




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	September 9, 2025
SUBJECT:	Procurement Policy 10 - Woodward WWTP- Emergency Polymer Tank Replacement (HW2506)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Shane McCauley Director, Water & Wastewater Operations Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

This Communication Update is provided in accordance with Procurement Policy By-law No. 22-255, Policy 10. It reports on emergency work carried out following the rupture of a polymer storage tank at the Woodward Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Background

On October 8, 2023, a significant leak was discovered in Polymer Tank #2. Polymer is a treatment chemical that helps separate water from solids during the wastewater treatment process. It is essential for the centrifuges that prepare biosolids for processing at the Biosolids Management Facility, operated by Synagro.

An immediate repair attempt (a welded metal patch) was unsuccessful because the tank wall had weakened with age. Tank #2 was removed from service, and operations relied on the remaining tanks.

Given that these tanks are critical to the wastewater treatment process, Hamilton Water declared an emergency under Procurement Policy By-law 22-255.

Assessment

A specialty contractor, Ontario Tank Specialists, inspected all three polymer tanks. Their assessment showed that all tanks had reached the end of their service life and needed replacement to avoid operational or regulatory failure.

If a tank had failed completely, the centrifuges would not have received polymer, leading to treatment disruptions, possible equipment damage, and risk of non-compliance with environmental regulations within days.

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Emergency Work

On October 25, 2023, McCanical Contracting, a local millwright contractor, was engaged to replace all three tanks.

To maintain the wastewater process, each existing tank was dismantled and removed. Three temporary plastic tanks were installed until the new permanent stainless-steel tanks were fabricated and installed on-site.

Financials and Timing

The project was completed in June 2024. Normally, staff would report emergency work to Council soon after project close-out. In this case, the final invoice was not received until August 2025 due to delays on the contractor's side in closing their accounts. These delays were administrative in nature and unrelated to the quality of the work.

Once the invoice was received and reconciled, staff finalized the costs and prepared this report in accordance with Procurement Policy 10. The total cost of the emergency work was \$457,479.22 (including taxes).

Should you have any questions, please contact Danny Locco, Manager of Plant Maintenance and Technical Services at (905) 546-2424 ext. 5487.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A