

Reference: 127948

MAY 30 2011

Lois E. Jackson, Chair
Metro Vancouver Board
Metro Vancouver
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4H9

Dear Chair Jackson:

Thank you for your letter of June 25, 2010, with the attached Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP), the Board resolutions for adopting the plan and a summary of the Metro Vancouver's consultation process. A summary of endorsements confirming each member municipality commitments was received on December 21, 2010.

Ministry staff have reviewed your submission and accompanying documents. The technical aspects of the proposed LWMP are supported, and I am satisfied there has been adequate public review and consultation. However, the LWMP as submitted does not fully meet my requirements. Therefore, I hereby impose the following changes to the submitted LWMP titled *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management: A Liquid Waste Management Plan for the Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District and Member Municipalities (ILWRMP)* dated May 2010:

1. The Ministry supports upgrading to secondary level treatment the Lions Gate wastewater treatment plant by 2020 and Iona Island wastewater treatment plant as soon as possible, but no later than 2030 and not contingent on the availability of senior government funding. The Ministry of Environment is not a funding agency. While I understand the cost of the upgrades is significant, they are necessary to meet current environmental standards. The Ministry will support Metro Vancouver pursuing senior government and alternative funding options, but cannot guarantee any provincial commitment in that regard, nor compromise the Ministry's mandate to protect the environment.
2. Member municipalities are strongly encouraged to business case and/or implement residential water metering programs and to consider municipal rebate programs for water efficient fixtures and appliances to reduce potable water use.

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3. Metro Vancouver, in partnership with member municipalities, is encouraged to pursue a region-wide water conservation program targeting the industrial, commercial, institutional and agricultural sectors as part of its new Drinking Water Management Plan. Remaining municipalities in the region that have not implemented metering for these sectors are encouraged to do so.
4. Metro Vancouver must use receiving environment and effluent monitoring data from combined sewer overflow (CSO) and sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) in the regional system to interpret the overall status of CSOs and SSOs. Metro Vancouver will continue the fate and effects studies on CSOs with the Clarke Drive location and other significant sites as determined by the Environmental Management Committee. Metro Vancouver will establish similar studies representative of significant SSO locations, in particular the Cloverdale, Katsie and Lynn locations. The interpretation and assessment should demonstrate whether there has been any improvement or degradation along with any measures taken to address such discharges. Metro Vancouver will report out in the Quality Control Annual Report.
5. Metro Vancouver is encouraged to continue to build upon previous studies associated with studying endocrine-disrupting chemicals, persistent organic pollutants and other micro-contaminants found in wastewater by developing source control initiatives through education (for example, target outreach), regulation and inspection programs.
6. Metro Vancouver will continue the receiving and ambient monitoring programs specified in the approved 2002 LWMP, including, but not limited to, recreational water quality (beach monitoring); monitoring near the outfalls for all five wastewater treatment plants, including the extensive deep sea monitoring near the Iona Island plant; and CSO effluent quality and monitoring of small urban streams relating to impacts from urbanization and stormwater.
7. Member municipalities will, with MV planning and coordination, and to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager, develop a coordinated program to monitor stormwater and assess and report the implementation and effectiveness of Integrated Storm Water Management Plans (ISMP). The program will use a weight-of-evidence performance measurement approach and will report out in the Biennial Report. The Regional Manager may extend the deadline for completion of ISMP by municipalities from 2014 to 2016 if satisfied that the assessment program could result in improvement of ISMP and protect stream health.
8. Bypass conditions that occur at wastewater treatment plants will be reported out in the annual quality control report. The report on each activity will include a description of the event, cause, environmental effect and monitoring that occurred and any mitigation measures undertaken to prevent reoccurrence and remediate detrimental environment effect.

9. The ILWRMP has a goal of protecting public health and the environment. In keeping with this goal and to ensure alignment with other national, provincial and regional initiatives, Metro Vancouver and member municipalities are encouraged to:
- Have local land use planning consider the direction provided by the ISMPs;
 - Consider how the degree, type and location of land development within a drainage can affect the long-term health of the watershed;
 - Consider how to protect the stream, including the riparian areas that exert an influence on the stream, from long-term cumulative impacts; and
 - Use scenarios and forecasting to systematically consider environmental consequences/benefits of different land use approaches prior to build-out (for example, Alternative Future type approaches).
10. Metro Vancouver will continue to consult with First Nations during the implementation of the Plan—in particular, engaging, as appropriate, with First Nations likely to be impacted by the secondary upgrades.

Pursuant to Section 24(5) of the *Environmental Management Act*, I hereby approve Metro Vancouver's LWMP titled *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management: A Liquid Waste Management Plan for the Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District and Member Municipalities* dated May 2010, subject to the conditions noted above.

I commend Metro Vancouver Board and staff on their success in developing a comprehensive master plan to manage the Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District's liquid waste for years to come.

Sincerely,



Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

cc: Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Division
Jonn Braman, Regional Manager South Coast, Environmental Protection Division

