

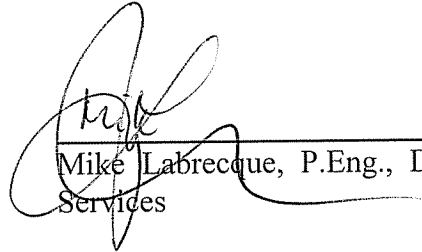


PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Halifax Regional Council
October 3, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Mike Labrecque, P.Eng., Director, Transportation and Public Works
Services

DATE: September 21, 2006

SUBJECT: **Co-ordination With Utilities - Construction Projects**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council meeting of June 27, 2006, Item 9.3.1 - requesting a staff report regarding better coordination in the design phase so that projects can be done on a timely basis and in a coordinated fashion with the utility companies.

BACKGROUND

At the June 27, 2006 Halifax Regional Council meeting, Councillor Mosher requested a staff report regarding better coordination in the design phase so that projects can be done on a timely basis and in a coordinated fashion with the utility companies.

DISCUSSION

Street and road improvements, installation of new sidewalks, and other infrastructure upgrades on occasion require the relocation of utility infrastructure to facilitate the proposed works. During the design stage, if the scope of work reveals that a utility company's infrastructure requires relocation (in most cases a utility pole & associated appurtenances), the owner of the utility pole is contacted and informed that the pole is in conflict with the proposed works and a relocation is required. This process occurs several months prior to the commencement of construction; usually six months or greater. At the completion of the design, the drawings are circulated for review to all stakeholders including the utility companies. This process reconfirms the required relocation.

Following tender award, a pre-construction meeting is arranged with the successful contractor, and the affected utility companies are invited. At this time HRM, the utility company and contractor discuss specific time frames for the required relocations. Unfortunately, in some cases the relocations are not completed in the necessary time frame, which results in construction delays or the partial completion of the project.

Meetings have been held in previous years with Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) to discuss the timely relocation of utility poles. As a result of these meetings, some improvement has been achieved. A further meeting was held with NSPI in July 2006, and the current procedures and practices were discussed. HRM agreed to continue to provide as much advanced notice of relocations as possible, and NSPI committed to improve the tracking system of these requests and implement other internal changes which should result in a more coordinated effort during the construction phase. It was also agreed that bi-annual meetings would be arranged between HRM and NSPI to discuss future and past utility relocations.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

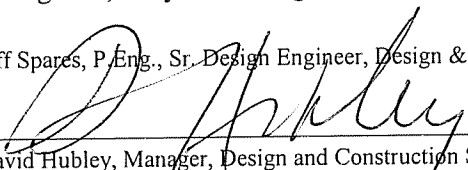
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

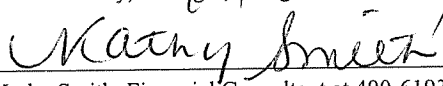
ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives.

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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JS/cf