

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2024**

SUBJECT Short-term Biosolids Management Plan – October Update

To provide a monthly update to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board on the status of short-term options for biosolids management and the implementation of the Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The CRD has been responsible for the beneficial use of Class A biosolids produced at the Residuals Treatment Facility since the commissioning of the core area wastewater treatment project in 2020. Currently, the CRD is operating under the Short-term Biosolids Management Plan (2020-2025), with the primary beneficial use options being incineration as an alternative fuel in a cement manufacturing plant in Richmond, BC, and integration with landfill cover systems as contingencies. When neither of these options are available, landfilling biosolids at Hartland Landfill was the only alternative. In 2011, the CRD Board passed a resolution to ban the land application of biosolids from CRD facilities; however, in 2023, given the operational and logistical challenges with the short-term plan, the CRD Board amended its position to allow limited non-agricultural land application of biosolids as a contingency option. The CRD has secured the use of biosolids for industrial land reclamation at a quarry near Cassidy, BC.

Short-term Biosolids Management Plan Implementation

Cement Kiln in Richmond, BC: The kiln was shut down for maintenance in early September. Consistent shipment of biosolids continued in late September, and staff anticipate approximately 50% of the monthly biosolids will be sent to the cement kiln for use as an alternative fuel. Staff have been advised by Lafarge to plan for eight weeks of market driven and maintenance shutdowns over the remainder of 2024.

Land Reclamation in Cassidy, BC: Biosolids not sent to the cement kiln were mixed with sand at Hartland and shipped to the Cassidy quarry. Staff anticipate sufficient contingency capacity at the quarry for the remainder of 2024. However, the Cassidy site is not able to receive biosolids during periods of significant wet weather. Staff are actively exploring possible solutions and potential contingency options.

Landfilling at Hartland Landfill: There was no landfilling of biosolids in September. Landfilling is not a beneficial use, as per provincial regulations, and consumes valuable airspace at the landfill.

Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy Implementation

The draft long-term strategy was submitted to the Province on June 18, 2024 for regulatory review; the CRD has not yet received a response.

Tier 1: A Request for Proposals (RFP) for an advanced thermal demonstration plant closed on September 11. Out of the six proponents short-listed after the Request for Expressions of Interest, only three submitted detailed proposals. Staff are currently reviewing the submissions and will be presenting a recommendation for award to the Environmental Services Committee at an upcoming meeting. Additionally, staff have requested a pre-meeting with the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy to discuss the regulatory permitting process for the demonstration facility, which is anticipated to take place in late 2024.

Tier 2: Staff issued a broad Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) for biosolids management under Tier 2 of the Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy in August. The RFEOI closes on October 31 and submission review is planned for November, with the intent of building a portfolio of management options in accordance with the Long-term Strategy by Q2, 2025. Staff also issued a separate RFP seeking biosolids management options that are available immediately to provide an additional contingency for beneficial use for biosolids during the coming winter months. Staff will be reporting on the RFP results in the November update.

CONCLUSION

The Capital Regional District continues to implement the Short-term Biosolids Management Plan while operationalizing a Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy. The short-term program has seen improvements in reliability and consistency over the past three months; however, additional options are required to ensure the continued beneficial use of biosolids. Staff have initiated processes to identify and procure Tier 2 contingency options in accordance with the Long-term Strategy, with the goal of ensuring reliable regulatory compliance in the coming years.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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