



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	April 20, 2023
SUBJECT:	Spills from Hamilton Water Infrastructure Webpage - HW.23.03
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Shane McCauley Director, Water and Wastewater Operations Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

On February 13, 2023, Hamilton Water presented Burlington Street Sewage Spill Update report ([PW22088\(a\)](#)) to Public Works Committee with an overview of the Provincial Officer's Order relating to the Burlington Street and Rutherford Avenue sewage spills, the implications, and the steps being taken to address the requirements.

The report recommended the implementation of a communications guideline for sewage spills resulting from City of Hamilton wastewater infrastructure. The purpose of the Communications Guideline ([included as Appendix "F" to Report PW22088\(a\)](#)) is to assist in keeping Council, Senior Leadership, the community, media and other stakeholders informed in an open and transparent manner, including publishing a webpage dedicated to providing information relating to sewage spills originating from City of Hamilton wastewater infrastructure that have been identified through Hamilton Water's risk-based inspection pilot program, or through other means.

Today, the City of Hamilton (City) has published its dedicated Sewer Inspection Program webpage (www.hamilton.ca/sewerinspectionprogram) which provides an overview of the pilot program's approach and progress to date, as well as a mapping tool that allows users to view a registry of all sewage spills originating from City of Hamilton wastewater infrastructure. Using the interactive map, web users can view the location of a spill, date of discovery, cause, corrective actions, spill volume and more.

As required by regulation, if a potential sewage spill from City of Hamilton wastewater infrastructure is identified, Hamilton Water will notify the Ministry of Environment

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Conservation and Parks of the potential spill through the Spills Action Centre. Hamilton Water will investigate the situation further to confirm if there is a spill occurring from Hamilton Water wastewater infrastructure or from a private cross-connection. As per the Hamilton Water Sewage Spills Communications Guideline, if the investigation confirms a sewage spill originating from City of Hamilton wastewater infrastructure, the communication protocols will be based on the relative magnitude of the spill. While the relative magnitude of the spill will determine the level of communication with stakeholders, an update to the dedicated Sewer Inspection Program webpage will always be initiated.

To-date, the City has completed 288 combined sewer maintenance chamber inspections and 346 storm sewer maintenance chamber inspections. As a result, three spills have been identified as part of the pilot program (Burlington Street, Rutherford Avenue and Kinrade Avenue). The fourth spill was identified through the City's sewer regulator inspection program (Wentworth Street South). While all inspections as part of the pilot program are complete, ongoing maintenance inspections will continue, and spills identified as part of these inspection programs as well as any new inspection programs resulting from the Ministry's Order will be shared via the sewer inspection webpage.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

NA