



TOWN OF WINDSOR

FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: FRACKING WASTE WATER (AKA BRINE)

DATE OF FACT SHEET: JULY 26, 2017

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Q: Would love to know the specifics on all that frank waste water that was dumped in the basin, awhile back? Still dumping it at all? Been a few early mornings I have smelt sulphur by the treatment plant.

A:

- 2009 - The Town of Windsor was approached to consider accepting brine wastewater from Nova Scotia fracking operations for which a contractor had been licensed by the Province for treatment and disposal of the brine water.
- Only municipal sewage treatment plants were and are authorized to process such waste by the province and NS Dept. of Environment (NSDOE). Thus a municipal waste water treatment plant had to do it by law - Windsor was asked.
- The Town retained a consultant to review the brine wastewater in question to determine if treatment would have any short term or long term implications for the Town of Windsor's waste treatment facility.
- Late 2009 - The consultant's report (which indicated that elevated levels of chlorides were the main concern for the plant and would have to be monitored) and staff recommendations were forwarded to Council in late 2009 for consideration.
- NSDOE approved the operation by way of an amendment to our Permit to Operate for the Waste Water Facility as this was permissible at the time.
- Early 2010 - NSDOE approved the application for amendment of the Permit to Operate and an agreement between the Town of Windsor and the contractor supplying the brine was drafted and approved early in 2010 at a couple of meetings open to the public (Feb. 10, 2010 Committee of the Whole Meeting and Feb. 10, 2010 Special Town Council Meeting).
- Between March 2010 and August 2011 roughly 7 million litres of brine water (soon after referred to as fracking waste water) was treated at the Windsor Sewage Facility. The Town of Windsor stopped taking the wastewater in August 2011 when the Town was first made aware that there could be unknown contamination issues, particularly the presence of radioactive substances, namely NORMS (normally occurring radioactive material) in the waste water. This was new information not previously known.
- Several months after the Town stopped taking fracking water on its own volition, the Town received verbal notification in December 2011, from NSDOE that their tests had shown levels of NORMs in the fracking waste water.

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- Approvals for disposal of the brine wastewater in Windsor (2009) and Colchester County (2012) were made by before NSDOE had possession of full information about the wastewater's composition including the presence of NORMS or radioactive materials.
- The Town never received written notice from NSDOE on this matter but waste water to our facility had ceased months before then.
- In June 2013, as a result of misinformation given to the public and as a result of banners being posted around Town accusing the Town of still processing fracking water, Windsor Town Council made a motion to officially state that it no longer was processing "fracking" water at our treatment plant.
- The Province (NSDOE) stopped fracking operations in Nova Scotia in September 2014 pending further study.
- Rumours persist that the new sewage treatment plant is being used for this - the fact is, not a drop has been processed since August 2011 when the Town ceased operations ourselves based on the fact that there may be some contamination issues.

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