



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Information Report

Report From: Chris Legge, Water & Sewer Foreman

Meeting Date: October 10, 2023

Subject: SRWS 23-05 Riverside Overflow Event and Tara Wastewater Spill

Attachments: Appendix A - Tara Utility Operations Spill Reporting – August 1, 2023
Appendix B - Chesley Riverside Overflow Reporting – August 17, 2023

Report Summary

To provide Council with information regarding two (2) recent events in the municipally owned wastewater systems. There was a reported spill at the Tara Wastewater Mill Street Lift Station, and a Chesley Riverside Lift Station overflow event due to extreme weather conditions.

Background

On the morning of August 1, 2023, a reportable spill occurred at the Tara Wastewater Mill Street Lift Station, due to an underground pipe failure.

An extreme weather event late in the evening hour of August 17, 2023, caused an overflow event at the Chesley Riverside Lift Station.

Analysis

On the morning of August 1, 2023, Arran-Elderslie water operations staff found a wastewater spill at the wastewater pumping station located at 46 Mill Street in Tara. The Wastewater pumping station was immediately shut down for investigation of the spill. Wastewater vacuum trucks and a Hydrovac truck were brought in to continue the

operation of the lift station as well as to excavate the location and repair the source of the spill.

Upon excavation, the spill was determined to be the result of a small hole in the wastewater pumping forcemain piping. The hole was the result of a stone rubbing against the pipe. The pipe was repaired using a stainless-steel repair clamp, and the lift station was able to resume normal operation by mid-afternoon that same day. The forcemain piping is PVC and has an expected life span that exceeds its current age of approximately 40 years. This issue would be considered an unexpected failure, and not indicating an imminent infrastructure issue needing to be addressed. Notifications to Spills Action Centre (SAC), Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Grey Bruce Public Health and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority were completed and a SAC incident number of 1-3P2HD2 was issued. The internal Utility Operations reporting form that Arran-Elderslie staff completed is attached to this report, Appendix A.

In the evening hours of August 17, 2023, an extreme rainfall weather event occurred at 19:45 causing an overflow at the Chesley Riverside Lift Station. The downpour resulted in the lift station being overwhelmed with flow and a subsequent overflow occurred allowing one cubic meter (9.3 m³) to be released to the Saugeen River. Staff made every attempt to prevent the overflow including manipulating lift station run times and calling in vac-trucks to help with the surge of flow. Despite those efforts, the lift station still went to overflow. Once the vac-truck was onsite, staff were able to bring the overflow under control. The incident was resolved by 22:00, and the lift station was back to normal operation. The internal Utility Operations reporting form that Arran-Elderslie staff completed is attached to this report, Appendix B.

Municipal Staff collected samples at the start and completion of the overflow event, notified the Spills Action Centre (SAC), local Health Unit, Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP), and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority. The sample results were analyzed through our lab, and final notification has been provided back to these authorities.

Opportunities to Implement Modifications to System/Procedures

In early 2020, Council supported the Public Works Department with the implementation of a new fee for illegal connections. This gave ratepayers a one-year period to disconnect illegal connections to the sanitary system or face increased wastewater rates.

Staff is budgeting for some sewer system upgrades and using some of the already existing resources to begin removing some of these connections.

The Municipality received a new CLI (Consolidated Linear Infrastructure) ECA from the MECP in November of 2022. This new Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) includes a clause which requires a professional engineer to complete a study of comparison between wet-weather and dry-weather sewage flows for any system that has had a sewage overflow in the past 10 years. This will apply to the Chesley Sewage

Collection system. This study will be completed by GSS engineering as our Overall Responsible Operator.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

Arran-Elderslie Staff dealt with both events as expeditiously as possible.

The Tara incident was repaired by Municipal staff during normal working hours. However, additional costs were incurred for vac-trucks for the repair. This included Ron Nickason Plumbing and Heating for the sewage hauling at a cost of nine hundred dollars (\$900.00), as well as Foster Sewer Services for a hydro-vac excavation truck at a cost of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00)

The Chesley overflow occurred after-hours which resulted in additional overtime costs. The event started around 19:45 pm and was resolved by 22:00pm. Additional funding was paid out to the contractor, Ron Nickason Plumbing and Heating for the vac-trucks that arrived on-site after hours. Those costs were three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the overflow.

Other associated costs were for staff transporting samples to the lab and processing of the additional samples for the overflow event, approximately two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00)

Notification to the authorities was completed during regular business hours for both incidents and had no additional financial impacts in this regard on the Department.

Approved By: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer