



Sustainable Development

Environmental Stewardship Division
Environmental Approvals Branch
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March 12, 2018

Joann Murphy, Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Gimli
Box 1246, 62- Second Avenue
Gimli MB R0C 1B0
Email: jking@rmgimli.com

Dear Joann Murphy:

**Re: Biosolids and Sludge Solids Disposal Approval – Rural Municipality of Gimli
Wastewater Treatment Plant - Environment Act Licence No. 2473 R**

I am responding to the March 6, 2018 letter and additional information submitted on March 8, 2018, by Bonnie McIntosh, P.Eng., of Birchtree Consulting Ltd., relative to a request for removing biosolids and sludge solids from the Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) No. 2 of the Rural Municipality (R.M.) of Gimli's wastewater treatment plant and disposing of the same to the R.M. of Gimli's waste disposal ground located on SW10-21-03 EPM.

Clause 4(b) of Environment Act Licence No. 2473 R states that "The Licencee shall ensure that in the event of an emergency situation and with the approval of the Director, biosolids and sludge solids are disposed of at a waste disposal ground in accordance with its permit or Licence."

The March 6, 2018 letter states that the aeration piping in SBR No. 1 of the treatment plant has failed. As the timing of construction and type of material that were used to construct the two SBR tanks were the same, a decision was made to take SBR No. 2 out of service to replace its aeration pipe supports and repair any broken pipes or diffusers immediately after the repair of SBR No. 1. Further, it was indicated that the failure of SBR No. 2 is imminent and the impact of failure will be severe in summer months. Consequently, the repair of SBR No. 2 was considered an emergency. In addition, as the exact quantity and characteristics of the sludge solids and biosolids are unknown, the sludge solids and biosolids may not meet the slump test requirements in order for them to be disposed of at the R.M. of Gimli's waste disposal ground.

By the March 8, 2018 email submitted by Bonnie McIntosh, P.Eng., it was brought to our attention that an estimated maximum amount of 80 cubic metres of biosolids and sludge solids

will be transported by Hydrovac or septic trucks to the current active cell of the R.M. of Gimli's waste disposal ground. The active cell is scheduled to be closed in 2018, and after disposal of the biosolids and sludge solids, the clay material currently stockpiled on-site will be placed on top as capping material.

Upon review of the March 6, 2018 letter and additional information submitted on March 8, 2018, I hereby approve your proposal with the following conditions:

Regarding Environment Act Licence No. 2473 R:

- The Licencee shall record the volume of sludge solids and biosolids generated from SBR No. 2 and make the record available to an Environment Officer upon request;
- The Licencee shall, during removal and transportation of biosolids and sludge solids, operate, maintain and store all materials and equipment in a manner that prevents any deleterious substances (fuel, oil, grease, hydraulic fluids, coolant, paint, uncured concrete and concrete wash water, etc.) from entering the wastewater treatment plant, the discharge route and associated watercourses, and have an emergency spill kit for in-water use available on site during removal of biosolids and sludge solids; and
- The Licencee shall transport biosolids and sludge solids in containers in such a manner to prevent loss of biosolids, sludge solids and associated liquids to the satisfaction of an Environment Officer.

Regarding Permit 37146 (Gimli Waste Disposal Ground):

- Prior to initiating biosolids and sludge solids placement at the waste disposal ground, the Operator shall confirm to the Environment Officer, in writing, the date scheduled for the first load of material to be deposited in the cell, and shall notify the Environment Officer when all the waste is disposed of and covered;
- The Operator shall excavate a trench or opening within the current waste placed in the cell to dispose of the biosolids and sludge solids; there shall be no new cell excavations into soil or spreading of the biosolids or sludge solids on the surface of the landfill cell to expose the biosolids or sludge solids to the atmosphere;
- The biosolids and sludge solids shall only be placed within a cell that contains leachate collection infrastructure;
- The Operator shall report to the Environment Officer any odour complaints received within 12 hours of receipt of the complaint, with details of corrective actions taken to mitigate the odour;
- The biosolids and sludge solids shall be covered with a minimum of 30 cm of waste or interim cover or a mix of materials within 48 hours of placement. No biosolids or sludge solids shall remain exposed to the atmosphere over a weekend or day(s) when the waste disposal ground is not open or receiving additional waste materials; and
- The Operator shall submit by June 1, 2018, closure documents for the waste cell in accordance with the Waste Management Facilities Regulation and shall submit design drawings for any new cell to be utilized following the closure of this waste cell.

Please be advised that this approval is contingent on the acceptance of a revised Environment Act Licence for the wastewater treatment plant to be issued in the near future.

Should you have any questions concerning this approval, please contact Asit Dey at (204) 945-2614 or at asit.dey@gov.mb.ca.

Sincerely,



Tracey Braun, M.Sc.
Director
Environmental Approvals Branch

- c: Bonnie McIntosh, P.Eng., Birchtree Consulting Ltd.
Dick Menon, P.Eng., R.M. of Gimli
Don Labossiere/Yvonne Hawryliuk/Mike Baert/Katie Martin, Environmental
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Siobhan Burland Ross/Asit Dey/Cory Graham, Environmental Approvals Branch
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