is the period when a Provincial Burning Permit is not required, however, residents do require a HRM Burning Permit. Since that time, the By-Law has been amended several times which has resulted in communities being removed from the By-Law O-103 and added to Administrative Order 33 - Respecting Open Air Burning, Section 2 - Burning Permits. This section lists fire protection districts where a HRM permit is not required during Oct 16 - April 15th, however a DNR permit is required from April 15 - Oct 15th.

DISCUSSION

The issuing of Provincial Department of Natural Resources Burning Permits was raised with the Rural Fire Chiefs. After discussion on this matter, the Chiefs of the Rural Departments listed below whose communities fall under Administrative Order 33 Respecting Open Air Burning are willing to offer this service to the public. The times this service will be available will be determined by each Chief of these Fire Stations, which will be dependent upon members availability to issue the permits.

Station 48, Beaverbank

Station 59, Bay Rd.

Station 52/54 Prospect Rd. and District

Station 62/63 Harrietsfield/Sambro

Station 55, Seabright

The Fire Chiefs in the above stations will communicate with the general public the day and times when DNR permits can be requested and issued during DNR burning season - April 15th to October 15th. Implementing this change, does not require an amendment to the By-Law O-103.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS - None.

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 - None.

ATTACHMENTS - None

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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