



Conservation and Climate

Environmental Stewardship Division
Environmental Approvals Branch
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FILE NO.: 1020.50

April 14, 2020

Karly Friesen
Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division
City of Portage la Prairie
97 Saskatchewan Avenue East
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0L8

Dear Karly Friesen:

**Re: Notice of Alteration – City of Portage la Prairie Water Pollution Control Facility –
Removal and Disposal of Contents from Anaerobic Digester**

I am responding to your March 31, 2020 Notice of Alteration (NoA) consisting of a request for approval for removal and disposal of the contents from the anaerobic digester of the City of Portage la Prairie Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). Environment Act Licence No. 2543 R applies to the WPCF and identifies this digester as the anaerobic WAS digester.

The March 31, 2020 letter indicates that the anaerobic WAS digester's mixers have failed and solids have accumulated in it, reducing its overall capacity and ability to provide a minimum 30-day residence time as identified in Environment Act Licence No. 2543 R. The letter indicates that the digester will be cleaned out in the summer of 2020 and have two chopper pumps installed to assist with mixing. The letter also mentions that the long-term plan is to refurbish this digester with external mixing equipment and that a second anaerobic digester will be added in 2022.

The NoA requests that the City of Portage la Prairie be allowed to suspend use of the anaerobic WAS digester between June 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 for the purpose of being cleaned out with screened grit material to be disposed of at the Portage Regional Landfill.

Upon review of the NoA and the Licences, I have decided that the environmental impacts of the proposed alteration are insignificant. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 14(2) of The Environment Act, I hereby approve the request to allow the inorganic content from the anaerobic digester to be directed to the Portage Regional Landfill for disposal as waste subject to the following limits, terms and conditions:

1. All associated activities and ongoing operations are completed in accordance with the requirements of Environment Act Licence No. 2543 R;

2. The handling and processing of materials involved must be done by a professional contractor specializing in such activities, particularly in digester cleaning, and in conformity with the activities and schedules proposed in the NoA;
3. The City of Portage la Prairie shall submit to the assigned Environment Officers once every week, or as may be requested by the assigned Environment Officers, updates of movement and processing activities and results of analyses associated with the various types of materials removed from the anaerobic WAS digester for overland pumping to the BVF, storage in bins or hauling to the Portage Regional Landfill for disposal as waste; and
4. This approval shall terminate on the 30th day of October, 2020, unless otherwise approved by the Director.

Unless otherwise indicated, the assigned Environment Officers for activities associated with the handling, processing and disposal of all materials associated with this Notice of Alteration shall be Jay Rackham of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch (Jay.Rackam@gov.mb.ca) and Robert Boswick of the Environmental Approvals Branch (Robert.Boswick@gov.mb.ca).

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the foregoing, please contact Robert Boswick, Environmental Engineer, at 204-945-6030.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

Shannon Kohler
Director
Environment Act

- c: Yvonne Hawryliuk/Tyler Kneeshaw/Jay Rackham, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Robert Boswick/Cory Graham, Environmental Approvals Branch
Public Registries