

**REPORT TO SAANICH PENINSULA WASTEWATER COMMISSION  
MEETING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026**

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**SUBJECT    2025 Annual Compliance Report for the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Capital Regional District's (CRD) Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is authorized to discharge under provincial and federal regulations. This report summarizes regulatory compliance status for 2025.

**BACKGROUND**

The Saanich Peninsula WWTP is authorized to discharge under the Provincial *Municipal Wastewater Regulation* (MWR) Operational Certificate ME-15445 (under the *Environmental Management Act [EMA]*), which was originally issued in January 1999. The facility must also meet all requirements of the Federal *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulation* (WSER) under the *Fisheries Act*. The CRD treats Saanich Peninsula wastewater at the Saanich Peninsula WWTP. It was commissioned in February 2000 to replace a number of smaller end-of-life treatment plants and pump stations. The treatment plant receives wastewater from three municipalities, three First Nations, as well as the Victoria International Airport, Institute of Ocean Sciences and BC Ferries. Wastewater is treated to a secondary level before being discharged through a 1,580 metre (m) long outfall into Bazan Bay (Salish Sea).

The Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) contains the CRD's commitments to build and operate the facility, and work with the other municipal and First Nations plan members to manage wastewater and other liquid wastes in a manner that ensures protection of human health and the environment.

Regulatory requirements, in part, include comprehensive monitoring of effluent and the receiving environment to ensure final effluent quality limits are not exceeded and potential risks to human health and the environment are minimized. Any abnormal operational conditions, including non-compliant effluent quality, must also be reported immediately. The facility was last inspected by provincial regulators in 2023. It has been many years since federal regulators have visited the facility. A summary of 2025 regulatory compliance can be found in Appendix A.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Intergovernmental Implications*

From an administrative perspective, the CRD has a good working relationship with our provincial and federal wastewater regulators. Staff are working to address the mostly administrative non-compliant conditions (described below and in Appendix A).

*Regulatory Implications*

The facility met all provincial and federal effluent quality limits in 2025 (Appendix A), with one exception (described below), affirming that the plant was continuously operated as designed.

The one exception was a plant upset that occurred in November. This event was caused by BC Ferries unexpectedly releasing a large volume of high strength effluent into the system from their Swartz Bay terminal, outside of CRD’s control. During the upset, plant effluent quality did not meet provincial or federal effluent quality limits. It was reported immediately to the regulators, as per reporting requirements. Regional Source Control Program staff, under the authority of the CRD Sewer Use Bylaw No. 2922, have since met with BC Ferries to ensure they implement stricter system controls to prevent similar uncontrolled releases in the future.

*Environmental Implications*

Throughout 2025, the facility routinely produced effluent quality that met the regulatory expectations for secondary treatment plants and marine discharges, thereby ensuring protection of human health and the environment. Through follow-up sampling, the human health and environmental significance of the November plant upset was confirmed to be low due to the high assimilative capacity of the marine receiving environment around the outfall.

*First Nations Implications*

Three of the four Saanich Peninsula First Nations are connected to the wastewater service. Staff will distribute this compliance summary, and associated annual reports, to the Nations for information.

**CONCLUSION**

In 2025, the Saanich Peninsula WWTP met the vast majority of provincial and federal regulatory requirements. The most significant exception was due to the short plant upset caused by an unexpected BC Ferries discharge that resulted in a temporary exceedance of provincial and federal effluent quality limits. The facility will continue to be operated in a manner that meets requirements for marine discharges.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

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**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: 2025 Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance Summary