



File: 292-30/FOR-2023-31668

November 15, 2023

**Re: Request for Access to Records
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)**

I am writing further to your request received by the Ministry of Forests.
Your request is for:

With respect to the proposal for the Vedder River and Canal gravel removal, summer 2023, requesting copies of the MECC consultants reports (KWL 2023, cross sections, hydraulic modelling, biological monitoring & mitigation, etc, along with the application) and any approvals if they have been completed. (Date Range for Record Search: From 1/1/2023 To 6/26/2023)

Some information has been withheld pursuant to section(s) 18 (Disclosure harmful to the conservation of heritage sites, etc.), and 22 (Disclosure harmful to personal privacy) of FOIPPA. Copies of these sections of FOIPPA are provided for your reference. A complete copy of FOIPPA is available online at:

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96165_00

Your file is now closed.

These records will be published on the BC Government's Open Information website a minimum of ten business days after release. To find out more about Open Information, please access the Open Information website at: www.gov.bc.ca/openinformation

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The records located in response to your request will be delivered through the BC Secure File Transfer Service. Separate emails will follow from the BC SFT Notification Service directing you how to set up an account and where to obtain your records. A guide for using the SFTS is enclosed for your convenience.

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Amanda Born, the analyst assigned to your request, at 778 752-7429. This number can also be reached toll-free at 1 833 283-8200. Please provide the FOI request number, FOR-2023-31668, in any communications.

You have the right to ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision. I have enclosed information on the review and complaint process.

Sincerely,

Amanda Born, FOI Analyst
Information Access Operations

Enclosures

BC Government Secure File Transfer Service
Information Access Operations Ad-Hoc User Guide

Returning Users

If you are a returning user, please use your existing username and password. Passwords expire after 90 days. You can update your password at anytime.

New Users

Your records are provided to you via the Secure File Transfer Service (SFTS). You will need to setup a User Account to access to the STFS site.

You must log in to your temporary SFTS account within 7 days. After 7 days, your temporary SFTS account will expire and will no longer be accessible. If you are no longer able to access your account or records, please contact the FOI Analyst identified in your Response Letter for assistance.

Email Communication

1. The first email has your Response Letter attached.
 - This email is from the FOI Analyst at Information Access Operations who processed your file.
 - If your records are password protected, the response letter will contain your **password to open your records**.
2. The second email is the *New Package is Waiting* notification email.
 - This email will be received at the same time as the third email.
 - A hyperlink to the SFTS is contained in this email.
3. The third email is the *New User Account for the BC Secure File Transfer Service*
 - This email is sent only to users who are required to setup a STFS User Account.
 - If you are an existing user and your account is still active, you will not receive this email.
 - This email contains the following:
 - a **Hyperlink** to the SFTS site
 - a **Username** to access the SFTS site
 - a **temporary Password** to access the SFTS site
 - If you are unable to locate this email, please check your junk/spam folder. It is from BC Secure File Transfer Notification Service <DONOTREPLY>@gov.bc.ca.

Accessing Your Records

1. Setup your SFTS account.
 - Click on the URL hyperlink provided in your third email.
 - You will be redirected to the SFTS site.
 - If you are not redirected to SFTS site, it is accessible at: filetransfer.gov.bc.ca.
2. Enter your *Username* and *Password*.
 - These are provided in your third email.

3. Change your SFTS account password.
 - You will be required to do this as soon as you login.
 - Follow the instructions provided to you after you login to SFTS for the first time.
 - After you change your password, select "Finish." This will redirect you to your STFS Inbox.
4. Your records are now accessible.
 - Records will be available in SFTS for 35 days.
 - You can download your records up to 5 times.
 - To download your records:
 - Click on the records package
 - Click on the *Download* button beside the file(s)
 - If your records are password protected, you will require a password to open the pdf document.
 - *The password to open the pdf is located in your first email's Response Letter.*
 - It is recommended that you download and save your records so you do not have to return to the SFTS each time to view.
5. If your records are password protected, please consult your .pdf software's user manual on how to remove the password/encryption.
6. If your records are contained within a zipped file, you may need to download a zip program onto your computer in order to open and extract the records. There are free zip programs available to download, such as 7-Zip for Windows, or BetterZip for Mac.

Troubleshooting

- If the hyperlink to the SFTS site does not open, try to access the site on a different web browser such as Chrome, or Firefox or Safari.
- Your temporary SFTS account expires after 7 days unless the account is logged into again or receives a new package. Your account will be deleted 7 days after it has been marked as expired. Once it is deleted, you will need to have a new ad-hoc account created - contact the FOI Analyst identified in the response letter.
- If you have forgotten your password but your account is still active:
 - You can use the "Request a password change" link on the Login page.
 - An email will be sent to you providing you the URL to confirm the password change.
 - Passwords expire after 90 days.
- If you encounter technical issues, please call the technical support line at 250-387-7000 and select option 3. You will need to advise the representative that you are requesting assistance as an ad-hoc user of the BC Secure File Transfer Service.

<p>How to Request a Review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner</p>

If you have any questions regarding your request please contact the analyst assigned to your file. The analyst's name and telephone number are listed in the attached letter.

Pursuant to section 52 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA), you may ask the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review any decision, act, or failure to act with regard to your request under FOIPPA.

Please note that you have 30 business days to file your review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. In order to request a review please write to:

Information and Privacy Commissioner
PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt
4th Floor, 947 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8W 9A4
Telephone 250 387-5629 Fax 250 387-1696

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's Office with:

1. A copy of your original request;
2. A copy of our response; and
3. The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.

Disclosure harmful to the conservation of heritage sites, etc.

18 The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in damage to, or interfere with the conservation of,

- (a) fossil sites, natural sites or sites that have an anthropological or heritage value,
- (b) an endangered, threatened or vulnerable species, subspecies or race of plants, vertebrates or invertebrates, or
- (c) any other rare or endangered living resources.

Disclosure harmful to personal privacy

22 (1) The head of a public body must refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant if the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

(2) In determining under subsection (1) or (3) whether a disclosure of personal information constitutes an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy, the head of a public body must consider all the relevant circumstances, including whether

- (a) the disclosure is desirable for the purpose of subjecting the activities of the government of British Columbia or a public body to public scrutiny,
- (b) the disclosure is likely to promote public health and safety or to promote the protection of the environment,
- (c) the personal information is relevant to a fair determination of the applicant's rights,
- (d) the disclosure will assist in researching or validating the claims, disputes or grievances of Indigenous peoples,
- (e) the third party will be exposed unfairly to financial or other harm,
- (f) the personal information has been supplied in confidence,
- (g) the personal information is likely to be inaccurate or unreliable,
- (h) the disclosure may unfairly damage the reputation of any person referred to in the record requested by the applicant, and
- (i) the information is about a deceased person and, if so, whether the length of time the person has been deceased indicates the disclosure is not an unreasonable invasion of the deceased person's personal privacy.

(3) A disclosure of personal information is presumed to be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy if

- (a) the personal information relates to a medical, psychiatric or psychological history, diagnosis, condition, treatment or evaluation,

(b)the personal information was compiled and is identifiable as part of an investigation into a possible violation of law, except to the extent that disclosure is necessary to prosecute the violation or to continue the investigation,

(c)the personal information relates to eligibility for income assistance or social service benefits or to the determination of benefit levels,

(d)the personal information relates to employment, occupational or educational history,

(e)the personal information was obtained on a tax return or gathered for the purpose of collecting a tax,

(f)the personal information describes the third party's finances, income, assets, liabilities, net worth, bank balances, financial history or activities, or creditworthiness,

(g)the personal information consists of personal recommendations or evaluations, character references or personnel evaluations about the third party,

(h)the disclosure would reveal

(i)the identity of a third party who supplied, in confidence, a personal recommendation or evaluation, character reference or personnel evaluation, or

(ii)the content of a personal recommendation or evaluation, character reference or personnel evaluation supplied, in confidence, by a third party, if the applicant could reasonably be expected to know the identity of the third party,

(i)the personal information indicates the third party's racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or religious or political beliefs or associations, or

(j)the personal information consists of the third party's name, address, or telephone number and is to be used for mailing lists or solicitations by telephone or other means.

(4) A disclosure of personal information is not an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy if

(a)the third party has, in writing, consented to or requested the disclosure,

(b)there are compelling circumstances affecting anyone's health or safety and notice of disclosure is mailed to the last known address of the third party,

(c)an enactment of British Columbia or Canada authorizes the disclosure,

(d)the disclosure is for a research or statistical purpose and is in accordance with section 33 (3) (h),

(e)the information is about the third party's position, functions or remuneration as an officer, employee or member of a public body or as a member of a minister's staff,

(f)the disclosure reveals financial and other details of a contract to supply goods or services to a public body,

(g) public access to the information is provided under the Financial Information Act,

(h) the information is about expenses incurred by the third party while travelling at the expense of a public body,

(i) the disclosure, in respect of

(i) a licence, a permit or any other similar discretionary benefit, or

(ii) a degree, a diploma or a certificate,

reveals any of the following with respect to the applicable item in subparagraph (i) or (ii):

(iii) the name of the third party to whom the item applies;

(iv) what the item grants or confers on the third party or authorizes the third party to do;

(v) the status of the item;

(vi) the date the item was conferred or granted;

(vii) the period of time the item is valid;

(viii) the date the item expires, or

(j) the disclosure, in respect of a discretionary benefit of a financial nature granted to a third party by a public body, not including personal information referred to in subsection (3) (c), reveals any of the following with respect to the benefit:

(i) the name of the third party to whom the benefit applies;

(ii) what the benefit grants to the third party;

(iii) the date the benefit was granted;

(iv) the period of time the benefit is valid;

(v) the date the benefit ceases.

(5) On refusing, under this section, to disclose personal information supplied in confidence about an applicant, the head of the public body must give the applicant a summary of the information unless

(a) the summary cannot be prepared without disclosing the identity of a third party who supplied the personal information, or

(b) with respect to subsection (3) (h), either paragraph (a) of this subsection applies or the applicant could reasonably be expected to know the identity of the third party who supplied the personal recommendation or evaluation, character reference or personnel evaluation.

(6) The head of the public body may allow the third party to prepare the summary of personal information under subsection (5).