Minute No. 136
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – December 4, 2007

Item No. 1 Amendment to Sewer By-law No. 7070/97 – Restricted Materials
File WW-2.3

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That effective immediately, the Sewer By-law No. 7070/97, Restricted Materials, Section 25(5), that changes the upper pH limit from 9.0 to 11.0, be amended as per the following:

   (5) "pH less than 5.5 or greater than 11.0"

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Clement,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 12, 2007, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 4, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and forwarded the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Re: AMENDMENT TO SEWER BY-LAW NO. 7070/97 SECTION 25(5) RESTRICTED MATERIALS

FOR SUBMISSION TO: The Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED BY: Barry D. MacBride, P. Eng.
Director of Water and Waste Department

REPORT DATE: November 8, 2007

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That effective immediately, Council approves an amendment to the Sewer By-law 7070/97, Restricted Materials, Section 25(5), that changes the upper pH limit from 9.0 to 11.0, as per the following:

(5) “pH less than 5.5 or greater than 11.0”

Report Summary

KEY ISSUES:

It is requested that the upper pH limit for Restricted Materials entering the City’s wastewater collection system be raised from 9.0 to 11.0.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION(S):

General Implications

x	None
	For the organization overall and/or for other departments
	For the community and/or organizations external to the City of Winnipeg
	Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s):

Policy Implications

x	No
	Yes

Comment(s):

Regulatory Implications

	None
x	Eliminates or reduces regulatory impact
	Proposes regulatory impact

Comment(s): Raising the upper pH limit from 9.0 to 11.0 for discharges entering the City's wastewater collection system will continue to protect the environment and worker health and safety, and will avoid costly process changes by industry that the current by-law limit would require.

Environmental Implications

x	No
	Yes

Comment(s):

Human Resources Implications

x	No
	Yes

Comment(s):

Financial Implications

x	Within approved current and/or capital budget
	Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment(s):

REPORT

REASON:

An amendment to the Sewer By-law requires Council approval.

HISTORY:

The current Sewer By-law 7070/97 was approved by City Council in 1997. Several minor administrative adjustments have been approved by Council since that time. The Water and Waste Department is recommending that the upper limit in the current pH range in the By-law be adjusted based on local impact and current trends in the industry.

DISCUSSION:

Wastewater discharges from industrial, commercial and institutional sources in Winnipeg are routinely monitored by the Water and Waste Department. One of the chemical parameters monitored is pH. The acceptable range for pH in the wastewater is 5.5 to 9.0 in the current Sewer By-law. Discharges having a pH below 5.5 can cause damage to concrete sewer pipes requiring costly repairs. We are not recommending that the lower limit be changed. However, discharges having a high pH have less of an effect on the wastewater infrastructure.

There are approximately 10 industrial customers whose recent analytical discharge data had pHs in the range of 9.0 to 11.0. The Department has not enforced the current upper pH limit in the By-law against these industries for a variety of reasons, including

- High pH in effluent is less harmful to the wastewater infrastructure than low pH, although effluents with a pH greater than 12.0 would be considered a hazardous waste under Provincial regulations.
- If these industries were required to adjust their effluent pH values to 9.0 or below, they would likely use a strong acid to do so. This would expose their workers to a corrosive material, and would cost the industries significant funds to change their processes and to install dosing equipment, for no real environmental gain, given the dilution effect as the effluent mixes with normal wastewater in the sewers.
- The trend elsewhere by other utilities has been to relax the upper limit on pH to between 10.5 and 11.5.
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Given the current situation where some industries are technically out of compliance with Section 25(5) of Sewer By-law 7070/97, it is the Department's recommendation that the current By-law should be amended as soon as possible to bring these industries into compliance and to be consistent with the trend in by-laws across Canada

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The following financial impact statement for this project has been prepared in accordance with the recommendation adopted by Council on December 13, 2000.

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** November 5, 2007

Project Name:
AMENDMENT TO SEWER BY-LAW NO. 7070/97 SECTION 25(5) RESTRICTED MATERIALS

COMMENTS:

There is no financial impact associated with raising the upper pH limit for discharges to the City's wastewater collection system.

"Original signed by M.L. Geer, C.A."
Moira L. Geer C.A.
Manager of Finance & Administration

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS:

Internal Consultation With and Concurrence By:

Legal Services Division

External Consultation With:

Since the proposed By-law change would be less restrictive than the present requirements we have not consulted with our customers. We will advise them of the change if it is approved by City Council.

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Water and Waste Department
Environmental Standards Division
Prepared by: R. D. Ross
K. J. T. Kjartanson, P. Eng.
File No. 040-17-03-00-00

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

BY-LAW NO

A By-law of The City of Winnipeg to amend By-law No. 7070/97, being the "Sewer By-Law".

THE CITY OF WINNIPG, Council assembled, enacts as follows:

1. By-law No. 7070/97 is hereby amended by deleting Section 25(5) thereof and substituting therefore the following:

"(5) pH less than 5.5 or greater than 11.0".

DONE AND PASSED in Council assembled this day of ,2007

_____
Mayor

_____
City Clerk

Approved:

_____
Director, Water and Waste Department

Certified as to form:

_____
for City Solicitor/Manager of
Legal Services