

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER EFFLUENT

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Common Acronyms

MWWE (Municipal Wastewater Effluent)

CCME (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment)

M/P JAG (*Nova Scotia* Municipal/Provincial Joint Advisory Group)

NSEL (Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour)

UNSM (Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities)

AMANS (Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia)

SNSMR (Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations)

EC (Environment Canada)

CEPA (Canadian Environmental Protection Act)

WWT (Wastewater Treatment)

DC (Development Committee)

CAG (Core Advisory Group)

ERMM (Environmental Risk Management Model)

EPPC (Environmental Planning and Protection Committee)

EFTG (Economics and Funding Task Group)

SUMMARY OF THE PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION SESSIONS

The Municipal/Provincial Joint Advisory Group (M/P JAG) was very pleased with the attendance by 155 people at the 8 provincial stakeholder consultation sessions, held in November and December 2006. Individuals represented municipalities, academia, consulting firms, industry organizations, individual interests and both provincial and federal government departments.

The many helpful comments and concerns brought up during the consultation sessions can be summarized into the following key issues:

- It is critical that the full cost of implementing the strategy must be taken into account including the costs for: 1) capital for treatment and collections system improvements; 2) operation and maintenance; and 3) the ability for municipalities to recover costs;
- Timelines for implementing the strategy need to be realistic and be flexible for each jurisdiction;
- A mechanism is required to prioritize facilities, based on impacts to the environment, in order to address higher risk effluents earlier than low risk systems;

- Risk-based flexibility is needed for municipalities that discharge into tidal/marine environments;
- The overflow standards should not negatively impact on future development in a municipality—flexibility must be given to the municipality to effectively manage combined sewer overflows;
- The strategy needs to clearly recognize the importance of including provisions for combined risk assessments on shared receiving water systems;
- Credit for work and monitoring that has been done prior to implementation of the strategy needs to be included in the risk assessment process;
- Standards established must be consistent across a watershed; and
- The strategy needs to recognize the limited technical capacity of municipalities to carry-out the monitoring, sampling and analysis (availability of labs).

For a copy of the Summary Report of the Nova Scotia consultation sessions, email the request to Alan Benninger—benninaj@gov.ns.ca—or call 902-625-4285.

MUNICIPAL ATTENDANCE AT THE PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION SESSIONS

There were 98 individuals, representing 38 Nova Scotia municipalities, in attendance at the provincial consultation sessions. They included politicians, administrators, engineers, planners, operations managers and operators. Nova Scotia municipalities participating were:

Regional Municipalities: Cape Breton; Halifax; and Queens.

Towns: Amherst; Annapolis Royal; Berwick; Bridgetown; Bridgewater; Digby; Kentville; Lunenburg; Mahone Bay; New Glasgow; Parrsboro;

Stellarton; Trenton; Truro; Westville; Windsor; and Yarmouth.

Rural Municipalities (Counties): Annapolis; Colchester; Cumberland; Kings; Pictou; Richmond; and Victoria.

Rural Municipalities (Districts): Clare; Digby; Hants East; Hants West; Lunenburg; St. Mary's; and Yarmouth.

Villages: Chester; Kingston; Lawrencetown; and New Minas



Websites

Government of Nova Scotia — www.gov.ns.ca
UNSM — www.unsm.ca
AMANS — www.amans.ca

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SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION SESSION

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) held a National Consultation Workshop in Toronto Ontario on January 30th and 31st. Approximately one hundred participants registered for the workshop, representing a wide cross section of stakeholders from across the country. Federal, provincial and municipal government representatives were present, along with others from First Nations and numerous non-governmental organizations. In my position on M/P JAG, I attended as a representative of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, and also to represent municipal interests as discussed within M/P JAG.

The topics of the workshop were consistent with those presented and discussed during the provincial consultations held in Nova Scotia in November and December 2006. They included an overview of:

- Performance Requirements;
- Science and Research;
- Governance;
- Implementation; and

• Economic Implications.

The two-day workshop provided an effective venue for all participants to discuss the options proposed in the consultation materials for implementing the Canada-wide strategy for the management of municipal wastewater effluents. Round table discussions on many topics allowed for a more detailed analysis of the options than at the provincial consultations.

It was interesting to note that many comments and concerns brought forward in Toronto were very similar to statements recorded at the provincial sessions. The availability of financial resources, and the need for national operating standards were common themes within all the focus groups. It's my opinion that Nova Scotia is more advanced than other provinces and territories in its preparation and consultation on the development of the MWW strategy.

A formal consultant's report of the workshop will be circulated once approved. However, much more work is needed to ensure that the strategy can meet its goals.

Article submitted by Bruce Morrison, UNSM

FACILITY PROFILE

BATTERY POINT WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY— CAPE BRETON REGIONAL

Alex Buchanan and Todd Carey Maintaining UV System

The Battery Point wastewater facility began operation in July 2005. The enhanced primary treatment facility, along with the new collection system has eliminated 16 raw sewage outfalls, which greatly improves Sydney Harbour and the Muggah Creek and the Wentworth Park watersheds which discharge into the harbour.

Plant capacity is: dry weather, 16,000 m³/day; wet weather, 64,000 m³/day. The facility treats over 70% of the sewage in the greater Sydney area.

Monitoring of the plant performance indicates that the treatment facility removes over 55% of the BOD and suspended solids prior to effluent discharge.



Medium Pressure, High Intensity UV lamps inactivate pathogens

The Ultra Violet (UV) disinfection process was chosen for its proven effectiveness of addressing the environmental impact to the receiving water by lessening the dependence on chemicals. The Dual-bank Trojan UV 4000 system inactivates pathogenic organisms in the effluent prior to discharge into the Sydney Harbour. Staff perform regular maintenance on the medium-

pressure, high-intensity lamp system to ensure its ongoing effectiveness.

Cape Breton Regional Municipality has an overall objective of extending the collection area to include all municipal wastewater in the coming years.

Article submitted by Ron Delaney, CBRM