



# Policy

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POL.COR.17.03

## Selection of Municipal Wastewater Servicing Methodology and Responsibility of Grinder Pumps

<b>Policy Type:</b>	Corporate Policy
<b>Date Approved:</b>	September 25, 2017
<b>Department:</b>	Infrastructure and Public Works
<b>Staff Report:</b>	CSPW.17.088
<b>By-Law No.:</b>	na

### Policy Statement

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Municipal wastewater servicing is to be made available to all un-serviced areas within the applicable Service Areas as described in the Town's Official Plan.

### Purpose

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The purpose of this policy is to outline the means by which the selection of the wastewater servicing methodology will be made when extending municipal wastewater services and to clarify the ownership and operation of grinder pumps servicing properties connected to low pressure sanitary systems.

### Application

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The policy applies to all Staff involved in the determination of wastewater servicing methodologies and interaction with property owners regarding servicing extensions.

### Procedures

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#### Selection of Municipal Wastewater Servicing Methodology

When a municipal wastewater servicing extension to an un-serviced area of Town is being considered, there are typically various viable servicing alternatives. The alternatives evaluated may have varying relative costs for capital works and ongoing operation and maintenance. That is, one solution may have a high capital cost but a low ongoing operation and maintenance costs, and another solution, the reverse. To select the preferred municipal servicing alternative, a comparison of the life cycle costs over a 20-year period must be completed.

## Selection of Municipal Wastewater Servicing Methodology and Responsibility of Grinder Pumps

The 20-year life cycle cost for any alternative will be the total combined capital, operating and maintenance costs for Works to be assumed by the Town (the “Public Works”) and the Works required on the serviced property (the “Private Works”).

The Public Works costs include the capital installation cost of infrastructure to be assumed by the Town (including the cost of restoration of lands and the road allowance as necessary) and the ongoing operating and maintenance costs for that infrastructure.

The Private Works costs include all works that will be owned, operated and maintained by the property owner including restoration. Each property is not to be assessed individually. Instead, an average allowance is to be made for the properties involved in the servicing project. In exceptional situations, some variation can be made in the allowance when there is a significant cost disparity in servicing various groups of properties. The typical costs to be considered for Private Works are: sanitary lateral from the property line to the house; reconfiguration of internal plumbing; decommissioning of the septic tank; grinder pump (if utilized) and associated connection to the municipal low pressure sanitary system; and restoration.

Costs that are common to all the servicing solutions, such as user billing, can be ignored because their inclusion will not change the decision.

The depreciation of Works or the end of period residual value can be considered provided the Public Works and Private Works are treated equally.

Once all life-cycle costs are known, a comparison can be made to determine the lowest life-cycle cost alternative. In most instances, the alternative with the lowest life-cycle cost will be preferred. There may however be circumstances where the costs are relatively close that there are other factors such as property owner preference, future extension capacity, or other factors that warrant another alternative being selected as the preferred option. The scenario where this may occur is when the cost of a traditional gravity system is slightly higher than a low pressure sanitary system, and there is a property owner preference not to own and operate grinder pumps. Other overriding considerations may be the protection of the natural environment or another priority reason by the Town. When the lowest life-cycle cost alternative is not selected as preferred, the reasons why are to be presented to Council and their endorsement received to not select the lowest life-cycle cost alternative prior to the completion of the project.

### Ownership of Grinder Pumps

The ownership and ongoing operation and maintenance costs are the responsibility of the property owner serviced by the grinder pump. The primary reason is that the owners gain the cost benefit inherent in selecting the lowest life-cycle cost solution, and therefore should not be furthered subsidized for operational costs by the other wastewater users.

### **Consequences of Non-Compliance**

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Miscommunication and confusion with the affected property owners will occur if this policy is not followed.

Staff will be subject to progressive discipline if the policy is not followed.

### **Review Cycle**

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This policy will be reviewed once per term of Council.