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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Works Committee  
From: Commissioner of Works  
Report: #2025-W-20  
Date: June 4, 2025

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**Subject:**

Approval to Award a Sole Source Agreement to SNF Canada for the Purchase of Anionic Powder Polymer for Enhanced Total Phosphorus Removal at the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, in the City of Pickering

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**Recommendation:**

That the Works Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That staff be authorized to negotiate and award the sole source purchase of anionic powder polymer from SNF Canada for the purpose of enhanced total phosphorous removal at the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, with terms not to exceed three years;
- B) That financing for the sole source purchase be provided from the approved 2025 Sanitary Sewerage Operations Budget for the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant and future years Business Plans and Budgets. The estimated three-year total cost is \$750,000\* or \$250,000\* annually; and
- C) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute the necessary sole source agreement for supply of anionic powder polymer.

**Report:****1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) Council approval to award a sole source agreement for the supply of anionic powder polymer to SNF Canada for enhanced total phosphorous removal at the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP).

1.2 Dollar amount followed by an asterisk (\*) are before applicable taxes.

**2. Background**

2.1 One of the recommendations in an Environmental Study Report issued in 2013 as part of the Duffin Creek WPCP Outfall Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) was to optimize the existing secondary treatment processes to enhance phosphorous removal. This resulted in the subsequent development from 2016-2019 of a Phosphorous Reduction Action Plan (PRAP) for the Duffin Creek WPCP, which identified the addition of anionic powder polymer to the treatment process as a supplementary chemical to improve phosphorus removal.

2.2 The PRAP study included field trials, for which the engineering consultant (Formerly CH2M Hill Canada; now Jacobs Canada) selected SNF Canada to supply the anionic powder polymer.

2.3 The results and recommendations of the PRAP study were reviewed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP); as well as by the Duffin Creek WPCP Advisory Committee, which was comprised of stakeholders from the local conservation authority, local environmental interest groups, and local area municipalities in York and Durham Regions.

2.4 Following the positive results of the PRAP study, capital upgrades were implemented at the Duffin Creek WPCP from 2020 through 2024 to enable the addition of anionic powder polymer to the treatment process. SNF Canada continued to be the supplier of anionic powder polymer during the capital upgrades.

2.5 Field trials to evaluate potential alternative suppliers of anionic powder polymer were not feasible during the PRAP capital upgrades since a significant amount of coordination is required between the contractor and plant operations to maintain

compliance during a construction project, and the introduction of field trials would have increased the risk of experiencing non-compliance events.

- 2.6 In 2024, an additional capital project was initiated that involves significant rehabilitation of the existing secondary treatment processes at the Duffin Creek WPCP, and this construction is expected to continue until 2027. An evaluation of alternative anionic powder polymers will not be possible during these capital upgrades due to the increased risk of experiencing non-compliance events.
- 2.7 To mitigate the risk to regulatory compliance requirements and to the treatment process conditions, it is recommended that SNF Canada continue to supply anionic powder polymer to the Duffin Creek WPCP until the end of 2027 when the current capital upgrades are expected to be complete. Field trials to evaluate the compatibility of potential alternative anionic powder polymers can be undertaken by prospective vendors following completion of these capital upgrades, and then a tender developed and issued for the supply of anionic powder polymer to the Duffin Creek WPCP.

### **3. Previous Reports and Decisions**

- 3.1 In August 2024 a sole source purchase request was approved for the supply of anionic powder polymer from SNF Canada to the Duffin Creek WPCP.

### **4. Rationale for Sole Source**

- 4.1 An absence of anionic polymer powder from the treatment process during wet weather or high flow events at the Duffin Creek WPCP could result in process disruptions, increased costs and risk of non-compliance.
- 4.2 SNF Canada has successfully supplied anionic polymer powder to the Duffin Creek WPCP for approximately 10 years, and they are currently the only vendor who can ensure that their anionic powder polymer is compatible with the treatment process conditions at the Duffin Creek WPCP. Once the ongoing capital construction projects at the WPCP are completed in 2027, prospective vendors will be able to evaluate the compatibility of alternative anionic powder polymers by undertaking field trials.
- 4.3 The current vendor, SNF Canada, was originally selected by the engineering consultant for the PRAP study. The results and recommendations of the PRAP study were reviewed by the MECP and by the Duffin Creek WPCP Advisory Committee.

## 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The Region's Purchasing Bylaw #16-2020 permits the acquisition of goods and services through sole source negotiations under specific circumstances outlined in Appendix "C" of the by-law. Section 1.1 of Appendix "C" permits negotiations for goods or services that can be supplied only by a particular supplier where no reasonable alternative or substitution of goods or services exist to ensure compatibility with existing goods or to maintain specialized goods that must be maintained by the manufacturer of those goods or its representative. The by-law also requires approval by the appropriate standing committee and Council for the award of sole source contracts that exceed \$100,000 in value.
- 5.2 The sole source agreement will be funded from the 2025 approved Sanitary Sewerage Operations Budget and future years Business Plans and Budget at an estimated annual cost of \$250,000 from 2025 to 2027. The total estimated cost over the three-year period is \$750,000, with costs to be shared proportionally between the Regional Municipalities of Durham and York based on utilization as follows:

Durham Region Share (17.2%) User Rate	\$129,000
York Region Share (82.8%)	<u>\$621,000</u>
Total Upset Limit	<u>\$750,000</u>

## 6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- Prepare for and respond to severe weather impacts.
  - Respect the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, and agricultural lands.
  - Collaborate for a seamless service experience.

**7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 It is recommended the Regional Municipality of Durham enter into a sole source agreement with SNF Canada Limited for the supply and delivery of anionic powder polymer to the Duffin Creek WPCP for a three-year term at an estimated contract value of \$750,000.
- 7.2 This report has been reviewed by the Finance Department and the Commissioner of Finance concurs with the recommendations.
- 7.3 For additional information, contact Rich Tindall, Manager, Water and Wastewater Treatment, at 905-668-4113 extension 3547 or Mike Hubble, Director Environmental Services, at 905-668-7711 extension 3460.

Respectfully submitted,

**Original signed by:**

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Ramesh Jagannathan, MBA, M.Eng., P.Eng., PTOE  
Commissioner of Works

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

**Original signed by:**

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer