
TO: Solid Waste Management Select Committee **MEETING:** May 9, 2019

FROM: Kirsten Gellein **FILE:** 5360-01
Special Projects Assistant

Subject: Landfill Leachate Sampling Request from Environment and Climate Change Canada

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve Regional District of Nanaimo involvement in the *Monitoring of Specific Contaminants of Concern to Three Species of Whales in Canada in Landfill Leachate Project* with Environment and Climate Change Canada - Waste Reduction and Management Division.

SUMMARY

Environment and Climate Change Canada - Waste Reduction and Management Division has asked the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) to participate in the *Monitoring of Specific Contaminants of Concern to Three Species of Whales in Canada in Landfill Leachate Project* (Project). The RDN Regional Landfill would be one of ten sampling locations for the Project, all of which are in habitat proximity to the Southern Resident Killer Whales, St. Lawrence Beluga or the Northern Atlantic Right Whales. Requirements of involvement from the RDN are minimal. SNC-Lavalin will be conducting the sampling and data management for the Project on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Environment Canada and SCN Lavalin are aware that the Cedar Landfill has a leachate collection system. Collected leachate is conveyed through the sanitary sewage treatment system and treated at the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre which ultimately discharges treated effluent to the Salish Sea.

BACKGROUND

SNC-Lavalin would like to conduct leachate sampling and analysis from the RDN Regional Landfill as part of the Government of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada *Monitoring of Specific Contaminants of Concern to Three Species of Whales in Canada in Landfill Leachate Project*.

Environment and Climate Change Canada is interested in evaluating the contribution of land-based sources of pollution to water pollution, including from landfills, in order to assess the potential impacts of contaminants on Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW), St. Lawrence Beluga and North Atlantic Right Whales. Ten landfills located in proximity to the habitats of these three whale species will be participating in the Project. To aid the recovery of the SRKW,

the Government of Canada has a current consultation project¹ which includes public engagement through surveys and community meetings; it appears monitoring landfill leachate will provide supplementary data to a small sub-study within the contaminant context of the SRKW recovery project.

The Government of Canada will bear all costs of the study, and has contracted SNC-Lavalin for sampling and data management.

Attachment 1 is a Letter of Agreement between Environment and Climate Change Canada and the RDN.

The schedule of sampling events and a list of the substances that are to be sampled for is listed in Attachment 2. All results will be protected by SNC-Lavalin and Environment and Climate Change Canada and treated in accordance with the *Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Board approve RDN involvement in the *Monitoring of Specific Contaminants of Concern to Three Species of Whales in Canada in Landfill Leachate Project* with Environment and Climate Change Canada - Waste Reduction and Management Division.
2. That the Board not approve RDN involvement in the *Monitoring of Specific Contaminants of Concern to Three Species of Whales in Canada in Landfill Leachate Project* with Environment and Climate Change Canada - Waste Reduction and Management Division.
3. The Board provide alternate direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs for the Project are born by the Government of Canada. There will be very minimal staff time for coordinating with the contractor to partake in sampling, and providing data on waste tonnage, leachate flow, and site operational data.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus on the Environment – This Project will contribute to the understanding of how land based pollution may effect water pollution and the impact that may have on whales.

Focus On Relationships – This Project gives the RDN an opportunity to partner with Environment and Climate Change Canada.



Kirsten Gellein

¹ <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/fm-gp/srkw-eprs/potential-meas-mes-poss-eng.html>

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April 10, 2019

Reviewed by:

- L. Gardner, Manager, Solid Waste Services
- R. Alexander, General Manager, Regional and Community Utilities
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Letter of Agreement
2. Annex 1