



Subject: *Shubenacadie Water Treatment Plant PW2024 GUDI Step 2 Study*
To: Executive Committee
Date Prepared: November 2025
Related Motions: n/a
Prepared by: Chad Greenham, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services
Approved by: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations

Summary

Prior to issuing an approval to operate and distribute treated water from the new well (PW2024) at the Shubenacadie Water Treatment Plant, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) informed Staff on October 17, 2025 that a GUDI (Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water) Step 2 detailed plan is required.

Previously, on completion of the new well construction, our contracted hydrogeologist determined that PW2024 was considered as non-GUDI after meeting the criteria of the Step 1 study. However, NSECC reversed that decision upon their review.

Financial Impact Statement

Recommending \$25,000 before taxes based on the previous RFQ responses for the similar study to well PW2019. There is \$500,000 available for water studies through HAF funds.

Recommendation

To proceed with the required study through the RFQ process.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend that Council approve \$25,000 before tax for the completion of GUDI Step 2 Study of the new well at the Shubenacadie Water Treatment Plant, to be funded from the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Background

Production Well #11 failed on July 26, 2024 at the Shubenacadie Water Treatment Plant, leaving just one well operative (PW2019). The construction of the new well, PW2024 started on August 22, 2024 and was completed on November 11, 2024. However, remaining development work such as new pump, well components, plant connection and civil works was completed in June, 2025. The total cost of the new well was close to \$341,000.

The new Approval to Withdraw was granted to include the newest well, PW2024, as an acceptable source of water, however, the Approval to Operate received on October 17, 2025, outlined the new requirement.

During the construction of the new well, a hydrogeologist was involved and performed the GUDI study, determining that it met all Step 1 criteria and was non-GUDI. NSECC's hydrogeologist and SAS group reversed the finding and require a Step 2 study. The GUDI Step 2 study will require a full year of data collection and monitoring before a report can be submitted to NSECC.

Discussion

N/A

Alternatives

Wait for the next budget cycle to review

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

Attachments

N/A