

Overall, HRM effectively manages its building permit application and inspection processes; however, we could not determine whether timelines to issue building permits were reasonable, Auditor General, Evangeline Colman-Sadd, said in her report released today, September 16, 2020. The audit covered work related to building inspections completed in 2019.

The audit found building inspections were completed as expected and confirmed compliance with building code, which helps ensure public safety. However, there is room for improvement in developing service standards for application processing times. “Without service time standards, the public does not know what to expect and management does not have targets to assess performance,” the auditor general said.

The auditor general said her office did not do additional work on the recent backlog of permit applications at HRM. Management said process changes as result of COVID-19, and a shift in the timing of requests, have been responsible for the backlog. “Since we could not determine whether permit processing was timely for the 2019 audit period due to a lack of service standards, we did not do additional audit work,” said Colman-Sadd.

The audit has three recommendations, which management has agreed to implement.

In her follow-up review also released today, the auditor general reported Halifax Regional Municipality addressed 89% of the recommendations from two audits released in 2018 – Procurement and Management of Development Approvals.

“We are pleased with the extent to which management continues to deal with known issues,” the auditor general said.

These reports are available on the auditor general’s website.

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In her report released today, Auditor General Evangeline Colman-Sadd said overall HRM effectively manages its building permit application and inspection processes; however, timelines to process building permits need to be established so the public knows how long applications should take to be processed.

The audit has three recommendations, which management agreed to implement.

The auditor general also said HRM has addressed 89% of the recommendations from two 2018 Auditor General reports – Procurement and Management of Development Approvals.

The reports are available on the auditor general's website.

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