



Regional Wastewater Odour Response: Update to Committee of the Whole

May 20, 2025

The Municipality of the County of Kings and the Regional Wastewater Partners are working with engineering firms with experience in wastewater treatment to get the odour at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in New Minas under control.

“We need air, air, air – that’s what’s going to fix this,” Director of Engineering and Public Works Brad Carrigan told Municipal Council in a [presentation to Committee of the Whole on May 20](#).

Consultants identified a lack of oxygen in the primary treatment lagoons as the main cause of the odour this spring. **The Municipality is working with subject matter experts to get more air into the lagoons in a variety of ways:**

- Portable lagoon masters have been installed on site to get more air into the lagoons with challenging odours.
- Cleaner water from the healthier lagoons is being transferred into Lagoon 1 to dilute the contents of the first lagoon, which receives untreated wastewater entering the plant.
- A blower was added to the system on May 14 to deliver more air to the new diffusers installed in Lagoon 1 and Lagoon 2 in the last two years.

There is more air moving into the system now, and there is more air on the way. **The next steps for addressing the odour will involve a combination of short-term solutions and medium-term improvements:**

- Two new, high-efficiency blowers are scheduled to arrive for installation this week. The piping and electrical work required to connect the new blowers to the system is already underway.
- The Municipality is acting on expert advice to explore how rented blowers could be acquired and added to the system to help get the odour under control.
- Staff are already looking into renting additional blowers for the system early next year to get more air into the lagoons before odours become pronounced with the return of fluctuating temperatures next spring.

- The Municipality is investigating the potential use of masking agents with the understanding that this could only ever be a temporary measure and there is more research to do before this can be considered.
- The Municipality is purchasing and installing sampling technology that will help monitor what is coming into the treatment plant from large industrial and institutional users.
- The data from sampling technology will be studied to gain a better understanding of what is coming into the plant, when and how to treat it.
- An engineering review of the entire Regional system is underway to look at how to address current issues and how to introduce improvements that will prepare the plant for the next 25 years of operations. This review will include looking into various treatment options to meet the environmental needs of the future.

The community is understandably asking for prompt action, the Regional Partners are determined to get the odour at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant under control as soon as possible.

The Municipality and its funding partners - the Town of Kentville, Village of New Minas, and Pepsico – are committed to a multi-year plan for odour management improvements and upgrades at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. For future updates and more about the Regional system, visit www.countyofkings.ca/regionalsewerupdates.