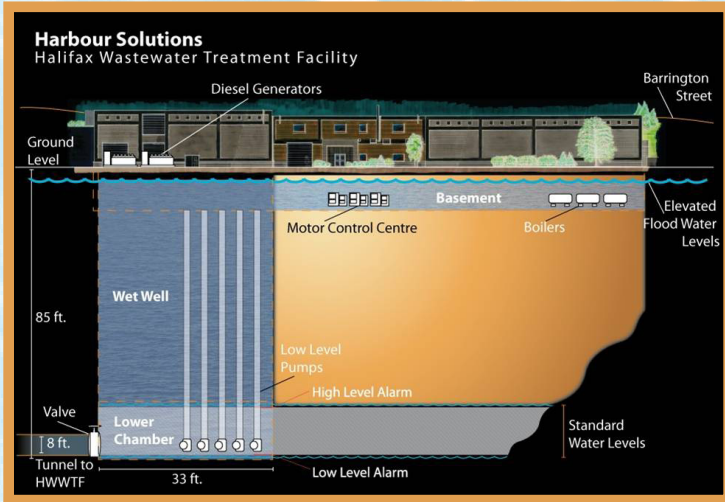




As you know there has been a considerable level of interest in the Harbour Solutions Project since the temporary shutdown of the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) on January 14, 2009.

The Halifax WWTF malfunction was due to an extended local area power outage. During the January 14th event, the basement and wet well areas of the WWTF were extensively flooded.



The equipment/systems exposed to wastewater will need to be repaired and/or replaced. Though a complete assessment of all impacted systems is still being compiled, the basement and wet well areas housed equipment such as pumps, motor control systems, electrical systems and wiring/cabling. Some of this equipment has a delivery time of six months, so every effort is being made to determine which pieces of equipment have been impacted and will require replacement.

Halifax Regional Municipality and Halifax Water are focused on getting the facility back in operation as soon as possible. Spring 2010 is the target date. While the temporary shutdown is a setback for residents, council and project staff, the WWTF will be returned to operation and the water quality of Halifax Harbour returned to the levels residents enjoyed when the facility was in operation.

Naturally, everyone would like to see a full accounting of what caused the temporary shutdown of the \$54.7 million plant. A detailed forensic investigation into the specific cause of the failure is critical to understanding exactly what went wrong. This will allow staff to correct deficiencies, enhance the design and operation to reduce the risk of flood recurrence.

Staff at Halifax Water and HRM are reviewing findings of a preliminary forensic audit. Staff will brief council and the Halifax Water board of commissioners at a joint in-camera (confidential) meeting on June 30th. Staff is working with the designer and builder of the facility, D&D Water Solutions Inc., and its subcontractors, to fill the information gaps and advance the forensic audit's findings.

As mentioned above, it is important to understand that CH2M Hill, the company hired to conduct the forensic audit, is investigating the technical cause of the failure, not finding fault. Updating council and the Halifax Water board in confidence is not an effort to withhold information from the public, but is crucial to protecting the interests and significant taxpayer investment in the project, and ensuring the water quality in the harbour will be returned to its previous levels, and better, as soon as possible.

HRM and Halifax Water understand the public interest in this important project. The following website, <http://www.halifax.ca/HWWTF/index.html>, is being updated on a regular basis to provide current information to residents and businesses about the Harbour Solutions Project generally, and the Halifax WWTF specifically.

On the website you will find images, background information, and answers to some of the frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the facility shutdown and efforts to restore its operation.

While efforts move ahead with restoring the Halifax facility to operation in the spring of 2010, work continues at the two other wastewater facilities that are part of the project. The Dartmouth WWTF has been operating since last summer treating flows on the Dartmouth side of the harbour. Herring Cove will be online later this summer.

As in past summers, warm, dry weather can generate odours in isolated areas in the sewage collection system. The temporary shutdown of the Halifax WWTF may result in odour challenges in isolated areas that were not present prior to the Harbour Solutions Project. HRM and Halifax Water crews have a rigorous operational plan in place to help minimize any odours that could result.

Crews from Halifax Water continue to make every effort, and take whatever measures are at their disposal, to minimize the odours. Please visit <http://www.halifax.ca/HWWTF/SpringCleaning.html> for a list of systems that are monitored.

You may have also noticed a public awareness campaign which kicked off on local radio stations June 17th. This campaign is another aspect of our extensive Pollution Prevention (P2) public education program. This current campaign builds on past messages around proper waste disposal and encourages everyone to do their part for the harbour by not flushing items that should be deposited in your bathroom waste can or regular garbage. The new ad, the first in a series, focuses on those items that draw the most public/media attention...the so-called "floatables". The "Don't Dump This" theme of the P2 campaign continues in this latest public awareness effort.

The campaign will also air on television beginning the week of June 29th. Both radio and TV campaigns will run throughout the summer and be reviewed at that time. The full script of the ad, in text and full audio versions, including a list of items that should be deposited in your bathroom waste can or regular garbage, and not flushed or poured down the drain, is located at <http://www.halifax.ca/HWWTF/index.html>: the site dedicated to Harbour Solutions and the Halifax facility restoration.

Like every resident of HRM and the wider region, Halifax Water and HRM shared in the success of the project and pride of a cleaner harbour. We also share the disappointment of the temporary shutdown of the Halifax WWTF. Rest assured we are working hard to restore the facility and the pride we all feel in a cleaner harbour.

Will the water quality return? You can count on it. Will the beaches at Black Rock and Dingle Park re-open? Absolutely.