In December 2006 members of Council raised concerns about sewer use overstrength agreements. In February 2007, in response to those concerns, staff began working on the Terms of Reference to commission a study to review existing City policies regarding sewer use agreements and hauled sewage management as outlined in the current Sewer Use By-law 04-150.

The City of Hamilton regulates the use of the City's sanitary, combined, and storm sewers through Sewer Use By-law 04-150. Among other things, this By-law establishes limits for the concentration of various parameters in discharges to the City's sewers, and provides for four types of agreements with sewer users whose discharges lie outside the limits of the By-law. Generally speaking, these agreements allow the City to recover the costs for treating sewage not in compliance with the By-law limits and, in some cases, establish a time frame for the discharger to undertake measures to bring the discharges into compliance with the By-law limits.

The By-law also regulates the discharge of hauled sewage into the City's sewage system, establishing fees for the discharge of hauled sewage, and regulating where, when, and who may use the City's sewage collection system for this purpose.

The scope of the project includes:

1. A review of existing background reports.
2. A review of existing City policies regarding the various agreements allowed in the By-law.
3. A review of the City's hauled sewage management policies.
4. Interviews with key senior staff.
5. Making recommendations for changes either to the By-law or in the administration of the By-law where necessary to meet the City's policy objectives.
6. Host Public Information Centres to get feedback on the results prior to bringing to Council for approval.

Where gaps in the existing background information exist or where there is not enough information available to properly advise the City, the consultant makes recommendations for further study. Such studies may or may not be added to the scope of the Engineering Assignment. The Terms of Reference are to serve as the framework for Proponents to develop a Proposal to provide the required professional services.

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OAR-07-001

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The total value of this assignment is approximately $45,000 and was issued to R.E. Poisson Engineering under the current Roster for Wastewater Engineering, as covered under the Purchasing By-law.

Yours truly,

Jim Harnum, C.Tech.
Senior Director
Water and Wastewater Division

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