

SUBMISSION – DAVID GRANT

Item 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment dated June 15, 2026 (2025 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Master Plan, Financial Update Environment Act Licence No. 3042)

Submitted: Tue, 06/23/2026 - 11:56

Committee you want to address

Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

Water 1

Support or oppose recommendations

I am opposed to the recommendations

Register as a delegation

Via zoom

Submit comments in writing checkbox

Submit comments in writing

Comments

CSOverflow As some of you will recall, in the 1970s, I was one of Canada's leading experts in CSO mitigation. My work was published more than 50 years ago. The City of Windsor was fully committed to CSO mitigation in 1972. This report is silent on the actual BOD load imposed on the rivers. Why? This number is far more relevant than the headline grabbing liters per day. If 100L of sanitary flow is mixed with 1000L of fresh rainwater, and 800L of this mixture goes to the river, while 200L of it is treated, this increases the BOD load as much as would 80L of sanitary flow. Does the city report the 800L and not the 80L? Does anyone here know? Do your staff know?

I recall a delegate speaking to Brian Bowman's Council on CSO mitigation. She asked: If your toilet is overflowing, should your response be to buy new kitchen cupboards? She was asking for discretionary spending to be diverted to the CSO problem.

This report is silent on efforts to adjust the flow out of combined sewer interceptors. Has this ever been done, in Winnipeg? How recently has this been done? I have explained this in detail here for many years. Has this important message been kept from your relevant staff?

This report is also silent on river and rainwater leaking into the sanitary system. What has the city done to identify, quantify, and mitigate these issues?

Infrastructure does not last forever. Buried wires and drinking water pipes are routinely replaced. Sanitary sewers are exceeding capacity because of the HAF apartment program. Many storm sewers need more capacity. Does your CSO program take either of these facts into account? This report is silent on how to fix these related problems.

The CSO problem is more than making the river less cloudy. It is about providing some of the services that you are obligated to provide to residents. If the budget to achieve 85%

reduction in CSO were increased to include replacement of the worst old pipes, it would only take 10 years, and a pause in discretionary spending. That is the moral test that previous Councils have failed for decades.

Public engagement (optional)

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.

Yes

Personal information

First name

David

Last name

Grant