

## **Resolution 5A**

### **CCME WASTEWATER SYSTEMS EFFLUENT REGULATIONS (PASSED)**

⇒ Town of Bridgewater

**WHEREAS** Nova Scotia Environment has endorsed the Canadian Wide Strategy for the Management of Waste Water Effluent in Canada and has kept municipal units informed of the strategic and the general implications to Nova Scotia Municipalities who manage and operate municipal waste water treatment facilities; and

**WHEREAS** it is acknowledged that there will be significant costs to implement the strategy including assessment of facilities, assessment of receiving waters, and preliminary engineering and cost estimating in the short term and capital programs to implement the required upgrades in the longer term; and

**WHEREAS** the strategy, coordinated with the provinces, territories and Federal Government's Department of Environment which would be administered by bi-lateral administrative agreements between the Province of Nova Scotia and the Federal Government, with the Provincial governments being the lead jurisdiction to regulate the municipalities as a one window approach; and

**WHEREAS** it is understood the time frame for the implementation by the municipalities would be subject to the bilateral agreements and directed by the Province; and

**WHEREAS** it is acknowledged that the CCME Strategy incorporated the provision for a regulation to acknowledge the actuality of waste water treatment effluent in light of Subsection 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, which is a general prohibition of depositing or permitting the deposit of a deleterious substance of any type in water frequented by fish; and

**WHEREAS** Environment Canada has formally advertised the adoption of a Waste Water System Effluent Regulation to be in effect for January 2011; and

**WHEREAS** Environment Canada's Regulation acknowledges CCME's Strategy but effectively preempts the strategy by including the requirements of the strategy plus further requirements of Federal regulations with municipalities reporting to the Federal agencies with no mention of harmonization with the provinces, for whom the municipal treatment plants are "Permitted"; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities will have 18 months to apply for "Transitional and Temporary Authorization to Deposit" if they do not meet the regulated requirements of the effluent including combined sewer overflows;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM request that the senior levels of the Provincial government establish committed funding programs essential to assist municipalities in the short term evaluation and planning to determine compliance and/or preliminary upgrading plans and longer term implementation of the upgrades required to the plants and collection systems to meet Environment Canada's Regulation; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM approach Federation of Canadian Municipalities to establish committed funding programs essential to assist municipalities in the short term evaluation and planning to determine compliance and/or preliminary upgrading plans and longer term implementation of the upgrades required to the plants and collection systems to meet Environment Canada's Regulation; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM request that Nova Scotia Environment undertake the assessment of the receiving waters as an initial phase so as to establish the actual requirements of the point source loads of the municipal waste water effluent over and above the standard secondary treatment levels established in the regulations to ensure a meaningful evaluation of the existing facilities can be made in a timely manner as required by the abbreviated time established in the regulations.

Forwarded to:  
*Minister of the Department of Environment*  
&  
*Federation of Canadian Municipalities*

**RESPONSE:**

*Thank you for your letter dated November 16, 2010 regarding environmental resolutions passed at UNSM's annual conference in October 2010. Nova Scotia Environment has carefully reviewed and considered each resolution and can offer the following response [to 5A]:*

*The federal Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations are still in the development stage. Nova Scotia Environment is working with Environment Canada to address concerns with these regulations, including the need for a dedicated wastewater funding program.*

*Nova Scotia Environment endorsed the CCME Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent in 2009. This Strategy calls for*

*the completion of an environmental risk assessment by the year 2017. This risk assessment will use the CCME Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines to establish science-based treatment goals that consider site specific conditions.*

*Municipalities are currently required to perform a similar type of receiving water study for wastewater treatment plant upgrades and this requirement is expected to continue. Water and Wastewater Branch staff are working to develop more guidance around this process to ensure it is carried out in an efficient and cost effective manner. Work already completed by municipalities will be considered to further reduce the cost of these risk assessments.*

*Requests for project funding should be directed to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, the Honourable Ramona Jennex. I have forwarded your request by copy of this letter.*

*The Honourable Sterling Belliveau  
Minister  
January 3, 2011*