



---

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** April 29, 2026  
**To:** Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee  
**From:** Sean Beech, Manager of Environmental Services  
**Report Number:** ITS26-010  
**Attachments:** Stratford WPCP-Annual Report 2025 (AODA)

---

**Title:** 2025 Stratford Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) Annual Report

**Objective:** To submit the 2025 Stratford Water Pollution Control Plant Annual Report to Council for their information to ensure transparency between Council and the operating authority, the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA).

**Background:** The Stratford WPCP is owned by the City of Stratford and operated under contract by OCWA. OCWA has prepared the 2025 Annual WPCP Report, which must be submitted annually to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), showing how the treatment plant performed throughout the year.

The report summarizes operational details for the WPCP and reports on all the activities that occurred at the treatment plant throughout the year. The report also indicates how the plant met Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) requirements for effluent discharge into the Avon River.

Appendices to the report are not accessible and can be requested.

### **Analysis:**

**Total Flows-** The WPCP treated a total of 6,341,379 m<sup>3</sup> of influent for an average flow of 17,363m<sup>3</sup> per day. This is an 11% decrease in total flows from last year. The design capacity of the treatment plant is 30,660m<sup>3</sup> per day and based on the flows received for 2025, operated at 56.6% of the design capacity. This percentage decreased from 63.8% in 2024.

**Overflow Events-** During the 2025 year, the treatment plant had 4 overflow events where there was treated discharge from the wet weather equalization tank and discharge into the Avon River. These events were all due to flows caused by heavy precipitation and/or snow melt.

During a large increase of inflow to the plant, the excess flow is diverted to an equalization tank and contact chamber where appropriate chlorination of the flow is achieved. Upon leaving the Chlorine Contact Chamber, the flow is then de-chlorinated by sodium bisulphite prior to discharge into the Avon River.

The treatment plant also experienced six (6) Bypass Events in 2025. Five (5) tertiary bypasses occurred due to wet weather and operational/mechanical issues within the filter system, and one (1) secondary bypass occurred due to a large storm event. A bypass event occurs when a portion of the entire treatment process is bypassed. The bypass water events typically achieve full treatment. A total volume of 24,661 m<sup>3</sup> were bypassed during these events. All bypassing flow was disinfected through the facilities UV system apart from the secondary bypass event. All bypass and overflow events were reported to the MECP as required.

**Effluent Quality** -The effluent discharges met all requirements for levels of removal for 2025:

- Total Suspended Solids: 96.90%
- Total Phosphorus: 97.06%

**Capital Projects** – The following are some of the more major capital projects undertaken for the 2025 year:

- Turbo Blower Maintenance and HMI replacement
- Screw Pump #1 Upper and Lower Bearing replacements
- Filter Surface Wash Pump #1 Repairs and Reinstallation
- Cleanout of Aeration Cell #2 and O-ring replacement
- Meeting Room/ Lunchroom Roof Replacement
- Grit Removal Arm Replacement
- Mudwell Pump #1 Rebuild
- Raw Sludge Pump Rotor and Stator Replacements
- Annual Flowmeter and Level Transmitter calibrations

The Primary Digester Roof and Mixing System Replacement Project is proceeding well, with the retained Engineering Consultants Staff currently supporting this project to keep the project on schedule.

In summary, the Water Pollution Control Plant, operated by OCWA, has met or exceeded all Environmental Compliance Approval requirements for the 2025 operating year.

Future operating budget impacts will be determined through OCWA's annual Major Maintenance Recommendations Report, presented each October. The report identifies capital works required at the WPCP and helps establish the reserve contributions needed to fund those projects. Staff will continue to review capital requirements and the associated reserve fund contributions through the annual budget process.

Each year, these projects are included in the capital budget under "Pollution Control Plant Improvements," with a 2026 allocation of \$440,000. As the Sanitary Division operates on a user-pay basis, these costs are fully funded through user fees and have no impact on the tax levy.

**Financial Implications:**

**Financial impact to current year operating budget:**

There are no financial implications as this report is informational.

**Financial impact on future year operating budget:**

There are no financial implications as this report is informational.

**Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

**Enhance our Infrastructure**

Optimizing Stratford's physical assets and digital resources. Planning a sustainable future for Stratford's resources and environment.

**Alignment with One Planet Principles:**

**Sustainable Water**

Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought.

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the 2025 Stratford Water Pollution Control Plant Annual Report be received for information.**

**Prepared by:** Sean Beech, Manager of Environmental Services  
**Recommended by:** Taylor Crinklaw, Director of Infrastructure Services  
André Morin, CPA, Chief Administrative Officer