

Our File/N/Réf.  
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DATE 5 June 1998

TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Council

FROM/EXP. Director Water Environment Protection Division  
Environment and Transportation Department

SUBJECT/OBJET **1996 AND 1997 ANNUAL SEWER USE BY-LAW  
COMPLIANCE REPORT**

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## BACKGROUND

This memorandum is in response to a directive received by Council on 09 July 1997 to prepare an annual report on the enforcement of the Regional Sewer Use-By-law.

## INTRODUCTION

The Region has implemented an Industrial Waste Programme over the past four years. The programme's focus is to protect the wastewater infrastructure, health and safety of workers, integrity of the wastewater treatment process and the health of the receiving water environment. Our strategy is based on the concept of pollution prevention which promotes improvements through operational and behavioural changes. This objective is achieved by working in co-operation with sewer dischargers using voluntary initiatives such as agreements and compliance programmes and by promoting awareness through monitoring, inspections and education to achieve reductions in the levels of pollutants discharged to the sewer system.

## DISCUSSION

### Industrial Waste Strategy

The Industrial Waste Section as part of the Industrial Waste Programme is involved in informal activities with the business community which assist in identifying and abating, with industries co-operation, exceedances of Part 5.2 of the Regional Regulatory Code, (Sewer Use By-law). These informal activities include monitoring and inspecting facilities to assess compliance with the Sewer

### Information Previously Distributed

To be listed on Planning and Environment  
Committee Agenda of 23 June 1998

Use By-law. When exceedances or problems are encountered, the discharger is advised by staff and the discharger usually acts promptly to correct the deficiency.

### Voluntary Compliance Initiatives

Over the past two years, there have been in excess of 200 short-term compliance activities. These voluntary initiatives were undertaken to correct or ameliorate discharge practices and were quite successful in assisting in achieving the programme objectives. For example, these activities include improvements to housekeeping activities by industry in order to prevent prohibited discharges.

There have been nine formal compliance programmes entered into with industrial dischargers for the reporting period (1996 and 1997). These formal arrangements are permitted under the Sewer Use By-law to permit dischargers the time required to implement the necessary modifications to eliminate the non-compliance. By reducing the amount of non-treatable parameters discharged to the sewer system, we are working toward the protection of the sewer infrastructure, a safer work environment and a better water environment.

In addition to these compliance initiatives, there were twelve agreements in effect in 1996 and seven additional agreements entered into in 1997 for treatable wastes. The treatment of wastes at the source is encouraged as a principle of pollution prevention. However, should a company opt to discharge overstrength waste, these agreements permit the discharge of material that is above by-law limits but can be treated at the Pickard Centre, as well as for water from a separate source. These agreements include the requirement to pay for the treatment of the waste at the sewage treatment plant. The revenue generated from these agreements was approximately \$650,000 during the reporting period.

### Enforcement Initiatives

In comparison to the voluntary initiatives described above, it is necessary at times to initiate by-law enforcement. Enforcement includes issuing warnings and notices of violation where non-compliance is persistent. A warning is generally issued as an initial notification of an infraction and a notice of violation is issued if a warning is ineffective.

There were a total of 16 notices of violation issued in 1996 and 1997. None of these notices lead to legal actions as the industries responded to these notices with corrective actions.

In 1996, there was only one summons issued which did not result in a conviction. In 1997, one Part III Summons was issued and a conviction entered. A fine of \$2,000 was imposed by the Court.

### Wastewater Characterization

Since 1992, four wastewater characterizations have been conducted by the Water Environment Protection Division. In 1992, the characterization was limited to sampling the influent and effluent at the sewage treatment plant. In 1994, it was expanded to include sampling of biosolids.

In 1996, the programme also included sampling leachate received at the sewage treatment plant. In-sewer monitoring was added in 1997 at strategic locations across Ottawa-Carleton.

The purpose of wastewater characterization is to assist the continuous improvements efforts in the Industrial Waste Programme and the sewage treatment process. The information collected in these sampling programmes is currently being analyzed in order to identify improvements to future wastewater characterizations, the Industrial Waste Programme and the treatment process. It is anticipated that conducting these annual wastewater characterizations will facilitate in optimizing the use of available resources to ensure the protection of the water environment and sewage infrastructure.

### FUTURE ACTIONS

Staff from the Legal Department together with the Environment and Transportation Department have developed short form wording and set fines to permit ticketing for some by-law offences and has applied for approval of these fines from the Ontario Provincial Court. This new tool will provide greater flexibility in dealing with sewer use by-law infractions.

The Department will continue to use a co-operative approach with its clients in implementing the activities of the Industrial Waste Programme and will continue to develop new tools, both reactive and proactive, to encourage the business community to act in an environmentally responsible manner and prevent pollution. These tools include communication and consultation initiatives.

Cost effectiveness will also continue to be explored when considering enforcement actions. This process should result in positive financial implications for the community while ensuring protection of the infrastructure, treatment process, safety of workers and the environment.

### CONSULTATION

Communication and consultation activities have been and will continue to be at the core of the Industrial Waste Programme.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Through the protection of the wastewater infrastructure, safety of sewer workers and of the health of the water environment, the Industrial Waste Programme will continue to have positive financial implications for the residents of Ottawa-Carleton.

*Approved by  
Nancy B. Schepers, P. Eng.*

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