

MO Minister's Office

Referral Slip for ID:186612

2018/06/08

Log Type: Email	Action: Under Review	Due: 2017/08/30
Batch:	Subaction:	
August Bremer, President BC Association of Cattle Feeders 4744 Back Road Westwold, BC, V0E 3B1	Written: 2017/08/11 Received: 2017/08/23 Due: 2017/08/30 Approved: Signed: Closed: 2017/10/05	Resp Type: File No.: Entered By: jwendlan Approved By: Sign By:

Address To: Minister **Copy To:** Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister; Arif Lalani, Assistant Deputy Minister
Branch Rsp: **Issue:**
X-Ref: **Drafter:**
MLA: **Electoral Dist:**

Subject

Congratulations on recent appointment. The president and Executive Director both sit on the National Cattle Feeder's Association Board. Recently been included in the Agriculture Waste Control Regulation Working Group. Our representation has been critical in communicating industry fact and concern surrounding Ag Waste. Hullcar Aquifer has been a volatile situation for Agriculture, the Community and Government. s.13

s.13 We look forward to communications with the Ministry of Agriculture surrounding this issue. Request a meeting with yourself, your Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister to introduce our organization as well as to discuss the most crucial matters that are affecting both government and agriculture.

Attachments

Title: 186612 BCACF BN for Minister **Version:** 1 **Type:**
File: 186612 bcacf bn for minister.docx
Approved: **Approved By:** **Last Update:** 2017/08/31

Referral MO Minister's Office -> MO Minister's Office

From: MO Minister's Office	Sent: 2017/08/23	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Under Review
To: MO Minister's Office	Received: 2017/08/11	Reason:	
Assign To:	Completed: 2017/08/23	Due: 2017/08/25	File No.:

Referral Comments

2017/08/23 MO Minister's Office Received via email in MO and to MA for decision.

Referral MO Minister's Office -> MO Minister's Office -> DMO Deputy Minister's Office

From: MO Minister's Office	Sent: 2017/08/28	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Meeting Note
To: DMO Deputy Minister's Office	Received: 2017/08/28	Reason:	
Assign To: MO	Completed: 2017/08/31	Due:	File No.:

Referral MO Minister's Office -> MO Minister's Office -> DMO Deputy Minister's Office -> ADM Business Development Division (BDD)

From: DMO Deputy Minister's Office	Sent: 2017/08/28	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Meeting Note
To: ADM Business Development Division (BDD)	Received:	Reason:	
Assign To:	Completed: 2017/10/05	Due:	File No.:

Referral MO Minister's Office -> MO Minister's Office -> DMO Deputy Minister's Office -> ADM Business Development Division (BDD) -> BDD Innovation & Adaptation

From: ADM Business Development Division (BDD)	Sent: 2017/08/28	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Meeting Note
To: BDD Innovation & Adaptation	Received:	Reason:	
Assign To:	Completed: 2017/10/05	Due:	File No.:

Referral Comments

2017/08/28 ADM Business Development Division (BDD) May need to work with BRM .. however as Waste Management and Hullcar are mentioned, I thought it best to start with IASB.

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING WITH
B.C. ASSOCIATION OF CATTLE FEEDERS (BCACF)

Ref: 186612

Date: August 30, 2017

Issue: The B.C. Association of Cattle Feeders (BCACF) is requesting a meeting to introduce their organization and^{s.13}
s.13

Background:

- The BCACF was established in 1988 to serve the needs of those who feed cattle in British Columbia from backgrounding to finishing. They work with other cattle industry associations to bring information, technology, education and other services to their members.
- BCACF has a membership of approximately 60 producers.
- In July 2015 there were approximately 83,800 feeder cattle on backgrounding, stocker and feedlot operations within the province.

Hullcar Aquifer:

- Hullcar aquifer is a drinking water source for the Hullcar Valley. There are 53 residents connected to the Steele Springs Water District (SSWD), 22 independent well users, and the Splat sin First Nation which all rely on the aquifer for drinking water.
- From March 2014 to present, nitrate levels in the drinking water in the Hullcar Valley have consistently exceeded water quality guidelines.
- A combination of factors is likely affecting nitrate levels in the Hullcar aquifer, but agriculture has been identified as the primary cause.
- In the summer of 2016, ENV issued Pollution Abatement Orders and Pollution Prevention Orders to a total of nine agriculture operations over the Hullcar Aquifer. The orders contained specific requirements for operations including completion of Environmental Impact Assessments and corresponding action plans for some of the operations.
 - Two of those were to feedlot operations (Curtis Farms and Regehr Feedlot).
- Hullcar community (including Township of Spallumcheen, Splat sin First Nation, SSWD, and Save Hullcar Aquifer Team) would like to see more government action in the community.

Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR):

- The AWCR came into force in 1992. The AWCR is the Ministry of Environment's (ENV) legislation that regulates waste management practices on farms to prevent or reduce environmental impacts to water and air quality.
- In 2009, ENV announced a review of the AWCR. The goal was to update the regulation to provide clear and consistent standards for storing, managing, and using manure, agricultural by-products, and other waste materials. There is a focus on greater environmental protection in high risk areas and conditions (i.e. vulnerable aquifers, high rainfall areas). It identifies restrictions to specific unacceptable practices while removing the onus on ENV to prove pollution.
- The first AWCR Policy Intentions Paper in January 2012 was strongly criticized by industry as being overly stringent and prescriptive. This led to the establishment of an AWCR Industry Working Group. The working group membership is comprised of 28 industry associations, BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) and Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI). The working group is Co-Chaired by ENV, AGRI and BCAC.

- BCACF have three representatives on the AWCR Industry Working Group, these representatives are Joe Heemskerk, Mike Nikolaisen and Doug MacFarlane.
- The AWCR Industry Working Group also includes representatives from the BC Cattlemen's Association and the BC Breeders and Feeders Association.

s.13,s.16

Suggested Response:

- AGRI will continue to ensure that information about agriculture is provided to the AWCR Review and to the Huelcar region. The Province is committed to finding the right balance between agricultural production, public health, environmental and water quality interests.
- AGRI will continue to Co-Chair the Huelcar Inter-Agency Working Group with its mandate to evaluate and manage nitrate sources and work with agricultural operations to identify and implement improved nutrient management practices.
- Ministry of Environment has committed to an open transparent regulatory review process with "No Surprises". AGRI staff will continue to work with ENV to ensure that consultation and industry engagement continues as we near the final stages of the review process.

Contact: Mark Raymond, Manager – Resource Management Unit, LASB, 604-556-3107

DIR/MGR MR ED JE ADM AL DM WS

CU-COORD

Referral Slip for ID:186676

2018/06/08

Log Type: Internally Generated	Action: BN & Letter	Due: 2017/10/12
Batch: 2017 First Nations Gathering	Subaction:	
Kukpi7 Wayne Christan, Chief Splatsin Band	Written:	Entered By: sushust
	Due: 2017/10/12	Resp Type:
	Approved:	Approved By:
	Signed: 2017/10/26	Sign By:
	Closed: 2017/11/14	File No.:
Branch Rsp:		Drafter:
Issue: First Nations Issues		MLA:
X-Ref:		Electoral Dist:

Subject

2017 First Nations Gathering: Hulcar Aquifer

Log Notes

2017/08/30 Attendees:

Kukpi7 Wayne Christan, Chief
Ray Cormier, Director of Title and Rights

Attachments

Title: 186676 BN First Nations Gathering - Splatsin Band - Hulcar Aquifer	Version: 1	Type:
File: 186676 bn first nations gathering - splatsin band - hulcar aquifer.docx		
Approved:	Approved By:	Last Update: 2017/09/12
Title: 186676 Splatsin	Version: 1	Type:
File: 186676 splatsin.docx		
Approved:	Approved By:	Last Update: 2017/11/14
Title: AGRI_Splatsin_Minister	Version: 1	Type:
File: agri_splatsin_minister.docx		
Approved:	Approved By:	Last Update: 2017/10/05

Referral CU-COORD -> CU-COORD

From: CU-COORD	Sent: 2017/08/30	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Meeting Note
To: CU-COORD	Received: 2017/08/30	Reason:	
Assign To:	Completed: 2017/09/12	Due:	File No.:

Referral CU-COORD -> CU-COORD -> BDD Sector Development

From: CU-COORD	Sent: 2017/08/30	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Meeting Note
To: BDD Sector Development	Received:	Reason:	
Assign To:	Completed: 2017/09/12	Due: 2017/09/01	File No.:

Referral Comments

2017/08/30 CU-COORD Included the recent transition note prepared on this topic in assignment email to branch. Although MOE is lead, the note should be focussed on the Agriculture side of the issue.

Referral CU-COORD -> CU-COORD -> CU-COORD

From: CU-COORD	Sent: 2017/10/05	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Minister's Draft
To: CU-COORD	Received: 2017/10/05	Reason:	
Assign To:	Completed: 2017/10/24	Due: 2017/10/12	File No.:

Referral CU-COORD -> CU-COORD -> CU-COORD -> MO Minister's Office

From: CU-COORD	Sent: 2017/10/24	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Signature
To: MO Minister's Office	Received:	Reason:	
Assign To:	Completed: 2017/11/14	Due: 2017/10/12	File No.:

Referral Comments

2017/10/24 CU-COORD DM approved. Sent to MO for signature

**Ministry of Agriculture
2017 FIRST NATIONS GATHERING ISSUE NOTE**

Ref: 186676

Date: August 31, 2017

Issue: The Splatuin First Nation (Splatuin) is requesting a meeting to outline their concerns about the impacts that nitrate contamination of the Hullcar aquifer has on their members and convey their concerns regarding the lack of action taken by the province to address the issue.

Background:

- The Hullcar aquifer is a drinking water source for the Hullcar Valley. There are 53 residents connected to the Steele Springs Water District (SSWD), 22 independent well users, and the Splatuin which all rely on the aquifer for drinking water.
- From March 2014 to present, nitrate levels in the drinking water in the Hullcar Valley have consistently exceeded water quality guidelines. There was one sample in June that was 7.81 (below WQG), however, the nitrate level was lower because SSWD was mixing source waters.
- A combination of factors is likely affecting nitrate levels in the Hullcar aquifer, but agriculture has been identified as the primary cause. It is understood that the nitrates are coming from several area farms/feedlots (primarily manure), and possibly, to a lesser extent, resident septic systems.
- The Hullcar community (including Splatuin, Township of Spallumcheen, SSWD, and Save Hullcar Aquifer Team) would like to see more government action in the community.
- In 2016 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) commissioned an integrated monitoring study to better understand groundwater and nitrate dynamics within the aquifer and Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) commissioned a Post-Harvest Nitrate Test soil study which identified which sites had low, medium or high nitrate levels. The results of the work undertaken show the complexity of the aquifer and suggest that remediation will require a long period of time (e.g., 10 or more years).
- On August 2, 2017, the Province announced a new review of the Hullcar Aquifer, with the end goal of ensuring agricultural practices are consistent with the provision of clean, safe drinking water. The review is looking at the actions taken to date with respect to curbing nitrate pollution in the Hullcar Aquifer and will examine current agricultural practices and regulations in place.

s.13,s.16

Next Steps:

- AGRI will continue to Co-Chair the Hullecar Inter-Agency Working Group and work with Splatsin representatives to evaluate and manage nitrate sources.
- AGRI will also work with agricultural operations to identify and implement improved nutrient management practices and focus its related research efforts on improving such practices and finding innovative agritech solutions for producers to manage their waste.
- AGRI is committed to finding the right balance between agricultural production, public health, environmental and water quality interests.

Contact: Mark Raymond, Manager -- Resource Management Unit, IASB, 604-556-3107

DIR/MGR MR ED JE ADM DM

Template for Scribes. FNLG 2016

Note taker:	Georgina Hodson
Contact Information:	250-896-6221

First Nation:	Splatsin
First Nation Staff:	Wayne
Minister(s) Present:	MLP
BC Gov't Support Staff:	Wes Shoemaker, Georgina Hodson

Topics Discussed s.13,s.16

Commitments Made/ Action Items	Person tasked with follow-up (if any)	Timing (if a timeline was committed to)
1. Continued discussions with ENV minister		
2.		
3.		



October 26, 2017

File: 0280-30

Ref: 186676

Chief Wayne M. Christian
Splatsin
5775 Old Vernon Rd
PO Box 460
Enderby BC V0E 1V0

Dear Chief Christian:

I am writing to express my appreciation to you and your colleagues for meeting with me at the 2017 BC Cabinet-First Nations Leaders' Gathering. It was one of the largest gatherings of provincial and First Nations leaders in Canada and was all about fostering relationships, addressing problems, creating solutions and celebrating successes.

Reconciliation is a priority for this government and we are committed to working in partnership with First Nations and Indigenous peoples to develop a joint vision for reconciliation. The gathering provided a first step towards developing this joint vision, and in particular to listen and learn what is important to you and your community.

I understand the concerns regarding the safety of the drinking water provided by the Hullcar aquifer. Please be assured that the Province is taking all necessary actions to ensure residents using the Hullcar aquifer have safe drinking while preserving the region's agriculture economy. I am committed to maintaining open communication with my colleague, the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; lead on the Hullcar Aquifer, and to continue directing Ministry's focus on its research and efforts on improving the nutrient management practices of the agriculture sector as well as finding innovative agritech solutions for producers to manage their waste.

I believe that we have an opportunity to build a new government-to-government relationship that is grounded in reconciliation, respect and recognition. Together we can begin to create a new and prosperous future for Indigenous people across the province.

Thank you for our meeting and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Lana Popham
Minister

pc: Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Page 01 to/à Page 02

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

DUPLICATE

Wendland, Justine AGRI:EX

From: McRae, Meghan GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 2:34 PM
To: Beale, William AGRI:EX; Smith, Jessica C AGRI:EX
Cc: Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX; Wendland, Justine AGRI:EX
Subject: Comms Materials: Hullcar
Attachments: IN_Hullcar_Report_release_Nov_2017.docx; NR_Hullcar_AWCR_Release_December_2017.docx; QA_Hullcar_Report_November_2017.docx; IN_Hullcar_Report_AGRI_Nov_29_17_FINAL.docx

Attached are the materials from ENV on Hullcar report, ahead of tomorrow's release. Also attached is the IN developed by AGRI that speaks to our Ministry's role in the next steps.
The QA document is detailed and helpful as well.

Minister Heyman plans to do proactive media on this tomorrow.
We can respond to any media requests relevant to AGRI as they come in.

Let me know if you have any questions,

Thanks,
Meghan

Meghan McRae
Communications Director,
Ministry of Agriculture
Government Communications and Public Engagement
P:250-952-0622

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, November 29, 2017

HULLCAR REPORT – AGRICULTURAL WASTE CONTROL REGULATION

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Background:

- On August 2, 2017, the Province ordered a review into the pollution in Hullcar Aquifer with the end goal of ensuring agricultural practices are consistent with the provision and protection of clean, safe drinking water.
- Oliver Brandes, an independent national water and governance expert, was chosen to provide strategic advice and oversee the review. Calvin Sandborn, legal director with the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre served as special advisor.
- Mr. Brandes provided a review copy of the nearly-final report to the Ministry of Environment Hullcar Review Project team in early October, and to key stakeholders later in October 2017.
- The final report was received November 24, 2017.

- The key stakeholders are: the District of Spallumcheen, the Steele Springs Water, and the agriculture industry.

s.13,s.16

- Representatives from the agriculture sector were also informed of the report's draft recommendations.
- The final report lists nine sets of recommendations with the end goal of returning the soil nitrate balance and restoring the aquifer to acceptable nitrate levels.
- The immediate and short term actions contained in those recommendations include a moratorium on spreading liquid manure on areas of concern and ensuring residents have immediate access to clean drinking water.
- Longer term actions include establishing sustainable governance structures for water utilities in the area, and supporting new technologies.
- Accordingly the government has released an intentions paper seeking public comment on proposed amendments to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation that:
 - Will apply to all agricultural operations across the province, including hobby and commercial operations.
 - Will provide outcome-based requirements to protect the environment and prevent pollution. The proposed requirements:
 - Address the concept of a "temporary moratorium" (as recommended in the Hullcar report) by giving the statutory decision maker the discretion to prohibit land applications in high precipitation areas, including over vulnerable aquifers for a high-risk period.
 - This discretion would apply in specific conditions and circumstances, on a case by case basis, based on evidence.
 - Address the concern regarding intensive livestock operations by limiting the amount of nutrients applied to crop nutrient requirements, which should leave no excess nutrients to leach into the aquifer.

The Hullcar Aquifer:

- Nitrate levels have consistently exceeded water quality guidelines from March 2014 to present with respect to the Hullcar aquifer which is a drinking water source for the Hullcar Valley. There are 53 residents connected to the Steele Springs Water District (SSWD), 22 independent well users, and the Splatwin which all rely on the aquifer for drinking water.
- The aquifer provides drinking water to as many as 250 people.
- A combination of factors is likely affecting the Hullcar aquifer, but the 2017 Golder Study of the Hullcar Aquifer identified agriculture as the primary cause. It is understood that the nitrates are coming from several area farms/feedlots (primarily manure), and possibly, to a lesser extent, residential septic systems.
- Interior Health (IHA) issued a "Water Quality Advisory" in July 2014 to all drinking water users in Hullcar Valley - not a "Do Not Drink" or "Do Not Use" order. While there is a level of risk associated with consuming the drinking water, it does not meet the threshold for a "Do Not Use" order. Boiling the water will have no effect on nitrate levels.

GCPE ENV – CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Communications Contact: Victoria Klassen Jeffery
Program Area Contact: Ed Hoffman
Last updated November 27/2017 6 pm

250 812-2071
250 565-6443

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Environment and Climate

[release number]

Change Strategy

November 30, 2017

DRAFT Last updated November 29/2017 10:35 am

Hulcar review proposes water protection measures

VICTORIA – An independent review has recommended a series of improvements to the way the Province oversees agricultural waste management in order to protect drinking water in the Hulcar Valley.

Since 2014, the area has been under a water quality advisory because of elevated nitrate levels. The Province ordered a review of the Hulcar Valley aquifer situation in summer 2017, led by Oliver Brandes, co-director of the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance at the University of Victoria's Centre for Global Studies.

The final report lists nine sets of recommendations with the end goals of improving the soil nitrate balance and restoring the aquifer to acceptable nitrate levels in the Hulcar Valley; and regulatory mechanisms to help prevent a similar situation from occurring in other drinking water aquifers in British Columbia.

"Our government's goal is to ensure agricultural practices are consistent with the provision and protection of clean, safe drinking water," said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. "The report shows the way forward with a set of clear, thoughtful actions based on the best available information. The government is listening and we have already begun to implement the report's recommendations."

The report's recommendations encompass a mix of activities including: area-based and water sustainability plans, independently verified monitoring and reporting of aquifer and soil nutrient status, incentives for beneficial management practices and innovative technology, and governance and regulatory updates.

The report also recommends, as a long term reform, reviewing sustainable governance structures for water utilities in the area in partnership with the Splatshin people and the Township of Spallumcheen.

"Splatshin acknowledges Minister Heyman's commitment to the protection of safe drinking water," said Kukpi7 Wayne Christian of the Splatshin. "The report outlines a number of recommendations that will lay the groundwork for a robust government to government process that will create solutions to the ongoing contamination of the Hulcar Valley Aquifers. Splatshin looks forward to the implementation of the recommendations."

"We are very interested in responding to the report and in having the opportunity to suggest amendments to regulations," said Brian Upper of Steele Springs Waterworks District. "We are hopeful that this process will lead the government to help remediate the nitrate contaminated

aquifer and to finally proactively protect all of B.C.'s surface and groundwater for future generations."

The government today also released an intentions paper for amending the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR). The amended regulation will address some of the most pressing concerns outlined in the Hullcar report that are specific to regulatory improvements. In addition, the Ministry's existing tools under the *Environmental Management Act*, such as Orders, will continue to address the immediate concerns. The other recommendations will be addressed in coming months.

"Clean water is critical for farmers and ranchers to provide healthy food for British Columbians," said BC Agricultural Council (BCAC) Board Chair, Stan Vander Waal. "As stewards of the land, they also want to make sure water sources are protected. Government and farmers have already dedicated a great deal of effort into updating regulations to manage agriculture by-products to protect the environment and BCAC looks forward to reviewing this latest report and additional recommendations."

Approximately 250 residents depend on the Hullcar Valley aquifer for their drinking water.

Two backgrounders follow.

Backgrounder: Hullcar Valley Aquifer Report

The report, titled "From Crisis to Solutions: Toward Better Source Water Protection and Nutrient Management in the Hullcar Valley," proposes numerous actions under nine broad categories. Some examples of the recommendations are:

1. Responding with crisis intervention as needed
Actions include a targeted and temporary moratorium on liquid manure spreading in areas of concern, including providing a safety buffer in nutrient application (immediate) and a review of appeals of Pollution Abatement Orders to inform the development of future Orders (long term).
2. Robust, independently verified monitoring and reporting
Actions include testing more wells and improving field investigations (short term) and providing a regular State of the Hullcar Aquifer public report (long term).
3. Update the regulatory framework
Actions include ensuring First Nations are consulted and offered an opportunity to provide input (short term) and an improved agricultural waste control regulatory regime (long term).
4. Develop better planning
Actions include developing an Area Based Management Plan (ABMP) under the Environmental Management Act (short term) and supporting the Plan with appropriate legislation under local supervision (long term).
5. Incentives for better practices
Actions include providing incentives for on-farm best practices (short term) and to assess the implications of septic and other sources of nitrates (long term).

6. Deploy innovative technology
Actions include exploring the feasibility of a biogas facility in the Hullcar Valley (short term), and exploring ownership models that would support new technologies (long term).
7. Increased accountability
Actions include creating a Hullcar Water Board that is co-chaired by the First Nation (short term) and to review sustainable governance structures for water utilities in the area (long term).
8. Consider alternative drinking water sources
Actions include determining if an alternative water source is needed for local residents (short term) and rehabilitating the existing aquifer (long term).
9. Apply lessons learned to other at risk aquifers
Actions include support for alternative manure processing (short term) and establish a provincial State of the Water report for all drinking water sources (long term).

Learn more:

The report and supporting documents can be found on the Ministry's web site:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-permitting-compliance/hullcar-aquifer>

Backgrounder: Agricultural Waste Control Regulation Intentions Paper

The government has released an intentions paper seeking public comment on proposed amendments to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation that:

- Will apply to all agricultural operations across the province, including hobby and commercial operations.
- Will provide outcome-based requirements to protect the environment and prevent pollution. The proposed requirements:
 - Address the concept of a "temporary moratorium" (as recommended in the Hullcar report) by prohibiting land applications in high precipitation areas, including over vulnerable aquifers for a high-risk period.
 - Address the concern regarding intensive livestock operations by limiting the amount of nutrients applied to crops, which should leave no excess nutrients to leach into the aquifer.
- Will include a new requirement to enable a Director, on a case-by-case basis and using available evidence, to restrict land applications over vulnerable aquifers for a certain time period or until soil testing and water quality monitoring indicate improvement.
- Will clarify the scope, intent, and enforceability of regulations. Specifically, high-risk areas and conditions (for instance, vulnerable aquifers like that found in the Hullcar Valley) will be defined.
- Will contain provisions for the safe transport and storage of agricultural waste products.
- Will require agricultural operators to follow protective measures, such as minimum setbacks, for activities with potential for emissions, leachate, or contaminated runoff to negatively impact the environment.

- Will contain requirements for nutrient application (nitrogen and phosphorus) that minimize and eliminate the risk of runoff, leaching, and accumulation.
- Propose soil nutrient residual levels be used as an environmental risk indicator.
- Propose soil nutrient threshold levels that would trigger the need for a nutrient management plan to mitigate potential risks.
- Outline additional criteria for triggering the requirement for a nutrient management plan, these potentially include:
 - Proximity to high-risk locations like vulnerable aquifers or phosphorus sensitive areas,
 - Number of animal units,
 - Size of agricultural land base.
- Require, as part of nutrient management planning, new provisions for monitoring irrigation on fields over vulnerable aquifers to ensure that excess watering does not lead to leaching of nutrients into the aquifer.
- Contain new requirements for managing mortalities in livestock and small slaughter operations.
- Provide for accurate and timely record-keeping of nutrient management activities.
- Provide for corrective measures via advisories, warnings, or orders.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy aims to set regulatory requirements that are clear, practical, achievable, and enforceable to encourage the support and compliance of agricultural producers. The Ministry anticipates completion of the regulatory review process and changes to the regulation by spring 2018. As part of the consultative process, comments on the intentions paper are welcomed.

Learn more:

The Intentions paper can be found at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/industrial-waste/agriculture>

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Media Relations
250 953-3834

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Hulcar Aquifer Review Final Report
GCPE- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
November 2017

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Communications Contact:	Victoria Klassen Jeffery	778 698-8162
Program Area Contact:	Ed Hoffman	250 565-6443
Last updated	November 28/2017 8:35 am	

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture

Date: November 29, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Lana Popham

**Ministry of Environment
Hullcar Report**

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

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Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

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Wendland, Justine AGRI:EX

From: Neilson, Kirsten ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 10:29 AM
To: Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX
Subject: Materials: Oct 24 2 11:00 - Hullcar Aquifer
Attachments: 312089 - Hullcar Ministers Briefing Oct 4.pptx; 312089 - Bullets - Hullcar Aquifer Update October 2 2017.pdf

Hello Lisa,

Please find attached the materials for the Hullcar Aquifer Briefing on October 24th.

Best Regards,

Kirsten Neilson

Administrative Coordinator to the **Honourable George Heyman**
Minister of Environment
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Office: 250-387-3069
Mobile: 250-893-1647

Page 23 to/à Page 33

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13



Bullets

Our Reference #: 312089

Department /Branch: EISPD/ Jennifer
McGuire

Date: 2 October 2017

Re: Current Status of the Hullear Aquifer Issue

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Page 37 to/à Page 39

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

DUPLICATE

Wendland, Justine AGRI:EX

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: Hullcar review announcement
Attachments: 2017-07-31 Hullcar review options.docx; ATT00001.htm; NR_Hullcar Review_Aug 2.docx; ATT00002.htm

Arif Lalani, ADM, Agriculture

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX" <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 2, 2017 at 10:26:02 AM PDT
To: "Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX" <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, "Lambert, Tim HLTH:EX" <Tim.Lambert@gov.bc.ca>, "MacDougall, Gerry L FLNR:EX" <Gerry.MacDougall@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Hullcar review announcement

Here you go – updated info on Hullcar... I understand the GCPE folks were connecting with others.

We are still in the process of securing the external party to conduct the review. The ELC will play an advisory role.

Jennifer

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 10:23 AM
To: McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX
Cc: Cameron, Sandra AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Hullcar review announcement
Importance: High

Jennifer can I get the whole package with the TOR and other material. Concern our minister has not been briefed prior to announcement.....

Arif Lalani | ADM | Business Development Division | Agriculture
5th Floor, 808 Douglas Street, V8V 9B4 | T 250.356.1122 | F 250.356.7279
arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca

From: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 9:43 AM
To: Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX; Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Hullcar review announcement
Importance: High

This was news to me, not sure if you have briefed MLP on this one yet, but will send this along to Kenn as well

From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 9:34 AM
To: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX
Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Karn, David GCPE:EX
Subject: Hullcar review announcement
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Dave Crebo
Communications Director
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
(250) 812-5747

Terms of Reference for Review of Hullcar Situation

Agricultural practices have contributed to contamination of the Hullcar aquifer, and there is a paramount need to ensure safe clean drinking water for British Columbians. In order to gather the information necessary to set a path forward, government wishes to conduct a review with the purpose of documenting lessons learned and informing approaches to future decision making by statutory decision makers, agricultural operators, health authorities, and provincial agencies.

1. Approach:

- a. Review internal and external advice that was received and the approach taken for making decisions related to the response by the responsible government agencies to the state of the Hullcar Aquifer, including the application of relevant policy and regulation,
- b. Review current agricultural nutrient management practises from the perspective of environmental and economic sustainability while ensuring the protection of drinking water, and
- c. Provide recommendations for future decision making by statutory decision makers, agricultural operators, and government agencies regarding management of agricultural nutrients and protection of drinking water sources.

2. Scope for this review:

- a. Geographic area of the review is the North Okanagan (where intensive livestock rearing operations exist) and specifically the Hullcar aquifer.
- b. With consideration on how agricultural nutrient management practices are conducted across BC, specifically review the requirements for nutrient management plans, including scope, guidance provided by regulators, and qualifications for professionals developing nutrient management plans.
- c. Assess how other jurisdictions are approaching agricultural nutrient management and drinking water protection in areas of intensive agriculture, including addressing the carrying capacity of lands used to manage agricultural nutrients, with consideration of a broad spectrum of beneficial management practises.
- d. Review currently used and feasible waste management practices, focussing on use of agricultural waste that is economically and environmentally beneficial (e.g. composting, waste-to-energy such as bio gas and electricity generation, etc.)
- e. Consider the time lag between improvements in nutrient management practices and their effects at the water table to inform short and long term strategies for reductions in nitrate pollution from agricultural lands. The goal is for the aquifer water quality to return to safe drinking water levels as soon as possible.
- f. Focus on management of nitrogen sources from intensive cattle operations (dairy and feedlot operations) and excludes ranching, poultry and small holdings/hobby farms.
- g. Review the information that is relevant to nitrogen management that was considered during the Regulatory Review of the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation

3. Intended outcomes from the review:

- a. Information that will inform short and long term strategies for improving the environmentally sound and economically beneficial management of agricultural nutrients in the North Okanagan, while ensuring the protection of drinking water.
- b. Recommendations to inform statutory decisions under provincial statute related to the Hullcar aquifer and to inform decisions regarding agricultural waste management more broadly.
- c. Information that will inform the review of the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation and informing the development of policy with regards to the protection of drinking water by the improved management of agricultural wastes.
- d. The review will be released to the public proactively and will be available on the ministry website.

4. Participants:

- a. Agricultural Operators , local First Nations, Provincial Agencies (including but not limited to the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources), Federal Agencies, Interior Health Authority, the District of Spallumcheen, Steele Springs Waterworks District, and public stakeholders with involvement in the Hullcar situation who will be interviewed by the Reviewer to inform the review.
- b. Participation may take the form of interviews, meetings, or surveys at the discretion of the Reviewer.
- c. Nutrient management experts and specialists in other provinces or U.S. states with prominent dairy or beef cattle sectors, to be interviewed to inform the jurisdictional review.

5. Reporting Relationship:

- a. Entity conducting the review to report to the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) regarding further specific direction. Review to be submitted to the ENV Deputy Minister for presentation to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

6. Deliverables:

- a. Interim check-in by September 1, 2017
- b. Draft report by September 15, 2017
- c. Final report by September 29, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
August 2, 2017

Ministry of Environment and Climate
Change Strategy

Province orders review of Hullcar Aquifer

SPALLUMCHEEN – Today, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy George Heyman announced a new review of the Hullcar Aquifer, with the end goal of ensuring agricultural practices are consistent with the provision and protection of clean, safe drinking water.

An independent, respected expert is being commissioned to lead the review, which will be due to government by the end of September. The review will look at decisions and actions taken to-date with respect to pollution in the Hullcar Aquifer. Calvin Sandborn, Legal Director with the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre will serve as Special Advisor to the Reviewer.

"Providing the residents of the Hullcar Valley with an innovative, new path forward is a priority for me," said Heyman. "Residents need to have faith that government is listening and will be taking action to protect water quality and safety in the region while ensuring agricultural interests are protected."

The review is expected to provide forward-looking recommendations to help inform best practices for the agricultural sector and improvements to regulations that can be applied province-wide.

"The mayor and Council are pleased to learn that the review will take place", said Spallumcheen Mayor Janice Brown. "Improper disposal of agricultural waste is an issue not only in our community, but elsewhere in B.C. as well. This review provides an opportunity to find ways for a vibrant agriculture industry and safe drinking water to go hand in hand".

"The BC Dairy Association, representing farmers across the province, is committed to ensuring economic and environmental sustainability," said BC Dairy Association Chairman Dave Taylor. "We will continue to work with provincial and local government to foster sustainable agriculture in the Hullcar region."

Findings from the review will be posted publicly on the ministry's website.

Learn More:

BC Newsroom - Ministry of Environment:

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/environment-1>

Contact:
Media Relations
Ministry of Environment
250 953-3834

Wendland, Justine AGRI:EX

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: Hullcar review announcement
Attachments: NR_Hullcar Review_Aug 2.docx; ATT00001.htm; QA_Hullcar_Aug 2.docx; ATT00002.htm

Arif Lalani, ADM, Agriculture

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX" <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 2, 2017 at 9:42:31 AM PDT
To: "Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX" <Wes.Shoemaker@gov.bc.ca>, "Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX" <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Hullcar review announcement

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(250) 812-5747

Page 47 to/à Page 67

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

NR

Wendland, Justine AGRI:EX

From: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2017 9:15 AM
To: Johnson, Lisa E AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: BC Association of Cattle Feeders Introduction

From: Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX
Sent: Saturday, August 19, 2017 10:36 AM
To: BCACF Info
Cc: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX; Mack, James AGRI:EX
Subject: Re: BC Association of Cattle Feeders Introduction

Good morning Andrea,

I apologize for the difficulty in arranging a meeting with either the Minister or Ministry staff. I know the Minister had been travelling to Vancouver for meetings and may be away from the office for a few days next week.^{s.22}

I know the Minister and I would be very interested in meeting with you in person. Let's attempt to try and setup something as soon as we can and if that isn't possible then we'll at least connect by telephone.

Does that work for you?

Wes

W.H. (Wes) Shoemaker, MBA
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture
5th Floor, 808 Douglas Street
Victoria, BC V8W 9B4
Tel: 250.356.1803 | Cell:^{s.17} | Fax: 250.356.7279
E-mail: wes.shoemaker@gov.bc.ca

****Please note:** This email is intended for the addressee(s) only and may contain legally privileged information. Any unauthorized use, disclosure or reproduction is strictly prohibited.**

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 18, 2017, at 11:23 AM, BCACF Info <info@bcacf.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Shoemaker,

We had attempted to be in touch with the Ministry of Agriculture last week and have not heard back as to a possible meeting with either the Minister or any staff members. We are checking in,

at this time, to enquire again about a meeting. With the review of the Hullcar Aquifer and their impending affect on the Ag Waste Control Regulations we feel that our group, as stakeholders in this situation, have valuable opinions and knowledge for the Ministry of Agriculture. We also have directors who have been involved with the working group appointed to the review of the AWCRC for the past, several years. We would be very interested in arranging a meeting or phone conversation with yourself and your staff.

Please feel free to contact me at the number below or by replying to this email.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Regards,

Andrea van Iterson

Executive Director

BC Association of Cattle Feeders

(250) 371-7756

From: BCACF Info
Sent: August 11, 2017 11:42 AM
To: AGR.minister@gov.bc.ca
Cc: wes.shocmaker@gov.bc.ca; Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Subject: BC Association of Cattle Feeders Introduction

Good morning Minister Popham,

Please accept the attached correspondence as a brief introduction to our organization. We look forward to working with yourself and Ministry staff and are very confident we will be able to develop a positive, working relationship that will benefit both the Province and Agriculture.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 250-371-7756.

Best Regards,

Andrea van Iterson
Executive Director

BC Association of Cattle Feeders

<AGR.pdf>