

Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Subject: Temagami North Water Treatment Plant – Intrusion System Failure and Replacement

Memo No: 2025-M-118

Date: May 08, 2025

Attachment: None

Prepared By: Laala Jahanshahloo - CAO/Treasurer

Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-118 as presented.

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1. Executive Summary

The intrusion alarm system at the Temagami North Water Treatment Plant (WTP) failed due to system obsolescence and hardware deterioration. The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA), the Municipality's contracted operating authority, determined that the system was no longer capable of providing reliable perimeter security. Given the regulatory importance of securing water infrastructure under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) expectations, OCWA has ordered the necessary replacement parts and will proceed with installation as soon as the components are received.

2. Background

The previous intrusion alarm system at the Temagami North WTP exhibited multiple critical failures that rendered it unreliable:

- It randomly triggered false alarms ("ghost calls") when armed.
- It frequently failed to arm or disarm, leaving the building unsecured.
- The keypad was malfunctioning, and the hardware showed signs of physical deterioration.
- The system was obsolete, unsupported, and could not be repaired due to lack of replacement parts.

These issues posed a direct threat to the physical security of the facility and created non-compliance risks under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Municipal Drinking Water Licence (MDWL), and associated MECP expectations for water system protection.

3. Physical Security and Cybersecurity Compliance

As outlined in Memo 2024-M-207 – *Cybersecurity Compliance for Municipal Water Systems*, the MECP issued a directive in November 2024 reinforcing the importance of physical and cybersecurity measures at municipal water and wastewater facilities.

While the Temagami North WTP's SCADA system remains isolated and digitally secure under OCWA protocols, the lack of a functioning alarm system created a physical vulnerability that could:

- Allow unauthorized access to critical infrastructure;
- Violate conditions of the MDWL and the Safe Drinking Water Act;
- Jeopardize the Municipality's insurance coverage in the event of theft, vandalism, or tampering.

The directive explicitly requires municipalities to ensure perimeter protection through functional alarm systems and safe manual override procedures in case of system compromise.

4. Expenditure Summary

OCWA submitted a formal Expenditure Request and has completed the replacement of the alarm system. The cost breakdown is as follows:

Description	Amount
Labour (8 hours, Instrument Tech)	\$760.00
External Services and/or Materials	\$3,561.66
Total Project Cost (excl. HST)	\$4,321.66

5. Conclusion

The failure of the intrusion alarm system at the Temagami North Water Treatment Plant posed significant risks to compliance, operational security, and public safety. OCWA acted promptly to replace the system, and the work has been completed in full. This report is presented for Council's information and to reaffirm the Municipality's commitment to regulatory compliance and infrastructure protection.