



MEMO

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

FILE: 5280-21

FROM: C.D. COATES, CAO

**To Council
May 5, 2014**

DATE: APRIL 28, 2014

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONEMNT – LANDFILL CRITERIA PAPER

BACKGROUND

At the February 3, 2014 regular meeting, Council received the correspondence attached along with this link:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/mun-waste/waste-solid/landfills/pdf/landfill_criteria_msw.pdf

providing the opportunity for comment on the proposed document which is a guidance document for the technical issues around landfills containing municipal solid waste.

Council passed the following motion at the February 3, 2014 meeting:

“That this item be referred to a future Committee of the Whole or Council meeting and that staff post this on the District’s website seeking community feedback to Council members.”

Staff are bringing this forward at this time in the event Council wishes further work done around making comments before the May 31 close of input.

DISCUSSION

To date staff are not aware of any comments received from the public in connection with this issue.

Staff have had discussion with Golder Associates, the District’s Groundwater Consultants, who are familiar with the document. Golder staff have indicated that the document is a guidance document and does not replace the reliance on the Professional responsible for Landfill Design and Monitoring. Proposed language seems to strengthen the analysis and consideration for ground and surface water issues.

Staff discussed the concept of engaging Golder Associates to provide policy comments for consideration by Council to submit as feedback. The cost to do so would be approximately \$1,500. However the suggestion was made by Golder staff that there may not be great value in taking that type of approach given what the paper is and where it is heading. Nonetheless, Council could take such an approach if desired.

At a higher level, the issues of most significant concern in Highlands involve groundwater and surface water. As well the role of the regulatory authority has been identified as an issue of concern locally in terms of increasing the level of review and oversight as opposed to the significant reliance of on a proponent's consultants.

OPTIONS

1. Engage Golder Associates to provide comments for the District to consider providing to the Ministry of Environment.
2. Hold a Committee of the Whole Meeting to have further discussions on the issue as directed by Council's February 3 resolution.
3. Provide comments that would essentially consist of suggesting that the Landfill Criteria Paper place a significant emphasis on surface and groundwater protection at the design stage and that it impart that comprehensive, long term monitoring is provided and at an enhanced level, in areas where groundwater is used for domestic consumption purposes. Additionally, that in groundwater dependant areas, the Provincial role be expanded to ensure there is thorough and independent review of the Design and Operations Plans. *(Recommended)*
4. Take no further action.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council reply to the Landfill Criteria Paper Feedback opportunity noting the staff comments and issues outlined in Option 3.

Respectfully Submitted



Christopher D. Coates
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

s:\cao\memo-reports\MOE Landfill Criteria Paper



Feedback Wanted on Landfill Criteria Paper

Jan 22, 2014

The Ministry of Environment is looking for local government feedback on their draft *Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste*. The paper is a guidance document for landfill construction, operation and closure to ensure environmental protection. The draft document will be posted for comment until May 31, 2014.

The Ministry will review and incorporate stakeholder feedback into the final document. Once finalized, it will apply to all municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills in British Columbia.

Comments can be sent by email or mail to
Natalia Kukleva
Environmental Management Officer
Environmental Standards Branch, Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9341, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W9M1

The draft document criteria build on a 1993 paper that was developed to enhance environmental protection and minimize environmental impacts from landfills. The revised version is designed to offer comprehensive landfill management guidance, provide a basis for consistent decision-making across the province, and facilitate a compliance process. The changes reflect current regulatory requirements and emphasize more environmentally sustainable landfilling practices that have been developed over years. Many of these practices are already implemented by local governments at MSW landfills in British Columbia.

Highlights of the new document include:

- New proposed standards including engineered liners for leachate containment rather than natural barriers such as clay or rock
- Linkages to Landfill Gas Management and Contaminated Sites Regulation
- Information on reviewing existing landfills and preparing a Landfill Upgrading Plan.
- Information on more comprehensive assessments including a Hydrogeology and Hydrology Characterization Report and a Groundwater and Surface Water Impact Assessment.
- Landfill contaminating lifespan and financial security considerations

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