

**REPORT TO SAANICH PENINSULA WASTEWATER COMMISSION  
MEETING OF THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025**

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**SUBJECT**     Residual Treatment Facility Saanich Peninsula Solids Processing

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To provide an update on beneficial use of wastewater residuals from the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant (SPWWTP) through the Core Area Residuals Treatment Facility (RTF).

**BACKGROUND**

The Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) committed the Capital Regional District (CRD) and participating member municipalities to:

- *Set as an objective the beneficial use of SPWWTP biosolids, and application to peninsula farmland as the primary option for beneficial use.*

This commitment was initially met via the production of Class A biosolids, which were beneficially used in accordance with the provincial Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) as a soil amendment under various land application scenarios.

On July 13, 2011, the CRD Board passed a resolution banning the production of biosolids at CRD regional facilities, including the SPWWTP, and the land application of biosolids within the capital region.

The SPWWTP ceased production of Class A biosolids by the end of 2011 and, since then, has disposed of all residual solids as controlled waste at the Hartland Landfill (approximately 4,000 tonnes in 2024). At that time, July 2012, the CRD contacted the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) proposing an amendment to the LWMP that would allow for the interim disposal of all SPWWTP wastewater residuals at Hartland Landfill while continuing to look for alternative beneficial reuse opportunities and to consider harmonization with the CRD's Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project biosolids management strategy.

The Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project included the construction of the RTF located adjacent to the Hartland Landfill. Primarily, the RTF was built to produce Class A biosolids from wastewater residuals generated at the new McLoughlin Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. The RTF facility's design also included the capacity to accept wastewater residuals from the SPWWTP along with other sub-regional or municipal wastewater treatment plants within the capital region through a receiving station for Other Municipal Residual Solids (OMRS). Delivery of OMRS loads to the RTF has been delayed due to a protracted dispute with the private partner responsible for design, construction and operation of the RTF, however, staff are hopeful that a resolution to the dispute is imminent, which will allow for residual solids from the SPWWTP to be beneficially used starting in 2025.

In preparation for the completion of the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project, and beneficial use of OMRS via the core area's infrastructure, in 2021 CRD Bylaw No. 4414 (Appendix A) was passed to enable tipping fees for OMRS deliveries to the RTF. Fees were structured on a cost recovery basis reflecting the region's need to meet regulatory requirements for wastewater management. The rates were set at \$225/wet tonne for dewatered residuals and \$45/wet tonne for pumpable slurries.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

Wastewater residuals in British Columbia must be beneficially used in accordance with commitments in the LWMP and OMRR. Commissioning and operation of the OMRS equipment will allow residuals from the SPWWTP to be beneficially used in accordance with provincial and federal requirements. Staff have initiated a Technical Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations for updating commitments in the Saanich Peninsula LWMP, including management of wastewater residuals, and planning for future capital projects.

### *Financial Implications*

Currently, the Saanich Peninsula wastewater service is billed \$165/wet tonne for biosolids disposal at Hartland Landfill. Should the CRD reach an agreement with its partner, the higher tipping fee at the RTF will result in an approximate \$250,000 annual increase in fees for treatment and beneficial reuse. In 2020, the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission directed staff to prepare the 2021 budget to account for the increase in tipping fees associated with beneficial reuse, however, to date these costs have not been realized due to the ongoing dispute. Should the dispute be resolved:

- a) there are sufficient operating reserve funds to accommodate the increased tipping fee for the remainder of 2025;
- b) a budget amendment will be prepared for this commission and CRD Board approval; and
- c) budget planning for 2026 will incorporate the RTF fee structure.

## **CONCLUSION**

Due to the 2011 Capital Regional District (CRD) Board motion banning production of biosolids at CRD facilities and the land application of biosolids within the capital region, residual solids from the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant have been landfilled contrary to provincial regulatory requirements. Completion of the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project included the capacity to process and beneficially use residual solids from other wastewater treatment plants in the capital region, however this component of the project has been delayed by an ongoing dispute with the private operator of the RTF. Staff anticipate imminent resolution of the dispute, which will allow for immediate beneficial use of SPWWTP residuals, which will result in increased tipping fees for the Saanich Peninsula wastewater service, which can be accommodated by operating reserve funds.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Rory Tooke, Ph.D., Senior Manager, Environmental Innovation
Concurrence:	Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Alicia Fraser, P. Eng., General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer, GM Finance & IT
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4414, "A bylaw to provide for fees and charges for tipping wastewater solids from other municipalities at the residual solids treatment facility"