



## **Staff Report**

Council Meeting Date: January 13, 2025

Subject: PWWS-2025-01 Paisley WWTP Wastewater Spill for information purposes.

Report from: Chris Legge, Water & Sewer Foreperson

Attachments: Dec 3, 2024 Paisley Spill.pdf

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### **Recommendation**

Be It Resolved that Council hereby receives Report Number PWWS-2025-01 Paisley WWTP Wastewater Spill for information purposes.

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### **Background**

In the late afternoon of December 3, 2024, a reportable spill occurred at the Paisley Wastewater Treatment Plant. The spill was the result of a mechanical issue in the valve gallery at the sludge storage tanks.

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### **Analysis**

On the afternoon of December 3, 2024, staff was conducting some sludge transfer operations between sludge storage tanks at the Paisley Wastewater Treatment Plant. Staff had changed valves as needed to empty one tank for maintenance activities.

Staff confirmed that sludge was transferring as intended once pumping commenced, however one valve did not completely seal closed due to valve age and difficulty operating the valve. This resulted in a small portion of the sludge being transferred flowing in an unintended direction. This unintended flow was not immediately noticed due to snow cover at the plant on this day. The flow was not able to be noticed until it had travelled under the snow cover and spilled out on to the access road for the WWTP. As soon as the flow was discovered, transferring activities were immediately stopped, and cleanup was initiated as soon as reasonably possible.

Staff used municipal owned equipment as well as a trusted outside contractor to clean up the spilled material in an efficient manner and disposed of the spilled material at the Chesley Wastewater Lagoons for additional treatment. The Spills Action Center was contacted and an incident number of 1-E9C42S was created.

All other required authorities were notified in a timely manner as needed. A utility operations report was submitted to the Owen Sound MECP office and the Provincial Environmental Officer in charge of Arran-Elderslie Wastewater operations compliance. This Utility Operations Report is included as an attachment to this Council report.

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### **Link to Strategic/Master Plan**

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

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### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy**

This incident was responded to by both Arran-Elderslie Water/Sewer staff as well as an outside contractor. The invoice from Ed Karcher has not been received as of the date of writing this report. Based on normal pricing the invoice for this incident will be between \$1,250.00 and \$1,500.00 (estimated). Also, three operators were required after hours, with overtime being required for staffing response.

All reporting and correspondence with required regulatory officials was completed during regular working hours.

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Approved by: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer