

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