



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

To / Destinataire	Mayor and Members of Council	File/N° de fichier:
From / Expéditeur	Tammy Rose, General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services	
Subject / Objet	Significant Weather Event Update: IWSD's Response and Impacts	Date: April 6, 2023

Following the significant weather event on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, this memorandum is to update Council on the City's water and wastewater operational response.

Since yesterday, some of the City's water and wastewater facilities experienced power interruptions, I can confirm, there are no impacts on drinking water quality. Infrastructure and Water Services Department (IWSD) has proactive measures in place for these types of events. In anticipation of utility power interruptions, critical processes are transferred to backup emergency generators at the outset of significant weather events to ensure continuity of operations.

Water Treatment Plants

Throughout the weather event, the two drinking water treatment plants, Lemieux and Britannia, worked in tandem to provide continuous clean and safe drinking water. All of the City's drinking water pumping stations and six communal well systems also functioned as intended and without any service interruptions.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

[The Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre \(ROPEC\)](#), located at 800 Green Creek Road, is the City of Ottawa's wastewater treatment plant. The facility receives and treats wastewater from across the city before discharging treated effluent to the Ottawa River, ensuring it is safe for the environment.

On April 5, 2023, at approximately 4:00 pm, ROPEC lost utility power, and it was restored on April 6, 2023 at approximately 3:30 pm. During the utility power outage, critical processes were powered by diesel generators to continue to treat wastewater, though at a partially reduced quality. The plant operations responded as expected; however, when the treatment quality is impacted, the Regulations classify this as a by-pass, and staff have reported the event to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

It is important to note that ROPEC is located downstream of the City's two drinking water treatment plants and therefore, there was no impact to the City's drinking water.

We have been in contact with our partners in the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, as well as Ottawa Public Health and municipalities immediately downstream from the outfall.

Wastewater treatment is a highly regulated industry, and we continue to follow all regulations to ensure our wastewater is safe.

Laporte Sanitary Pumping Station

The Laporte Sanitary Pumping Station, located at 1056 Laporte Street, lost utility power on April 5, 2023, at 3:18 pm, for approximately 25 minutes, until staff were able to bring a portable generator onsite to restore power.

During the utility power outage, the pumping station overflowed to the local storm sewer. As a result, approximately 10 cubic meters of sewage spilled into the storm sewer. Staff immediately responded and attempted to prevent the discharge and clean up the spill. This station does not currently have an installed backup generator but a capital project is underway to install a permanent backup power system and other upgrades.

A review will also be undertaken to determine the cause of the spill and find opportunities to mitigate or eliminate future occurrences.

The spill has been reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Parks and Climate Change.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to monitor all facilities over the weekend. We continue to work with our partners in the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ottawa Public Health and Hydro Ottawa.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the IWSD staff who stepped up and worked diligently to ensure that the City was able to supply clean, safe drinking water to our community and to ensure wastewater continued to flow without backups, and be treated as well, given these challenging circumstances.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Gen Nielsen](#), Director, Water Facilities and Treatment Service, at extension 12686 or [Marilyn Journeaux](#), Director, Water Linear and Customer Service, at extension 21528.

Tammy A. M. Rose, P.Eng
General Manager
Infrastructure and Water Services Department