



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 18.1

| Request for Council's Consideration | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Added Item | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor | |
| | (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday) | | |
| Date of Council Meeting: June 18, 2024 | | | |
| Subject: Inadequate Septage Disposal Sites in HRM | | | |
| Motion for Council to Consider: | | | |
| <p>THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to return to Council with recommendations on actions the municipality can take to more adequately address HRM's rapid growth in septage disposal requirements amounts from residents and businesses in suburban and rural areas not serviced by municipal wastewater systems, which are dependent upon privately operated septage hauling and are responsible for the care and maintenance of their private septic systems that are regulated by Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change.</p> <p>To promote healthy, sustainable, livable communities and protect the environment and the economy, it is further recommended that Halifax Regional Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. waive section 17 of Administrative Order One, requiring a staff report from the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO); and<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Environment requesting development of a comprehensive long-term strategy for management of on-site septic systems in partnership with municipalities and industry, including considerations regarding installation, maintenance, and management of by-products with capacity considerations to accommodate growth and business continuity.b. direct the CAO to write a letter to Halifax Water requesting that they prepare an information report to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee outlining Halifax Water's current capacity to accept septage from private systems and existing regulatory constraints.2. The CAO to prepare an information report for the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee outlining the current role and legislative authority of the municipality with respect to private septage with consideration of the federal, provincial and municipal regulatory framework for disposal of septage, potential amendments to the legislative and regulatory framework for Halifax Regional Municipality of Halifax Regional Water Commission, increases in fines for illegal dumping of septage; and developing increased capacity for disposal of septage within HRM. | | | |

Reason:

Due to a malfunction at the GFL West Hants septage disposal site in June 2024, the facility is no longer accepting out of area septage haulers. Septage businesses across HRM are now required to travel long distances to other private or municipal facilities to dispose of septage raising costs to services and reducing the ability for businesses to serve multiple properties on the same day. The lack of HRM septage disposal sites and decreased number of customers per week is leading to financial instability of septage haulers, causing backup in the entire septage hauling industry, loss of employees in the industry due to loss of work, and threatening industry continuity.

Outcome Sought:

Staff report to Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee and letters to Halifax Water and the Province of Nova Scotia respectively to address the inadequate septage disposal systems in HRM to meet the municipality's rapid population growth in rural and suburban communities outside the Halifax Water wastewater infrastructure.

Moved by

Councillors Patty Cuttell and Pam Lovelace

Districts

11 and 13