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Item No. 5
Halifax Regional Council
May 18, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Reashor", written over a horizontal line.

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Acting Director, Transportation & Public Works

DATE: April 29, 2010

SUBJECT: **Overs Shipped to Queens and Chester from Miller Composting & New Era Technologies Ltd. during Fiscal 2009/10**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the Regional Council meeting of April 13, 2010, Council approved the staff recommendation in regard to Item 11.1.5, "Solid Waste Resources Contingency Plan - Agreements with The Region of Queens Municipality and the Municipality of the District of Chester". During the discussion, Councillor Walker requested additional information. He asked staff to provide information regarding a total figure on the overages that New Era and Miller shipped to Queens County and Chester for last year.

BACKGROUND

As part of its Solid Waste Resources Contingency Plan, HRM has agreements in place with Queens and Chester for the disposal of waste.

DISCUSSION

As noted in the April 13, 2010 Council Report, HRM has in place contingency agreements for disposal in the event the Otter Lake facilities were closed for a period of time (as stated in the contract, e.g., power failure, hurricanes, etc.), and for the disposal of other wastes which, for operational reasons, cannot be introduced into Otter Lake. Also outlined in the report was that these intra-municipal agreements are used for disposal of back-end residue “overs” from the HRM composting facilities.

The materials screened out at the back-end of the two composting facilities, commonly referred to as back-end residues or “overs”, generally consist of screened plastic and other non-organic and/or organic woody material (that hasn’t broken down after an extended period of time in the composting process). This residual material, as a result of its mostly plastic and heavy wood content, which also retains some organic odour, causes capacity/processing issues for the agitators in the Waste Stabilization facility at Otter Lake (i.e. plastic wrapped around agitators). It was therefore decided, given the per tonne cost and contingency agreement in place with Chester, from an operational perspective in protecting HRM’s functionality and processing operations, this limited residue would be shipped to Chester. The two compost contracts include this activity.

HRM shipped 530 tonnes of back-end residue from New Era Technologies Ltd. (NETL) to the Municipality of the District of Chester during Fiscal 2009/10, for a total cost of \$42,412.80 (R325). There were no overs shipped to the Region of Queens Municipality.

HRM shipped 23 tonnes of back-end residue (screened plastic) from Miller Composting to the Municipality of the District of Chester during Fiscal 2009/10, for a total cost of \$1,820.80 (R325). There were no overs shipped to the Region of Queens Municipality. HRM also shipped back-end residue, totaling 630 tonnes (larger woody material) from Miller Composting to another windrow facility in Nova Scotia (Fundy Compost). This one time option for some back-end residue last year was available at a cost of \$32 per tonne (\$20,160). Shipping/transportation costs to Chester are approximately \$20-\$25 per tonne on average. The Chester tipping fee is \$80/tonne.

Total back-end residues from the two compost facilities is between 2 to 3% of incoming tonnage. The cost for disposal and shipping of back-end residues up to the contract limits are the responsibility of HRM in the composting facility agreements.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated with presenting this report.

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

N/A

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.

Report Prepared by: Gord Helm, MPA, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Robert Orr, P.Eng., Collection & Processing Coordinator



Report Approved by: _____
Gord Helm, MPA, Manager, Solid Waste Resources (490-6606)