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**Halifax Regional Council
Committee of the Whole
May 27, 2003**

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Brad Anguish, P.Eng., PMP, MBA, Director, Environmental
Management Services

DATE: May 21, 2003

SUBJECT: Pollution Prevention (Source Control) Program Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the Regional Council Meeting of July 17, 2001 (Item No. 9.1), Council approved the adoption of By-Law W-101 respecting the Discharge of Wastewater into Public Sewers.

BACKGROUND

During discussion of the by-law, Councillor Hetherington requested that status reports be prepared for Council regarding the Pollution Prevention Program.

**Status Report for By-Law W-101
Respecting the Discharges of Wastewater
into Public Sewers**

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DISCUSSION

This report is to provide Council with an update of activities regarding the Pollution Prevention Program.

The Pollution Prevention Program has been focussed on a number of specific initiatives over the past two years, as follows:

- Identification of Industrial, Commercial and Institutional businesses and initiation of case management activities
- Response to sewage spills and other environmental emergencies
- Liaison with private sector associations to achieve program objectives
- Dissemination of educational materials to ICI businesses and to the residential sector
- Presentations to various stakeholder groups

Staff estimate that approximately 5000 ICI locations within HRM discharge to the municipal wastewater and stormwater systems and as such, are regulated by the provisions of By-Law W-101. Information is currently being compiled to assist in the identification of each of these locations, as well as the nature of the business. This process will then be followed by an ongoing characterization of their wastewater discharges to survey and review each ICI discharger on a site specific basis and undertake initiatives to insure compliance with the provisions of the by-law.

The impact of this program is recognizable. Industries and businesses have retained the services of consulting firms to assist them in meeting the provisions of the by-law. Significant capital funds have been expended by some to address the impact of their wastewater discharge. One such business has indicated that they have spent in excess of two million dollars to control their discharge to HRM sewer systems which was previously uncontrolled. Another business that discharged wastewater to the municipal sewer system was in 2001 a hundred times over the permitted level for a specific chemical parameter. Currently this business substantiates full compliance with the by-law with monthly chemical analysis provided to HRM. Additionally, many businesses are undertaking comprehensive environmental management plans with compliance to the by-law as a documented objective.

Staff is utilizing a tracking system to permit effective case management. Information such as business name, ownership, location, and details regarding correspondence, by-law notification, sampling, inspection and enforcement details have been compiled. Currently, 3600 of the estimated 5000 entries have been compiled from existing databases. Completion of the database will be achieved as a result of site visits and identification of new businesses entering into HRM.

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A summary of activities since the previous update to Council are as follows:

- Total Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) locations in database = 3,600
- ICI locations inspected and information collected = 600
- Number of telephone inquiries for information, by-law requests or questions = 312
- Number of new businesses registered in 2003 and Form 1 completed = 27
- Staff has responded to 21 events of wastewater from construction or dewatering sites entering either storm or sanitary sewers for by-law compliance.
- Responded to 20 reported hydrocarbon (oil spill or leak) release events in which HRM property has been or may have been affected.
- Responded to 15 reports of illegal dumping of liquid waste into HRM storm sewers
- Extensive involvement from July 15, 2002 until December 2002 in HRM's response to the Little Sackville River fish kill incident. HRM staff located the source of the contamination which then enabled other senior representatives of various agencies to undertake their mandate in response. Additionally, P2 staff represented HRM's interest in the removal of pyritic slate from the Fall River site.
- Responded to 17 reports of excessive fat or grease in sewers as reported by TUG's staff.
- Developed in cooperation with the Canadian Petroleum Product Institute, the completion of three Best Management Plans to address wastewater discharges from automotive service and repair stations, car washes and retail and wholesale fuel depots. CPPI represents 324 business locations within HRM which are not represented in the data base totals.
- Met with representatives of the Capital Health District and initiated discussion with them on the management of wastewater discharges from all hospital services in HRM. This will require individual health centres to manage the disposal of pharmaceuticals, body fluids, kitchen and laundry wastes, sterilisation wastes, chemotherapy and related clinical and research chemical wastes.

Educational and promotional information related to the Pollution Prevention Program for both residential and ICI sectors has been provided through the following:

- HRM's Naturally Green publications
- Water Talk billing insert
- The Enviro-Connect, Nova Scotia's Environmental News
- Maritime Water and Wastewater Publication
- Burnside Business News
- HRM web site
- Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention, web site
- Pollution Prevention Poster

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Staff has additionally provided a total of 15 lectures or presentations regarding the Pollution Prevention Program since the last Council update to the following:

- Various Consulting Engineering Firms
- Dalhousie University, Core Engineering Courses and Pollution Prevention Course, Continuous Learning Programs
- Halifax Harbour Watershed Coalition
- Capital Health District, Directors
- Nova Scotia Environmental Engineering Association
- Nova Scotia Public Works Association
- Environment Canada - Pollution Prevention Workshop

Staff has requested the assistance of HRM's Legal Services in the development and registering of summary offence specific violations of By-Law W-101 as Provincial Summary Offences which would permit staff to issue on site, summary offence tickets for certain violations of the by-law. It is expected that this process may be finalized and implemented within the next two months.

Recently, a request by the Harbour Solutions Project has been made to implement source control initiatives in the three sewersheds prior to the completion and start up of the sewage treatment plants. As such, the focus of the Pollution Prevention Program is now targeted to the Halifax sewershed for completion within the next 18 months. This objective will then be followed by a similar program completion for the Dartmouth sewershed within 12 months following, and the Herring Cove sewershed an additional 12 months after that. Completion of these objectives will consist of full documentation of all business activities within the sewersheds, identification of possible non-compliance issues and initiation by the discharger of appropriate compliance action. It is important to note that for many businesses, significant capital expenditures, planning, financing, engineering services and other pollution prevention activities may be required in order to comply with the by-law.

Recently, a corporate reorganization has been completed with the creation of the new business unit, Environmental Management Services. The Pollution Prevention Program was previously within the Public Works and Transportation Department and as a result of reorganization is now within the EMS business unit.

Currently two FTE's administer the P2 Program. The Pollution Prevention Coordinator is a permanent position. A two year Engineering Assistant term position was approved and staff hired five months ago to assist in the delivery of this program. Given the emerging priority of the Pollution Prevention Program a review of required resources is being undertaken to insure current and future objectives are able to be met.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

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.

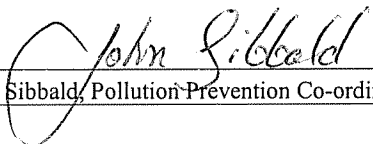
The P2 Program strongly supports the Strategic Directions established by Council in relation to public safety, planned growth, environmental and infrastructure maintenance. This initiative is identified in the Business Plan for Environmental Management Services. Also, the P2 Program has been reviewed and is supported by the Provincial and Federal Governments, and is considered to be an integral component of the Harbour Solutions Project.

ALTERNATIVES

None recommended.

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.

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