



File: 0400.05.03
November 20, 2019

Emailed November 20: EGorman@crd.bc.ca

Capital Regional District
Legislative Services
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Atten: Emilie Gorman, Manager

Dear Ms. Gorman:

Re: November 9, 2019 Highland District Community Association's Letter to Chair Isitt, CRD Parks and Environment Committee Regarding Mines Act Permit Application #1610713, Impact on Millstream Meadows Long Term Remediation and Risks

On Monday, November 18, 2019, Council of the District of Highlands passed the following motion regarding the above noted correspondence from the Highland District Community Association to Chair Isitt, CRD Parks and Environment Committee regarding Mines Act Permit Application #1610713:

That in respect to the Highland District Community Association's November 9, 2019 letter to Mr. Ben Isitt, Chair of the CRD Parks and Environment Committee, it be communicated to the Capital Regional District Board that Council supports ensuring that the concerns raised by the HDCA are considered by the CRD in respect to the potential impact on the Millstream Meadows property remediation as a result of the proposed quarry activities on the adjacent property.

Please contact the undersigned if you require additional information.

Yours truly,

Tina Neurauter
Corporate Officer

Attachment – HDCA Nov. 9, 2019 letter



Highlands District Community Association
1980 Millstream Rd
Victoria BC
V9B 6H1

Mr. Ben Isitt
Chair
Parks & Environment Committee
Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC. V8W 1R7

November 9th, 2019

**Re. Mines Act Permit Application #1610713
Impact on Millstream Meadows Long Term Remediation and Risks**

The purpose of this letter is to express the concerns of the Highland District Community Association (HDCA) regarding the potential movement of contaminants in the Millstream Meadows property due to the proposed strip mining of the adjacent property that is subject to a mine application by OK Industries (OKI). The HDCA understands that the CRD is focusing its efforts on looking for evidence that the contaminants are either moving or somehow safely isolated and contained within the Millstream Meadows property. The HDCA appreciates the enormous effort the CRD continues to invest to remediate the site.

In its careful review of OKI's consulting reports, filed in support of its mine application, the HDCA has found that the quarry that the company proposes to excavate, immediately adjacent to Millstream Meadows, will be extraordinarily deep and lack any effective absorption capability. OKI has not provided any evidence dealing with the anticipated behavior of the pockets of contaminant once the enormous volume of rock and over burden are removed. Our concern is that the mine activity will change the hydrostatic pressure on the south side of Millstream Meadows affecting the behavior, direction and speed of flow of the contaminants. The HDCA appreciates how difficult it may be to confidently predict the future behavior of the Meadows' contaminants once the hydrostatic pressure is changed. Accordingly, the Association asks the CRD to consider this issue and either: demonstrate there is no undue risk to the public and taxpayers in the future (including after receipt of a Certificate of Compliance); expeditiously intervene in the Mine Permit Application to share a concern of potential risks with the Ministry; or ask the Ministry to put a hold on the application until this can be studied further.

The HDCA is hyper-vigilant about ground water protection, since Highland residents are solely dependent on the underlying aquifers for drinking water. These aquifers are Highlands' most valued Natural Asset (e.g. our Sooke reservoir). Therefore, the HDCA wants to ensure that the CRD has fully considered the risk of the quarrying activities (and altered hydrostatic pressure on Millstream Meadows property) on Highlands ground water, including the potential for introducing health concerns and impacting property values.

Recently, the Association heard from Peninsula Streams on its federally funded efforts to restore the Upper Millstream for as many as 5000 coho per year. It would of course be catastrophic to these efforts if the Millstream Meadows contaminants reached surface in OKI's proposed quarry. The HDCA would therefore also like to ensure that the CRD has considered this risk.

The Highland District Community Association

For your information, Highlands Council has responded on two occasions to the referral related to the Mine Permit Application and in each case expressed solid opposition...

<https://www.highlands.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3612?fileID=4210>

<https://www.highlands.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/7249/June-6-OK-Industries-Ltd-Mines-Act-Permit-Application-2>

Highlands Council has also recently launched a process to update the Official Community Plan for the South Highlands area. This update will engage residents and business owners in the South Highlands and will undoubtedly address this issue in considerable detail.

A number of our Members believe the best and highest use of the pristine OKI property, is as a western extension to the CRD's Thetis Lake Park. Such an extension would offer easier access from Langford, The Highlands and Bear Mountain, and enhance wildlife corridors, while carefully 'sheltering' contaminants buried at both Millstream Meadows and the adjacent toxic waste site of Highwest. The cost of this option needs to be carefully weighed against the potential liability to taxpayers should the Millstream Meadows contaminants become more mobile once the adjoining quarry has been excavated and the existing hydrostatic pressure reversed.

Most appreciatively,

Scott Richardson
Chair, HDCA

cc:

- Mayor and Council, The District of the Highlands
- Ian Bruce, Peninsula Streams Society

CB/ Roessigh

Motion