

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)

PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION SESSIONS

In 2003, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) agreed to develop a Canada-wide strategy for the management of municipal wastewater effluent (MWWE). The strategy will focus on improving management within the MWWE sector to protect human health and the environment. The strategy will address issues related to both the performance and the governance of the wastewater sector in Canada. The strategy is expected to be finalized in the fall of 2007, with implementation to begin soon afterward.

Consulting with stakeholders is a critical and important factor in achieving the goals of the strategy. It provides:

- For quality input that leads to quality decision-making;
- A broader perspective and creativity in problem solving to address the key issues;
- A greater satisfaction in the process and in the final strategy is achieved from effective stakeholder involvement in the process;
- An opportunity to increase the chance of successful implementation;
- For good governance, transparency and open communication through feedback.

It is important that as many stakeholders as possible have an opportunity to participate and provide their feedback. A series of stakeholder consultation sessions are being held in Nova Scotia as follows:

- **November 15th, 2006:** Sydney (*Round Room, 320 Esplanade*)
- **November 16th, 2006:** Antigonish (*Council Chambers, 274 Main Street*)
- **November 21st, 2006:** Truro (*Council Chambers, 695 Prince Street*)
- **November 22nd, 2006:** HRM (*Location to be determined*)
- **November 28th, 2006:** Kentville (*Council Chambers, 87 Cornwallis Street*)
- **November 29th, 2006:** Yarmouth (*Council Chambers, 400 Main Street*)
- **November 30th, 2006:** Bridgewater (*Council Chambers, 60 Pleasant Street*)
- **December 7th, 2006:** HRM (*Make-up session. Location to be determined*)

All sessions will start at 10:00 AM and run until 2:30 PM. Lunch will be provided.

(For further information, or to register for any of the sessions, please call 902-424-2553.)

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The strategy Development Committee (DC) has met regularly throughout 2005/2006 and the components of the strategy continue to develop. Timelines have been extended to allow for internal policy review with final approval of the strategy expected in the fall of 2007.

A new Economics and Funding Task Group (EFTG) has been established. The core purpose of the EFTG will be to provide input so that the strategy is achievable from an economic and funding standpoint.

Reports of regional stakeholder consultation sessions (2004 and 2005) and technical re-

ports have been posted on the CCME website. Stakeholder consultation sessions are being held nationally and jurisdictionally beginning this fall. These sessions are to be completed by March 1st, 2007.

Upon completion of the strategy, the Federal government will develop and enact wastewater regulations under the Fisheries Act that are consistent with the strategy. Provincial and territorial governments will also be expected to ensure that the key components of the strategy will be included in their wastewater regulatory processes and oversight.

Nova Scotia Municipal/
Provincial Joint Advisory
Group



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AMANS — www.amans.ca

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OFFICIAL SIGNING

The official signing of the Terms of Reference of the Municipal/Provincial Joint Advisory Group (M/P JAG) was held on October 7th, 2005 at the UNSM Annual Conference. Speaking to the delegates, then Minister Kerry Morash stated "this agreement will bring together representatives of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia and the government of Nova Scotia to advise of wastewater effluent management."

The signing formalizes a process intended to promote a province-wide approach for active participation on the strategy development.



Signing of the Terms of Reference on October 7th, 2005

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE STRATEGY

Raw sewage discharges into surface water cause both an environmental and human health hazard. These discharges are no longer acceptable. The proposed strategy provides for a holistic approach dealing with:

- Source protection;
- Effective wastewater treatment;
- Performance monitoring.

For source control, the strategy will focus on **prevention of pollution discharges** into sewage collection systems using a model sewer use bylaw.

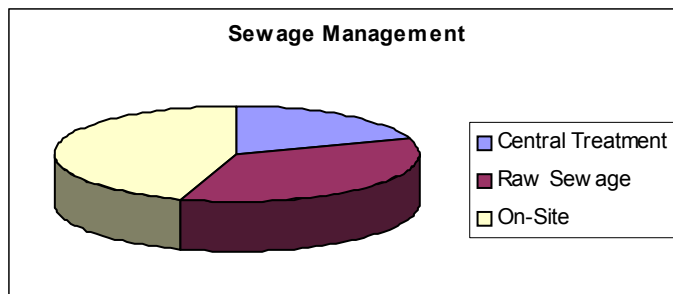
The strategy will also set science-based **national performance standards** for conventional parameters that are common to municipal

wastewater effluent discharges: carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD), total suspended solids (TSS), total residual chlorine (TRC), and ammonia. These standards will be achieved through effective wastewater treatment.

Environmental discharge objectives (EDOs) and **environmental quality objectives** (EDQs) will also be used in determining effluent quality requirements to protect the receiving water from the discharge of harmful pollutants. EDOs take into consideration the site-specific receiving environment.

Compliance and environmental **monitoring** will also be required to ensure that performance requirements are consistently met.

SEWAGE MANAGEMENT BY POPULATION



Left Currently, 25% of Nova Scotia's sewage is handled through central treatment. On-site septic systems treat 45% and raw sewage discharges make-up the remaining 30%, of the sewage management in the province.

Right: Approximately 62% of the treatment facilities in the province are mechanical secondary treatment facilities. Lagoons provide 31% of the sewage treatment. Only 7% of the treatment facilities are primary, or enhanced primary.

