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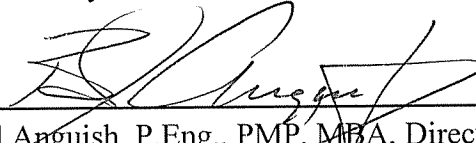


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Halifax Regional Council
August 26, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



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

DATE: August 14, 2003

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

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.

DISCUSSION

This report is to provide Council with an update of activities regarding the Pollution Prevention (P2) Program since the previous report to Council dated May 27, 2003. This report covers the period from May 2003 to July 30, 2003.

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

- Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) locations inspected and information collected = 140. Currently there now exist 3640 data entries in the P2 database out of an estimated total of 5000 ICI locations.
- Number of telephone inquiries for information, by-law requests or questions = 138
- Responded to 27 reported hydrocarbon (oil spill or leak) release events in which HRM property has been or may have been affected.
- Responded to 3 reports of illegal dumping of liquid waste into HRM storm sewers.
- Responded to one report by TUGS staff of excessive grease blocking a sanitary sewer.
- During the months of June and July 2003, P2 staff have been extensively involved with activities in support of the Harbour Solutions Project which represented approximately 35% of staff time during this reporting period.
- In June, Wastewater Treatment staff at the Fall River STP requested assistance from P2 staff to investigate the possibility of a waste being discharged to the municipal sewer system in Fall River, which may have been the cause of operational difficulties for the STP to meet required effluent criteria. In response, P2 staff conducted 31 separate inspections of identified businesses within the Fall River STP sewershed. These business locations have been added to the general database. No direct source of operational problems has to date been identified.
- Staff responded to a resident's concern that a noxious substance was entering Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth, from an HRM storm sewer. The individual advised that they suspected it was sewage or industrial waste. Upon inspection, it was observed that discharge from the storm outfalls in the area was clear of pollutants and the observed material was algae. The resident was advised and expressed dissatisfaction with our observations. Staff from DOE was requested to attend and upon arrival concurred with our assessment and no further action has arisen.

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

- 3 -

August 26, 2003

- P2 staff requested the assistance of HRM's Legal Services in the development and registering of Summary Offence specific violations for By-Law W-101 as Provincial Summary Offences which will permit staff to issue on site, summary offence tickets for certain violations of the by-law.
- In June, staff contacted the District Chief of Fire and Emergency Services and requested a copy of any hazardous material storage data pertaining to industries and businesses that may currently exist, to assist in the Pollution Prevention Program. It is the intention of staff to provide to Fire and Emergency Services staff similar information in exchange as site inspections are completed.
- Pollution Prevention staff also assisted and participated in an interdepartmental meeting to assist Public Works and Transportation in the development of a federally required Road Salt Management Plan for HRM. A salt management plan is now required pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA 1999).
- P2 staff met with representatives of the Capital Health District. The QE II (Camphill and V.G. sites), Nova Scotia Hospital, Dartmouth General Hospital, East Coast Forensic Hospital and Cobequid Community Health Centre all discharge wastewater into HRM sewer systems. The discharge from these facilities is required to be in compliance with HRM's By-Law W-101. In response to the provisions of the Pollution Prevention Program, the Capital Health District has issued a request for proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to undertake a Pollution Prevention Program. It is currently estimated that 64 separate sanitary connections to the municipal sewer system exist from these facilities which discharge to the municipal sewer system pharmaceuticals, chemical reagents, biological wastes as well as food, laundry and other process wastes. The RFP in part requires; "wastewater sampling", "isolation of building and internal processes responsible for contamination", "corrective action and Pollution Prevention Plan", "mandatory reporting to HRM" and "Report on success or failure of corrective measures and overall performance of the project in meeting the regulations of By-Law W-101". The RFP was to close on August 12, 2003, and is anticipated to be awarded and implemented in September 2003.
- Wastewater Treatment staff in July requested P2 staff to investigate the source of odours in influent wastewater at the Eastern Passage STP.
- Educational material regarding the provisions of By-Law W-101 and an overview of the Pollution Prevention Program was prepared and provided to the Contractors Desk for publication. This magazine serves the building and construction trades and is published six times yearly.

It is the intent of staff to provide future reports to Council on an annual summary basis. Additionally, statistics which in the past have been provided in these information reports will be posted on a regular basis on the Pollution Prevention page of the Environmental Management Services web site location.

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.

REGIONAL PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

None recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

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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