

## Sewage plant on track to be working in June

By MICHAEL LIGHTSTONE City Hall Reporter

More than a year in the making, the full restoration of Halifax's sewage treatment plant is but a few weeks away.

The almost-repaired \$54-million plant should be operating again in June, a spokesman for the municipality's water utility said Friday.

But James Campbell said Halifax Water doesn't have a target date.

"We are on schedule for late spring and are anticipating raw water flows into the Halifax wastewater treatment facility in the opening weeks of June," he said in an email message.

"An exact date is difficult to set as it all depends on the progress of the (testing) process," Campbell said.

The downtown-area treatment plant broke down in January 2009 after a local blackout led to a flood at the site. The malfunction meant the largest of metro's trio of new sewage plants, part of the \$333-million Harbour Solutions project, was knocked out of commission.

In March, Mayor Peter Kelly expressed hope the plant could be completely rehabilitated by the end of this month. Campbell said that's not going to happen.

He said it's unknown how many days the refurbished plant will be tested before it is back up to speed.

"All the equipment is in place and being tested," Campbell said in his electronic message. "Control equipment is being commissioned; testing with clean water (is) to follow, and then wastewater commissioning."

Cost of the repair job is about \$11 million. Campbell acknowledged the bottom line isn't known yet.

"We are within our estimates but do not have a final number at this point. The vast majority of the estimated \$11 million . . . is being provided by the . . . insurance policy that was in place at the time of the recovery."

( [milightstone@herald.ca](mailto:milightstone@herald.ca) )