

Item No. 13.1

**Halifax Regional Council
January 20, 2009**

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Brad Anguish, Director, Harbour Solutions Project

DATE: 19 January 2009

SUBJECT: Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) service interruption resulting from a local area power outage on January 14, 2009.

BACKGROUND

The Halifax WWTF is the first of three WWTFs to be constructed in accordance with a \$133M contract with D&D Water Solutions Inc. as part of the overall \$333M Harbour Solutions Project. Construction of the Halifax WWTF commenced in August 2004 and the WWTF started accepting wastewater flows in November, 2007 as part of the commissioning process. The WWTF has an approximate value of \$54.7M and is currently within the second month of a three-year warranty period. The WWTF is operated by Halifax Water staff on behalf of HRM who assumed ownership on December 17, 2008. D&D Water Solutions is in the second month of a six month deficiency rectification period to remediate all documented deficiencies within the Halifax WWTF.

DISCUSSION

The Halifax WWTF was subjected to a local area power outage at 2:24 a.m., January 14, 2009. The auxiliary diesel generators in the plant automatically started, as designed, in response to the outage and the on-call operator started restoring the plant to normal operating conditions. According to NSPI, line power was not restored until approximately 5:56 a.m. thus necessitating continuous operation of the auxiliary diesel generators. During this period the auxiliary power system appears to have failed enabling wastewater to enter into the basement of the WWTF and render several building and treatment process systems inoperable. One of the affected systems is the central heating system and immediate steps have been taken to establish temporary heating to protect personnel and the treatment facility from freezing.

As a result of this incident, the WWTF has been temporarily shut down and all wastewater formerly treated at the Halifax WWTF is being diverted to Halifax Harbour through the combined sewer overflows in the collection system. HRM's regulator, Nova Scotia Environment, has been informed. Normal treatment operations continue at the Dartmouth WWTF.

A significant investigative and recovery effort is now in progress in order to determine the extent of damages and return the plant to normal operations. HRM's property insurance adjuster is on-site and preliminary investigations as to the specific cause of the incident are under way. The extent of damage and resultant length of time that will be required to restore the WWTF to full operation is unknown at this time.

There were no safety related accidents arising from this incident. Safety is a top priority and to that end there are safety representatives on-site from all parties engaged in the restoration effort.

Further updates will be provided to Regional Council as more information becomes available.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None at this time. The Halifax WWTF is in the second month of a 3 year warranty period and a substantial insurance policies are in place. Further investigation will be required to determine whether there is any financial exposure to HRM arising from this incident.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

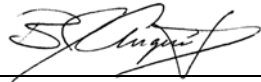
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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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