



Subject: *Enfield Water Treatment Plant Intake Study*
To: Executive Committee
Date Prepared: October 2025
Related Motions: n/a
Prepared by: Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
Approved by: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer

Summary

Prior to considering additional water withdrawal limits for the Enfield Water Treatment Plant, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) is requiring a study be completed at the water treatment plant intake location along the Shubenacadie River. This is in addition to the 3rd Still Study completed at last year.

Staff have met with both NSECC staff and a contracted Hydrogeologist to create a clear scope of what NSECC is seeking to be included in a study so that the resulting study can be conclusive on what can be considered for further withdrawal amounts.

Financial Impact Statement

\$55,000 before tax was the initial estimate

Recommending \$67,500 including taxes to have contingency available to respond to unknowns
Council has \$500,000 available for water studies through HAF funds

Recommendation

To proceed with a study, and for the Chief Administrative Officer be approved to procure via negotiated sole source procurement.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend that Council approve \$67,500 including tax for the completion of an Environmental Study of Enfield Water Treatment Plant River Intake, to be funded from the Housing Accelerator Fund. And that the Chief Administrative Officer be approved to procure a consultant to complete the study via a negotiated sole source procurement.

Background

The Enfield Treatment Plant completed its expansion in 2023. That received approval from NSECC and the output from that project was a request from NSECC to complete a study of the 3rd Still of the Shubenacadie River as it would help in combining the approval to operate the Engineered Spring with the approval to operate the Enfield Water Treatment Plant.

The plant was expanded with all designs having been submitted to NSECC with the clear intent to leverage the capacity of the original design. That said, environmental conditions do change with time and the additional requested study is reasonable. This is additional due diligence prior to approving additional water, enabling more development that is supported by the Regional System Service Area (includes the communities of Enfield, Elmsdale, and Lantz).

Discussion

River Reviews

As part of annual reporting, the East Hants Water Utility contracts a hydrogeologist to interpret river data collected throughout the year with respect to the Shubenacadie River. The last several reviews have been conducted by the same hydrogeologist company that also has completed the 3rd Still study this past year.

The Enfield Water Treatment Plant is a critical asset for supporting the overall East Hants area, thus seeking out the best possible resourcing available to complete the next required study would be of strategic importance. If the same company is available to complete the next study and can stay within a fair price range for the completion of work, the option for sole source procurement should be explored.

Alternatives

Wait for the next budget cycle to review

This is a top priority study, that will not need to compete to other work priorities for timing and staffing allotment. It needs to be completed, so should be approved and started as soon as possible.

Attachments

N/A