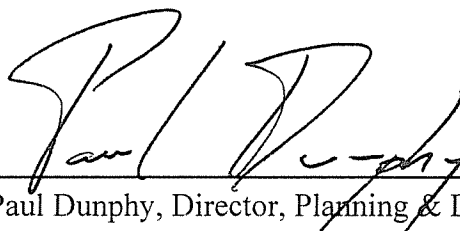


Halifax Regional Council
March 25, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning & Development Services

DATE: March 17, 2003

SUBJECT: Blasting By-Law Review

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This Report originates from a work plan for the review of By-law B-300 which was presented to Regional Council on November 26, 2002 (status sheet item #7.1).

BACKGROUND

In November, 2002, a work plan was presented to Council which outlined the steps which would be followed to review the Blasting By-law. The original work plan was as follows:

Task 1. Research

Completed

Research other jurisdictions for legislation, threshold limits, etc.

Task 2. Consultation & Education

February, 2003

Industry Focus Group, Public Focus Group, and Council

Task 3. By-law Amendments

February - March, 2003

Recommendations to Council & Conduct Public Hearing

Stakeholder consultation is taking longer than expected, and the purpose of this report is to provide an update of the status of the by-law review.

DISCUSSION

Work which has been completed to date is summarized below.

Research

- As previously indicated to Council, a comprehensive review and analysis of other jurisdictions across North America is completed.

Industry Consultation

- Consultation with a Blasting Industry Focus Group has been completed. It is expected that one additional meeting will be required when the By-law amendments are drafted.
- The group consists of representatives from the Urban Development Institute, NS Home Builders Association, NS Road Builders Association, NS Construction Association, and the NS Mineral Aggregates Association.
- The Industry Group also contained representatives from the Nova Scotia Provincial Departments of Environment and Labour, and Transportation & Public Works.
- It should be noted that the Province of Nova Scotia is also reviewing the General Blasting Regulations, and care must be taken to ensure that the HRM By-law is consistent with the new Provincial Regulations. A review of both Provincial and Municipal regulations has been jointly completed by staff of HRM and the NS Department of Environment & Labour.

Public Consultation

- A Citizen's Focus Group is taking longer than expected to assemble. At the time of writing this report, meetings have not yet begun.
- The review is however not being delayed by the lack of participation in the Citizen's Focus Group. By-law amendments are being drafted, and a presentation to Council is being prepared which is aimed at educating Council prior to bringing recommendations forward.

Remaining Steps

- Complete Citizen's Focus Group March - April, 2003
- Council Education April 1, 2003
- Presentation of Draft By-law to Council April 29, 2003

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

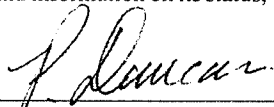
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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:



Peter Duncan, P.Eng., Manager, Development Engineering

490-6252