



June 18, 2013

Mr. David Latoski, Interim Director
Esquimalt Graving Dock
Engineered Assets Strategy Sector
Public Works and Government Services Canada
825 Admirals Road
Victoria BC V9A 2P1

Dear Mr. Latoski:

Re: Esquimalt Graving Dock Project

As you are aware through your attendance at recent meetings of Highlands Council and through ongoing conversations, there is a significant concern throughout the Highlands community in connection with the Esquimalt Graving Dock contaminated soils coming into the District for disposal.

At Council's June 17, 2013 regular council meeting the following resolution was passed:

"That the Federal Government be requested to provide an independent, professional third party assessment of the engineered landfill design and monitoring systems at the Highwest site in order to ensure that groundwater, environmental and public health issues are safeguarded to the greatest extent possible for the benefit of both the District of Highlands and the Province of British Columbia, and that the assessment take into account the information and recommendations put forth in the District's Groundwater Protection Study".

Council has been advised that there has been a high degree of due diligence exercised to this point. Private sector consultants have been engaged and there is reliance on the part of the regulator (Ministry of Environment) on those private consultants.

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With all due regard for those analyses, given the scope, scale and longevity of the activity and the District's dependence on groundwater, Council and residents consider it appropriate to request a further review of the process and measures around this activity. In particular, the District has completed a three phase comprehensive Groundwater Protection Study which outlines a groundwater protection plan. An assessment that takes into account the information and recommendations contained within that Study has been identified as an appropriate and important request in order that the Highlands community can feel the highest degree of confidence concerning any long term impacts and issues.

While it may seem logical to suggest that this responsibility rests with the Regulator, this is a Federal Government project. As such, Council considers that the Federal Government owes the highest standard of care and consideration to all Canadians for these types of projects. The timing of information coming forward, the extent of the impacts outside of the disposal site and the material involved all point to the need for this higher standard under the unique circumstances that exist in Highlands, that being that the District of Highlands is almost solely dependent on groundwater from fractured bedrock aquifers for domestic water consumption.

Therefore, the District of Highlands considers the funding of this assessment to be of an appropriate nature and awaits your favorable consideration of this request.

Yours truly



Christopher D. Coates
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Randall Garrison, MP, Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca
The Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment
John Horgan, MLA, Juan de Fuca
Andrew Mylly, Public Works and Government Services Canada

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