

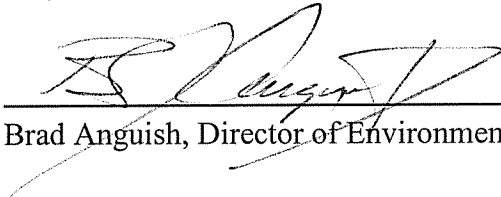
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PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
February 21, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Brad Anguish, Director of Environmental Management Services

DATE: February 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Update on Aliant Activities with HRM

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

July 5, 2005 Presentation to HRM Committee of the Whole by Aliant
August 9, 2005 Report to HRM Council "Permitting Process for Aliant Telecommunications Cabinets in HRM Right of Ways"

BACKGROUND

On August 9, 2005 HRM Council approved a permitting process for Aliant Telecommunications Cabinets in HRM Right of Ways. During the July 5th and August 9th meetings, HRM Council indicated their desire to be informed periodically of Aliant activities within the municipality.

DISCUSSION

During 2006, Aliant plans to build approximately 5 times the number of 2005 “Fibre to the Home” FTTH sites, completing work throughout HRM. Due to the competitive nature of the ICT (Information & Communications Technology) industry in HRM, Aliant is reluctant to disclose the full details of the 2006 plan in a public forum.

Aliant has added some new technological solutions to their “tool box” including a pole mounted DSLAM (Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer) cabinet, and a slightly larger cabinet which will eliminate the sites where previously two DSLAM cabinets had been placed side by side. The shape of the 2006 cabinet is more rectangular than the 2005. In 2006, cabinet “farms” (clusters of 3 or more cabinets) will not be required.

Site specific locations have not all been determined for 2006. New sites in HRM Right of Ways will only be considered as a last resort, after private easements and utilization of existing sites on HRM Rights of Way have been considered.

Communications

- Aliant will present their roll-out plan and communications plan to HRM Right of Way Management staff
- Aliant will meet with groups of councillors whose districts are impacted. Aliant proposes to conduct meetings with groups of Regional Councillors (in a geographic area) once we have a proposed network design including cabinet locations.

Graffiti Removal

- Graffiti can be reported to Aliant at 611 or 1-800-855-0511. Aliant will have the site reviewed within 2 business days in most cases, and if the structure in question is owned by Aliant, will have the graffiti removed within 7 days subject to weather and artist/staff availability. (See attached letter from Geoff Moore, Aliant)

Aliant’s practice of placing murals on their cabinets has drawn attention from some other utilities who are now implementing the same kind of program.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

No impact on HRM’s budget. HRM does not charge a fee for utility permits.

The economic impact of the 2006 Aliant activity in HRM will be significantly greater than the 2005 investment. .

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

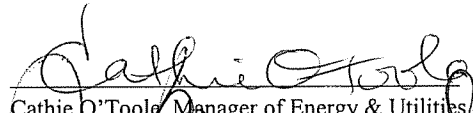
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ATTACHMENTS

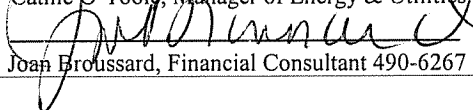
Nov. 2/05 letter from Aliant's Regional Manager, Access Engineering regarding graffiti removal.

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 :


Cathie O'Toole, Manager of Energy & Utilities 490-7061

Financial Review :


Joan Broussard, Financial Consultant 490-6267

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NOV 04 2005

Aliant

1505 Barrington St.,
P.O. Box 880,
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Halifax N.S.
B3J 2W3

November 2, 2005

Ms. Cathie O'Toole
Manager, Environmental Performance (Energy & Utilities)
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Dear Ms. O'Toole,

In response to the request from HRM staff please find below Aliant's process to identify and remove graffiti from our telecommunications cabinets in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Effective October 5, 2005, Graffiti is to be reported to Aliant by Calling our regular repair queue (either 611 or 1 800 855 0511).

These calls will be routed to the Aliant Cable dispatcher for HRM, who will create a miscellaneous ticket for the report, and route the ticket to Cable Repair, most likely the Technician who is responsible for Cable Locates. If Aliant is not the owner of the structure in question we will report back to the originator of the request with the name of the utility that owns the structure in question.

Aliant will review the site in most cases within 2 business days, and determine a solution. Aliant will strive to having the graffiti removed within 7 days but it will be dependent upon or artist (or Aliant staff) availability, or even weather.

If you have any questions or concerns about the effectiveness of this process please do not hesitate to contact myself at your convenience

Yours Truly,



Geoff Moore
Aliant
Regional Manager Access Engineering
geoff.moore@aliant.ca

Cc: Bruce Lilly, Regional Manager Consumer Services, Aliant