

Sewer Use Policy, Bylaw and Regulatory Framework Review



Earth Tech is part of a multi discipline consortium selected to redesign the City of Saskatoon's obsolete Sewer Use Bylaw. Earth Tech's role on the project included the strategic, business, financial, and policy portions of the project. The City's past Sewer Use Bylaw was more than 30 years old and was focused only on the small number of industrial customers that impacted the old primary wastewater treatment processes. Since that time the City has grown, both in size and complexity. In order to meet triple bottom line objectives, a new bylaw that reflected recognized best management practices was needed. Objectives for the project included:

- ✓ Removal of metal and other toxins at source to ensure beneficial reuse of biosolids
- ✓ Ensure the effectiveness of wastewater treatment plant processes
- ✓ Ensure the safety of utility staff
- ✓ Implement a system of surcharge fees that is fair and equitable to all users
- ✓ Consolidate a wide range of Source Control related activities under a single program to improve overall cost effectiveness
- ✓ Formally ratify a broad range of connection policies and principles aimed at ensuring the preservation of the collection system
- ✓ Consolidate and focus the disparate information regarding sources and environmental monitoring to effectively monitor the program
- ✓ Provide adequate enforcement tools to ensure bylaw compliance

The project involved a strategic review of the overall utility and city requirements for sewer use management and source control. Once the strategic objectives were established, a gap analysis was conducted to determine where the city needed to move to in comparison to documented Best Practices.

Due to the anticipated impact on industrial users, a communication and consultation plan was required at an early stage. Best Practices were identified through a number of sources including InfraGuide (www.infraguide.ca), and through Earth Tech's multiyear National Water and Wastewater Benchmarking Initiative (www.nationalbenchmarking.ca)

PROJECT DETAILS

CLIENT: City of Saskatoon
LOCATION: Saskatchewan, Canada

REFERENCE INFORMATION

NAME Greg Chartier, P.Eng.
TEL 306.975.2463

PROBLEM

The old Sewer Use Bylaw did not reflect the City's current customer base and wastewater treatment system. It did not provide adequate tools to assist the City to manage the utility effectively.

CHALLENGES

Source Control best practices will impact the entire utility and many utility customers (industrial, commercial and institutional most notably). This will require behavioral change. Multi stakeholder communication, buy-in and acceptance is an import component of the project.

SOLUTION

Source Control and Sewer Use Management has become well documented through a range of Best Practices. By matching City needs to the range of Best Practices, the optimal suite of tools, techniques and strategies could be recommended, and subsequently implemented.

BENEFITS

The City will have complete and accurate information regarding all wastewater sources along with an appropriate suite of management strategies and enforcement tools to ensure the effective operation of the utility along triple bottom line objectives.