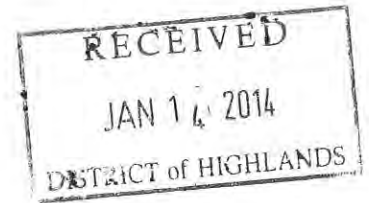




1943 Millstream Rd
Graving Dock
Tervita-5280-21

Reference: 199966

JAN 08 2014



Her Worship Mayor Jane Mendum
and Councillors
District of Highlands
1980 Millstream Road
Victoria BC V9B 6H1

Dear Mayor Mendum and Council:

I am writing further to my letter of October 15, 2013. Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2013, and for meeting with me at the 2013 Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention regarding the Esquimalt Graving Dock Project and Tervita Corporation's Highwest Waste Facility located in the District of Highlands. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

In your letter, you have requested that the Ministry of Environment commission and fund an independent review of the requirements of the site to deal with the contaminated soil from the Esquimalt Graving Dock and have requested a ministry point of contact for public enquiries in relation to this activity.

The ministry is aware of the fact that the District has concerns and has assigned one of our staff hydrogeologists to review Tervita's monitoring program results contained in their 2012 Annual Operation and Monitoring Report, dated March 28, 2013, and the 2011 Design and Operations Plan, Addendum No. 1, dated April 2013.

Staff in the ministry's Nanaimo regional office will review comments on the environmental monitoring program along with information submitted by Tervita Corporation and will follow up on any remaining concerns as appropriate.

Please direct enquiries related to compliance with the Highwest Waste Facility Operating Certificate to Mr. Allan Leuschen, Senior Environmental Protection Officer with the Environmental Protection Division of the Ministry of Environment, at Allan.Leuschen@gov.bc.ca or at 250 751-3199.

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I understand a meeting with your office and ministry staff, including Mr. Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister for the Environmental Protection Division, has been arranged in order to further discuss and understand the District's concerns. I look forward to receiving an update from Mr. Standen following your meeting.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and meet with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Polak".

Mary Polak
Minister

cc: Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Division,
Ministry of Environment
Allan Leuschen, Senior Environmental Protection Officer, Environmental Protection
Division, Ministry of Environment