

Strum Consulting News

Supervision of A-Block Barracks Demolition, ACM Removals CFB Stadacona

Strum HazMat specialists were retained to supervise removals of asbestos containing materials (ACM) within the former Barracks building located at CFB Stadacona, Halifax, NS. The Barracks was being demolished in preparation for construction of a new Drill Shed at Stadacona. Strum's role was to assist with monitoring of ACM removals throughout the demolition phase of the three-storey A-Block Barracks. Strum carried out on-going air quality monitoring, inspection of work spaces within all enclosures as well as collection and reporting on ACM in dust and air samples. Strum also developed protocols for wetting of construction materials prior to and during demolition of the building. An automated real time fugitive dust monitoring system was also deployed. This assisted in monitoring dust in air surrounding the structure given the number of nearby buildings, pedestrians, and proximity of homeowners. Real time monitoring allowed characterization of fugitive dust concentrations to be undertaken remotely during demolition of the building.



Overtured Fuel Oil Delivery Truck Clean Up

Strum staff were recently called to the scene of a large heating oil spill. A home heating fuel truck, while on delivery, slid off a local road, overturning in a ditch next to a highway. A loss of close to 9,000 litres of heating oil occurred in soil and shallow gravels at the spill point. Initial visits to the site involved early delineation of surface extents with deployment of absorbent pads to contain the oil. The follow-up response required excavation of test pits and a recovery sump from which removal of liquid oil was completed. Subsurface flow was then characterized, fracture traces mapped and a series of monitor wells were installed for hydrogeological analysis. Removal of free-flowing fuel oil is presently on-going with delineation and removal of additional impacted soils and road bed materials planned. A hydraulic diversion is planned to mitigate the potential for oil to impact soils in a nearby sensitive site.



Onslow to Springhill Transmission Line Survey



Strum was contracted to provide survey services for the construction of a new transmission Line from Onslow Substation to the Springhill Substation. A total of 65 km of new transmission line, is being constructed, including the installation of 320 tower structures.

Strum is responsible for the positioning of all structures and log anchors along the corridor while consulting on proposed design locations in order to ensure that final structure locations can be safely and efficiently constructed. This new transmission line is part of the bigger Maritime Link project which enhances Nova Scotia Powers overall infrastructure capacity.



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New “Major Project” Review Legislation on Horizon

With the advancement of Bill C-69, the Federal Government has announced its intention to bring about significant changes to the Federal Environmental Assessment Regulations. This signals a switch in focus from environmental to impact assessment. A new list of designated projects will be developed with Proponents facing shorter time frames along with a goal of one project, one assessment and early on coordination with other jurisdictions. Decisions would be based on science and evidence. Indigenous knowledge and increased public participation will be hallmarks. Currently, these changes stand as proposed legislation which must be passed by Parliament. The schedule for these new rules coming into effect is at yet unknown.

Stormwater Flood Assessment, Halifax, NS

Strum is presently evaluating flooding in a block of streets in downtown Halifax. The development of paved and landscaped surfaces in the city core over time has slowly resulted in reduced ability of local storm drains and streets to move stormwater effectively. Combined with this is the fact that stormwater precipitation intensity has been steadily increasing over time due to climate change, resulting in the inability of existing drains to deal with the flood peaks.



Flooding has resulted in damage to basements, parking garages, and vehicles while causing impasse to pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Detailed drainage basin assessment is underway to evaluate options and system limitations. Part of the assessment involves review of data from deployed storm flow measuring devices to gauge residual water levels in storm drains. Modelling of storm peaks as well as assessment of tidal influence is underway. Initial review suggests that altering flow early in the catchment basin (higher in the drainage area) may help mitigate overall flow peaks. As well, introducing subtle changes to surface grades may also assist with reducing peak water levels during storm events.

East Hants Aquatic Centre, Elmsdale, NS



Strum is assisting with an exciting new community development in Elmsdale, Nova Scotia. This project will see the construction of a new Aquatic Centre. The new facility will include a six-lane, 25-metre lap pool, an accessible leisure spray pool, a lazy river, and other components such as a splash pad, a slide, and a multi-purpose room. Once completed, the centre will provide residents from across the region with increased options for year-round aquatic programming and recreational activities.

Strum is providing civil design for this project. This will include the layout of the building elevations, site access and site grading. As well, Strum will design site services including sewer and water and will undertake stormwater flow analysis for the site. The site is expected to be open as early as summer, 2019.

Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board and MP for Kings-Hants commented, “Important projects like the East Hants Aquatic Centre connect people, create local jobs, and contribute to economic development here in Nova Scotia. This is why the Government of Canada is providing unprecedented funding for public infrastructure projects that will help grow the middle class while improving the quality of life for families and communities across the country.”



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