

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

TransAqua Invites Auditor General to Audit Upgrade Project

RIVERVIEW, N.B. – TransAqua – the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission (GMWC) – has invited the Auditor General of New Brunswick to audit its WWTF Upgrade and Modernization Project procurement methods and determine whether they resulted in good value for money for the Greater Moncton ratepayer.

TransAqua’s wastewater treatment facility upgrade is a \$90.4 million project designed to improve the quality of the wastewater returned to the Petitcodiac River, in accordance with a federally imposed effluent regulation. TransAqua has announced in December of 2020 that it had met the effluent regulation deadline.

According to the organization’s chair, Michel Desjardins, the board of directors has called upon the Auditor General because an internal debate has emerged on this question.

“We have a strong board and a number of good questions have been raised about whether our approaches to awarding contracts provided optimal value to the Greater Moncton rate payers within GMWC’s Purchasing Policy and the New Brunswick Procurement Act. We have performed our due diligence and provided all information about our procurement methods to our funding partners, Infrastructure Canada and the Regional Development Corporation, and to the municipalities. While most commissioners believe that ratepayers did indeed get good value for money and that the organization’s procurement methods struck an appropriate balance between cost, quality, and schedule, the debate is ongoing.”

According to Desjardins, the board of directors now believes a third party needs to provide an independent assessment.

“At some point, we need to bring closure to our debate. Therefore, the board has agreed to invite the Auditor General to investigate and to make a public pronouncement on the matter. We welcome her as she is the best person to address the issue thoroughly and objectively and in such a way that ensures transparency and public trust.”

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