

Council Policy No.:	CP2026-009
Council Policy Name:	Extra Strength Surcharge Policy
Date Approved by Council:	March 24, 2026 CW2026-048/CR2026-082
Date revision approved by Council:	
Related SOP, Management Directive, Council Policy, Forms	Extra Strength Surcharge Management Directive SOP Admin10 – Extra Strength Surcharge Program Administration

Policy Statement and Rationale:

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes has established the Extra Strength Surcharge (ESS) Program to offset increased operational and maintenance costs associated with discharges into the Municipal Sewer Works that contain substances exceeding the limits set out in By-law 2016-006 “A By-Law to Establish the Management and Use of the Sewer Works in The City of Kawartha Lakes” (herein, “the By-law”). The primary objective of the Program is to ensure that individual Dischargers are held accountable for their contributions to elevated treatment costs, while supporting the City’s ongoing commitment to efficient and effective sewage treatment prior to discharge into local watersheds, thereby preserving ecological integrity.

Scope:

This Policy applies to all properties identified as having the potential to discharge waste into the Municipal Sewer Works in excess of the limits established by the By-law.

Definitions:

“City”, “City of Kawartha Lakes” or “Kawartha Lakes” means The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes, including its entire geographic area, and includes its Officers, Directors, employees and agents;

“Company” means the legal entity who carries on an activity at a premise(s) that produces a sewage discharge in which the concentration of one or more parameter exceeds the limits set out in the By-Law;

“Discharger” means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, municipality, or an agent or employee thereof, who is depositing sewage into the Sewer Works;

“Extra Strength Surcharge Program” or “ESS Program” means the program the City has established to identify and analyze the sewage streams in question and calculate the applicable surcharges;

“Non-compliant” includes sewage discharge which contains substances that exceed the parameter limits set out by By-law 2016-006.

“Property” includes but is not limited to both public and private lands, a house, building, structure, lot or any part of a house, building, structure or lot within the City, and is adjacent to water and/or sewer works and may be entitled to a service connection;

“Sewage” or “Wastewater” means any one of or a combination of domestic sanitary sewage and/or water borne waste, and/or non-domestic sanitary sewage and/or water borne waste, discharged from residences, businesses, recreational facilities, institutions or industry including the unintentional and/or unauthorized inflow or infiltration of storm water or drainage water;

“Sewer Works” means any works from buildings, structures, equipment, appurtenances, devices, conduits, underground pipelines, municipal sewer laterals, outlets, and related installations and other works of the City, designed for the collection and transmission of sewage, and includes lands over which an easement or consent has been granted or lands appropriated for such purposes and use. Includes both sanitary sewers and drainage works (storm sewers);

Policy:

1. General Principles

- 1.1** Properties will be assessed and their Sewage analyzed to determine compliance with the limits established in the By-law. Assessments are based on background information regarding activities conducted at the property and the potential of those activities to result in exceedances. Companies and/or Dischargers entering into an Extra Strength Surcharge (ESS) agreement are authorized to exceed established limits as specified in the By-law.

- 1.2 The City has the authority to conduct sampling as necessary to support the ESS Program and ensure By-law compliance. This includes collecting samples, inspecting equipment, and conducting investigations deemed necessary by the City. A minimum of four (4) sewage samples will be collected, with frequency determined at the City’s discretion.
- 1.3 The City shall calculate a surcharge fee payable by the Company and/or Discharger based on the parameter with the highest exceedance relative to the By-law limits, the volume of sewage entering the Sewer Works (using metered water data), and the current sewage treatment rate. The sewage treatment rate shall be derived from the previous year’s operating and maintenance costs that are directly influenced by overstrength sewage, including, energy, chemicals, labour, and biosolids handling, for the wastewater treatment facility serving the property. Rates will be calculated and adjusted each April, applying a rolling three-year average for the subsequent calendar year.
- 1.4 The City reserves the right to enforce applicable surcharges and rate adjustments at its sole discretion, in accordance with By-Law 2016-006 “A By-Law to Establish The Management and Use of the Sewer Works in the City of Kawartha Lakes.”

2. The Water and Wastewater Division’s Responsibilities

- 2.1 Administration and enforcement of the City’s Extra Strength Surcharge Program shall be conducted out in accordance with this Policy and affiliated documents, including By-law 2016-006 and the associated Extra Strength Surcharge Management Directive and Standard Operating Procedure.
- 2.2 Review and investigate properties suspected of discharging non-compliant effluent, and maintaining records of such reviews and investigations.
- 2.3 Provide the resources necessary to conduct required sampling and obtain analyses from an accredited laboratory.
- 2.4 Promote awareness of the Extra Strength Surcharge Program, educating property owners on the risks, hazards, and costs associated with discharging sewage that exceeds the limits established by the By-law.

Revision History:

Proposed Date of Review:

Revision	Date	Description of Changes	Requested By
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0.1	March 24, 2026	Approved to Replace CP2024-008	
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