



TOWN OF WINDSOR

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Facts on the Wastewater Lagoon Odor – Located at 3 Lagoon Drive

What is the cause of the recent lagoon odors?

- **Warmer water temperatures** – As the ambient temperature increases, so does the water temperature in the sewer lagoon. This increases bacteria activity and the consumption of oxygen. The lower dissolved oxygen in the lagoon causes foul lagoon wastewater odors.
- **Wind Direction** – Depending on the wind direction the odors will be more noticeable downwind.
- **Sludge Levels** – Sludge levels in the first cell of the lagoons cause seasonal turnovers and create gases and odors that are released to the atmosphere.
- **Material blocking air diffusers** – Much material that should not enter the sewer system (wet wipes, sanitary napkins, fats and oils etc.) are being flushed down the toilet. This creates havoc on municipal sewer systems and in this case is causing issues with the material blocking the proper air transfer to the wastewater.

Is this smell from the new wastewater treatment facility?

- No, the new wastewater facility is working well with no foul odors. The odors are from our sewage lagoons at the end of Centennial Drive. This sewage lagoon is still in operation and runs separate from the new wastewater facility.

What is the Town doing to help correct the situation?

- **Increasing aeration** – A second aerator (air blower) has been turned on to increase the oxygen content in the lagoons. Also operators have been cleaning and inspecting the air diffusers to make sure the material blocking the air transfer is being removed.
- **Monitoring Dissolved Oxygen Levels** – Operators are monitoring oxygen levels to make sure the conditions do not worsen.
- **Increasing Lagoon Level** – Water level in the lagoons has been raised to reduce the amount of sludge turnover.

Is there a health hazard due to the odors?

- No, this type of sewer gas is not harmful however it is not a pleasant smell.

How long will this odor last?

- Unfortunately the odor issue is not a quick fix and it is anticipated another 7 to 14 days before the process is completely back to normal. If we receive rain this should speed that time frame up.

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Longer Term Solutions – The following are some longer term capital projects that are aimed to reduce the frequency or duration of the seasonal odors.

- Cell #1 sludge removal – Future plans are underway to have sludge treated and removed.
- Screening of material – Adding a screening process to remove and process large material before it enters the lagoons.

The Town of Windsor asks for the public's patience in this unfortunate situation and apologizes for the any inconvenience it may or is causing. If you have any other questions please contact me.

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