



Halifax Regional Council
April 23, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
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Tony Blouin, Manager of Environmental Policy

DATE: April 15, 2002

SUBJECT: Harbour Solutions Project Environmental Reports

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Harbour Solutions Project staff.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting of April 9, 2002, a petition was presented to Council on behalf of some residents of the areas near the site identified for the new Halifax sewage treatment plant. The petition asked for studies on the economic, environmental and health concerns related to the treatment plants.

DISCUSSION

The Harbour Solutions Project is subject to the federal Environmental Assessment Process, and a great deal of background work has been undertaken in relation to this process. A number of studies have already been completed into the environmental and, specifically, human health impacts of the

Project. A human health risk assessment study was completed in 2001 by Jacques Whitford Environment Ltd. This study demonstrated a net overall positive impact of the Project on community health due to reductions in exposure to untreated sewage, with no increased health risks to any residents in the area of the plants. This study is available through the HRM web site, at the following address:

http://www.region.halifax.ns.ca/harboursol/background_reports/health_risk_assessment.pdf

A study of the economic impacts of the project in terms of costs and benefits was completed by GPI Atlantic in 2000, and is available on the HRM web site at:

http://www.region.halifax.ns.ca/harboursol/gpi_report.pdf

A number of additional studies have been completed on various aspects of the environmental impacts of the Project. These studies deal with oceanographic modelling, marine habitat, terrestrial resources, archaeological resources, noise and odour, and other aspects of the environmental assessment of the Project. These studies have always been available on the HRM web site at:

<http://www.region.halifax.ns.ca/harboursol/assessment.html>

The final Environmental Screening Report for the federal Environmental Assessment process is still in preparation, but will be released upon completion. Together, these studies address the issues which were requested by the referenced petition presented to Council.

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 budget, 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.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Tony Blouin, Manager of Environmental Policy, 490-4610