

# Water and Waste Department Update on Sewer By-law Revisions

Stakeholder Consultation Sessions  
Tuesday February 09, 2010  
Wednesday February 10, 2010



# Agenda

- Background
- Summary of key changes
- Overview of key changes
- Public consultation process and timelines

## Background

- A report from the Clean Environment Commission in 2003 to the Minister of Conservation included a recommendation that the City review the existing Sewer By-law 7070/97.

(Manitoba Clean Environment Commission – Better Treatment “Taking Action to Improve Water Quality”, Report on Public Hearings, The City of Winnipeg Wastewater Collection and Treatment Systems, August 2003)

# Background

- The Clean Environment Commission's recommendation stated that we should update our by-law to:
  - expand the list of restricted substances,
  - prevent disposal of contaminants of concern,
  - encourage treatment at source,
  - improve enforcement of the by-law, and
  - increase penalties for violations.

# Background

- Participants at the 2003 Environmental Hearings made reference to the City of Toronto's Sewer By-law.
- We reviewed Toronto's By-law to prepare for drafting a new Sewer By-law, particularly the sections which:
  - restrict substances being disposed of in sewers, and
  - require industries to establish pollution prevention programs to control the discharge of contaminants at the source.

# Background

- In addition to the Toronto Sewer Use By-law, while preparing our draft Sewer By-law, we also referenced:
  - the Model Sewer Use By-Law Guidance Document finalized by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment in February 2009, and
  - Sewer by-laws in other major cities across Canada

## Summary of key by-law changes

- Plain language – user-friendly language
- Format – consistent with City Charter and Manitoba by-law writing styles
- Definitions – additional definitions have been added to make the by-law clearer
- General part – expanded to include sections that apply to many other parts of the by-law to avoid repetition
- Construction and approval – City requirements in these areas have been clarified

## Summary of key by-law changes

- New restrictions and prohibitions for wastewater
- A new part with restrictions and prohibitions for land drainage - intended to protect the aquatic environment and help meet Manitoba Surface Water Quality Objectives
- New licences and requirements
- New charges for phosphorus and nitrogen in wastewater
- Pollution prevention plan requirement
- Increased monitoring and enforcement



# Wastewater restrictions and prohibitions

- Dilution of wastewater is prohibited to achieve limits for discharge (section 14)
- Restrictions on what you can put into a wastewater sewer:
  - added 4 substances to the list of prohibited substances (Schedule B)
  - added 39 substances to the list of substances with discharge limits (Schedule C)

## Key substances restricted in wastewater

- Total nitrogen and phosphorus, to reflect restrictions on these compounds in the Environment Act Licences for the City's three water pollution control centres
- Metals of concern related to the water pollution control centres operation and the biosolids treatment and disposal program
- Endocrine disrupting compounds – used in producing some pharmaceuticals and personal care products

## Key restrictions to land drainage system

- Dilution of wastewater is prohibited to achieve limits for discharge (section 14)
- Prohibited and restricted substances that may affect the aquatic environment where land drainage sewers discharge:
  - added a new list of 13 prohibited substances (Schedule D)
  - added a new list of 45 substances with discharge limits (Schedule E)

## New licences and other requirements

- Changed grease interceptor requirements to comply with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) criteria
  - Any business that is required to have a grease interceptor would be required to have a Grease Interceptor Licence (section 47)
- Additional requirements and conditions for wastewater haulers including a Wastewater Hauler's Licence (Part 10)
- Extended the terms to five years with annual fees payable to maintain the licence - reduces administration costs and inconvenience to our customers

## New licences and other requirements

- Added a new requirement for dental waste amalgam separators
  - The Canadian and Manitoba Dental Associations have been proactive in requiring dentists to install amalgam separators
- Added new reporting requirements for persons responsible for spills or who have custody and control of a substance involved in a spill (Part 9)

# Surcharges for nitrogen and phosphorus in wastewater

- Applies to businesses
- A per kilogram charge for nitrogen and phosphorus that are over the by-law limits (Schedule A)
  - in excess of 60 milligrams per litre for nitrogen
  - in excess of 10 milligrams per litre for phosphorus
- Designed to recover the costs for treating these substances to meet effluent limits set out in the licences for the wastewater treatment plants
- City Council must approve all new rates and the start date for new rates

## Pollution prevention plan program

- This is a new part that shifts the focus of wastewater treatment to control and prevention at source
- Businesses that discharge prohibited or restricted substances into a sewer would be required to submit a pollution prevent plan (Part 11)
- Encourages businesses to:
  - reduce pollutants at source,
  - use energy more efficiently,
  - reuse input materials, and
  - replace raw materials with more environmentally friendly products

# Pollution prevention plan program

- Can benefit businesses, including:
  - reduced operating costs,
  - reduced risks of liability, and
  - increased workplace health and safety.
- Can also benefit public health and the environment



## Pollution prevention plan program

- The business owner could, at some point, be required to submit a pollution prevention plan if the business discharges to the:
  - wastewater system any of the prohibited substances listed in Schedule B,
  - wastewater system any of the substances in excess of the concentration limits set out in Schedule C,
  - land drainage system any of the prohibited substances listed in Schedule D, or
  - land drainage system any of the substances in excess of the concentration limits set out in Schedule E.

# Pollution prevention plan program

- The pollution prevention planning program:
  - will begin with metal finishing companies
  - may be expanded to include other business sectors (e.g., food processing, beverage processing, photofinishing/printing, gas stations/auto repair, industrial laundries, pharmaceutical and medicine)
  - will provide one year of notice before a business sector is included, and
- We may be able to provide best management practices guidelines to help businesses prepare their pollution prevention plans.

# Pollution prevention plan program

- Businesses required to prepare a pollution prevention plan must:
  - submit their plan for approval,
  - submit annual progress reports, and
  - update the plans once every five years to show progress towards their goals.
- Some businesses may need specialist environmental or engineering practitioners to assist them in preparing their plans.

## Increased monitoring and enforcement

- More frequent sampling of businesses that possibly discharge substances listed in schedules B,C,D, and E
- If a violation is found, the business will be required by an order to submit a plan to begin complying with the by-law
- There are penalty provisions for contravention of orders (Part 13)

## Public consultation process and timelines

- Invitations to the public information sessions have been sent to an extensive list of stakeholders.
- Ads in the Free Press and Winnipeg Sun have invited all users of Winnipeg's sewer system to attend the sessions
- Two information sessions:
  - Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010                      5:30 – 7:30 PM and
  - Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010                9:00 – 11:00 AM
- Location: Masonic Memorial Temple  
420 Corydon Avenue

# Public consultation process and timelines

- You can also give us your comments by **Friday, March 12, 2010:**
  - by email at [wwdfeedback@winnipeg.ca](mailto:wwdfeedback@winnipeg.ca)
  - feedback forms can be filled in online at [winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/sewage/projects/sewerBy-law/](http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/sewage/projects/sewerBy-law/)
  - by mail to:  
Water and Waste Department  
112-1199 Pacific Ave  
Winnipeg MB R3E 3S8  
Attention: Sewer By-law Consultation

## Public consultation process and timelines

- To see the draft by-law as well as supporting information:
  - visit [winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/sewage/projects/sewerBy-law/](http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/sewage/projects/sewerBy-law/)
  - contact our 311 Centre by phone at 311 or email at [311@winnipeg.ca](mailto:311@winnipeg.ca)
- If you have any questions about the draft by-law, please contact:

Arnold Permut, Wastewater Systems Planning Engineer, by phone at 986-4817 or by email at [apermut@winnipeg.ca](mailto:apermut@winnipeg.ca)

# Question and answer period

