From: Grout, Kim ALC:EX (Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca)
To: Kristianson, Eric AF:EX (Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca)
Cc: Pokorny, Peter AF:EX (Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: 810 Iverson Road Abbotsford

Sent: 01/13/2023 18:56:44

Message Body:

Hi, Eric

Here are updated bullets on the Iverson Road file. The new/updated information is in black text below. There has been a lot of activity since early October.

- July 2022 ALC started received complaints from local residents and Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD). Most were related to large quantities of unauthorized contaminated fill being imported to the property. Claims that garbage including gypsum and other waste was also being imported generating foul odour and potentially polluting the surface and groundwater resources in the area.
- August 15, 2022 ALC officer contacted Ministry of Environment (MOE) who advised that they are investigating and the gypsum has been removed and some plastic was wrap from hay bales which will also be removed at the end of the process. MOE advised that property owner is composting on-site and applying the finished compost to their land to improve agricultural capability. MOE has required a composting application under MOE?s Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) by Aug 19, 2022.
- Aug. 23, 2022 joint inspection conducted by ALC Officer, FVRD Bylaw and MOE. Found that some food waste, gypsum paper, some small piles of paper and plastics were screened out prior to application of finished compost on the land. Owner advised that finished material was Class A based on OMRR classification and have applied to MOE to operate a class A compost facility on the site. MOE is reviewing their composting application. Minimal odour was noted by the officers during this inspection. The final compost applied to the land was clean.
- The production and application of Class A compost is an allowed activity under ALC legislation for application within the Agricultural Land Reserve without ALC authorization.

Section 7 (3) of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation (ALR Use Reg) states the following:

Soil testing, biosolids and soil amendments

7 (3)The use of agricultural land for producing, storing and applying compost may not be prohibited as described in section 4 if, in the case of

(a)compost classified as Class A compost under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation, all of the compost produced, stored and applied is used on the agricultural land on which it was produced, or (b)any other compost, the compost is from agricultural by-products that were produced for a farm use.

- Aug. 29, 2022 received email from MOE who advise they had reviewed their composting data, and **it failed to meet class A compost due to a low C:N ratio**. MOE has asked Fraser Valley Renewables to prove their product is now Class B compost and to provide invoices for removing the Gyproc contaminated paper. MOE needs to determine if the compost is Class B compost or if it is considered municipal solid waste
- October 12, 2022 ALC receives a copy of the MOE Advisory Report dated September 29, 2022 from Fraser Valley Renewables that specified that the material being processed is Class B quality as per OMRR.
- October 13, 2022 ALC staff inspected. The property owner (Vander Wyk) was advised to cease operation and informed that a Stop Work Order will be placed on the property. Advised property owner that if he wished to continue with the business, he could submit a Non-farm use application to the ALC for the operation of a Class B Compost Facility. Application of Class A Compost is only permitted on the ALR.
- October 18, 2022 ALC Officer issued Contravention Notice. Requirement to cease operating Composting Facility including applying Class B Compost to the land. In response email from Fraser Valley Renewables (FVR) they advised they were developing a closure plan for the current 810 Iverson operation and will propose a plan to manage the remaining compost on site.

- October 19, 2022 C&E Officers attended property and placed Stop Work Order to prevent any further importation of Class B Compost.
- October 20, 2022 received copy of File Closure Letter dated as prepared by Terrawest Environmental Management and Consulting to remove and work with the material that is currently on the property
- October 22, 2022 ALC and MOE staff attend a meeting with Columbia Valley Ratepayers Association (CVRA) and FVRD to hear their concerns about the site.
- October 31, 2022 received MOE Warning Letter Warning Letter to FVR dated October 31, 2022 advising that Fraser Valley Renewables Ltd. to immediately implement the necessary changes or modifications to correct the non-compliance(s) listed above with the *Environmental Management Act*. Further, Fraser Valley Renewables Ltd. notify MOE within 30 days of this letter, advising what corrective measures have been taken, and what else is being done, to prevent similar non-compliances in the future. The letter stated that the material on-site was **neither Class A nor Class B Compost as earlier stated by MoE.**
- November 1, 2022 MOE advised owner FVR that the revised Closure Plan was reviewed and was found not acceptable.
- November 15, 2022 ALC receives email from MOE with attached plan for property.
- November 17, 2022 ALC Officer and MOE attend property for site inspection.
- December 5, 2022 MOE sent Warning Letter requiring FVR to provide a timeline of anticipated next steps to come into compliance with EMA as requested in the Warning letter above within 30 days of receiving this letter.
- January 4, 2023 ? MOE received a proposal from Fraser Valley Renewable (FVR) entitled ?Response Action Plan? to address MOE?s concerns stated in their December 5, 2022 letter. The plan involves the removal of foreign material (e.g. mainly plastic and other materials such as tiles, Gyproc, metal utensils) and adding carbon (e.g. sawdust) to better the carbon: nitrogen ratio which improves the growing ability of the compost. Further the proposal indicated that the current site status is that all waste material is being stockpiled and covered with an impermeable liner as per MOE requirements. FVR indicated that the site is now under winter conditions, and it is not recommended that the piles be disturbed further until the spring snow melt.
- January 12, 2023? Ministry of Environment responded to the proposed FVR action plan requiring more details and re-submission of the plan. The letter also indicated that a Non-farm application is required from the ALC in order to process the waste on the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- MOE has advised that the risk of surface and ground water pollution is relatively low based on analytical data received from FVR.

# **Next Steps for ALC:**

- 1. Follow-up letter to property owner and Fraser Valley Renewables advising of the following:
  - Based on MOE review of the analytical results, the compost stored on-site is considered a ?waste? as defined under the *Environmental Management Act*.
  - Processing of ?waste? is not a permitted activity on the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Therefore the waste must be removed from the property within the next 60 days.
  - Advise they do have an option to apply for a Non-Farm Use Application under the Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA) for authorization to process this ?waste? on-site. Approval must be obtained prior to any processing.
    - Noting that a Non-Farm Application will be first forwarded to the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) who must authorization the application to proceed to the Commission for its consideration.

(FYI - Some FVRD directors have already stated they do not want this waste in their

## community)

- 2. If the owner/FVR does not make a Non-Farm application or if the application is refused, the ALC will consider other enforcement measures available under the ALCA (i.e. Remediation and/or Penalty order). Note ALC has already issued a Stop Work Order preventing any further importation of the waste onto the property.
- 3. ALC staff will continue to work with MOE on review of any re-submitted action plan to determine if the proposed process is capable of generating class A compost.
- 4. ALC staff will continue to conduct joint inspections with MOE

From: Taryn Dixon (tdixon@fvrd.ca)

**To:** Bings, Dan P ENV:EX (Dan.Bings@gov.bc.ca); Sundher, Avtar S ALC:EX (Avtar.Sundher@gov.bc.ca)

Cc: Caunce, Cassandra ENV:EX (Cassandra.Caunce@gov.bc.ca); Howett, Katie ENV:EX

(Katie.Howett@gov.bc.ca); Nash, Laurel ENV:EX (Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca); Barlas, Sajid A ENV:EX (Sajid.Barlas@gov.bc.ca); Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX (Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca); Paddon.MLA, Kelli

LASS:EX (Kelli.Paddon.MLA@leg.bc.ca); Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca); Minister,

AF AF:EX (AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca); ALC Burnaby ALC:EX (ALCBurnaby@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca);

Pokorny, Peter AF:EX (Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: 810 Iverson Sent: 11/25/2022 17:55:55 Attachments: image0.jpeg

Message Body:

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

### Good Morning,

I am sure you are tired of hearing from me and from others with non stop concerns and complaints with regard to 810 Iverson. My constituents are extremely concerned and angry, and we are desperate to protect our water source and Cultus Lake, all connected to Aquifer #20. It feels like we are the only ones concerned about the leaching and contamination entering our aquifer.

Today I am asking for an update that I can share and an explanation with regard to why this garbage is still here and still polluting our environment, particularly our water source.

- 1. I am aware they are re-piling the spread material and have ordered tarps. We know those tarps could take days/weeks or months to come. What is the plan for protection until these tarps arrive? If they need help finding tarps quickly, a Project Manager has indicated he could have them within a week. I am happy to provide contacts to FVR so they can get them covered.
- 2. Why have they not been fined for leaving tonnes of garbage on the ALR, uncovered since Oct. 1st. They were told by MOE on Oct 28th to cover the existing piles. That is over a month ago and it hasn't happened. Your ministry has allowed tonnes of garbage to remain uncovered, without any repercussions that I am aware of to FVR. Please explain this.
- 3. Why are you waiting for FVR to tell you what they plan to do with this garbage, instead of telling them to get it off? You are the authorities, not them. They have been told that removal is the only option and now they are given more time to experiment-maybe add this material in to see if it would fix the issue or maybe have a few separate trials experiments going on to see if anything will fix the garbage and turn it into an acceptable nutrient source. You have allowed and continue to allow a garbage dump, an unauthorized use of farmland and an unauthorized activity in my area. Why is FVR being allowed to dictate the next steps?
- 4. The Ministry has acknowledged that this aquifer is a high risk area. I have shared research data indicating high levels of phosphorus. Please help me understand why the Ministry of Environment is not seemingly concerned about further contamination.
- 5. I am aware of private testing results that have shown high levels of arsenic in the garbage that has been spread. I understand that there is a chain of custody concern but have you considered that the results might be true and done any kind of third party testing? If not can you please explain why not? Do you have evidence indicating there are no contaminants or toxins in the garbage that is leaching into Aquifer # 20. Please share it if you do.
- 6. I have heard the OMRR is under review and have asked repeatedly for a link or for some clarification with regard to how to provide input. This process is not working. Our province can't continue to have a process that allows a landfill to appear in an area without any permits, consultation or authorization, turn a quiet community upside down, potentially destroy an area and leave the people with little hope. We have to be better than this. Please let me know how to properly provide feedback to the OMRR review process so I can share it with residents, Fraser Valley Regional District and the Union of BC Municipalities.
- 7. There are at least 40 container trucks of broken drywall, all of which has been buried. According to FVR this was another failed experiment to improve the quality of the material. What is happening with removing the drywall? Do you have manifests indicating that it is clean and uncontaminated?

You have the power and the tools to do something about this, I do not. It is pouring rain, leaching is happening right now and it is worrisome.

Here's a picture taken on Nov. 23 and it is upsetting. This is ALR that has been allowed to turn into a landfill. Please do something immediately to get this garbage out of the area and to a proper landfill.

While I do know this is obviously on your radar, hearing that FVR is being given time to think up a plan to turn this garbage into a "nutrient source" that can be spread, is completely unacceptable. It needs to be removed before our drinking water is poisoned and Cultus Lake further contaminated.

Page 4 of 65 AGR-2023-32375

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your reply. Taryn

[image0.jpeg]

Taryn Dixon FVRD Director, Area H 604 819 7000 Sent from my iPad From: Taryn Dixon (tdixon@fvrd.ca)

**To:** Grout, Kim ALC:EX (Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca)

Cc: Pokorny, Peter AF:EX (Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca); Sundher, Avtar S ALC:EX

(Avtar.Sundher@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: Re: ALC Complaint re 810 Iverson Road Columbia Valley

**Sent:** 10/11/2022 17:58:32

Message Body:

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thanks so much. I will send out an agenda as soon as it is ready. We received confirmation from Moe EC that he has been making and applying Compost B. As you know this is a violation but OMRR says compost B must not to be applied in a watershed used as a permitted water supply. That is our aquifer and we will be working to ensure this composting stops until at least our aquifer is properly studied. We must protect it. Thanks again for confirming Avtar's attendance. It is appreciated.

Taryn

Sent from my iPhone

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> On Oct 11, 2022, at 10:11 AM, Grout, Kim ALC:EX <Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
> Good morning, Taryn.
> Just confirming that Avtar Sundher will be attending the meeting on October 22.
> Best regards
> Kim
> Kim Grout | Chief Executive Officer | Agricultural Land Commission
> T 236.468.3265 | F 604.660.7033
> Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca
> ----Original Message-----
> From: Tarvn Dixon <tdixon@fvrd.ca>
> Sent: October 6, 2022 2:51 PM
> To: Grout, Kim ALC:EX < Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca>
> Cc: Pokorny, Peter AF:EX <Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca>; Sundher, Avtar S ALC:EX <Avtar.Sundher@gov.bc.ca>
> Subject: Re: ALC Complaint re 810 Iverson Road Columbia Valley
> [EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known
sender.
> Thank you. I have already received much of this information from Avtar. I just want to confirm that it was not gypsum but it was
gyproc and it has not been removed but has been buried. This has been reported many times to many different agencies and is
being ignored. I find it odd that no one would ask the neighbour who saw it dumped and buried, where it is.
> I realize you're waiting for MOE but it is your rules that are being broken and it really is a challenging situation to try and find
the right person to connect with.
> Any activity that has forced people indoors, causes them to have difficulty breathing, creates conditions where they are unable to
do their real farm work, added stress about water contamination and is basically tearing my quiet community apart, has some
serious challenges and in my view really is not being addressed by those responsible for protecting our air, land and water.
> We are having a meeting at 9:00 am on Saturday October 22nd at the Columbia Valley Community Hall and MLA Paddon,
Doug Forsdick and Cassandra Caunce will be attending. I am extending the invitation to you and/or another representative from
the Agriculture side. It is important you have a real understanding of how this operation has negatively impacted our area.
> Taryn
> Taryn Dixon
> FVRD Director, Area H
> 604 819 7000
> Sent from my iPad
>> On Oct 6, 2022, at 9:50 AM, Grout, Kim ALC:EX <Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
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>> Good morning Taryn.
>>
>> Appreciate you reaching out.
>>
>> The ALC has received several complaints about the property and our ALC
>> Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) officer recently inspected the site
>> located at 810 Iverson Road, Columbia Valley. Here are our findings
>>
      Starting July 13, 2022 have received 21 complaints from local residents and Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD). Most
were related to large quantities of unauthorized contaminated fill being imported to the property. Claims that garbage including
gypsum and other waste was also being imported generating foul odour and potentially polluting the surface and groundwater
resources in the area.
>>
      August 15, 2022 ALC officer contacted Ministry of Environment (MOE) who advised that they are investigating and the
gypsum has been removed and some plastic was wrap from hay bales which will also be removed at the end of the process. MOE
advised that property owner is composting on-site and applying the finished compost to their land to improve agricultural
capability. MOE has required a composting application under MOE's Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) by Aug 19,
2022.
>>
>> •
      Aug. 23, 2022 joint inspection conducted by ALC Officer, FVRD Bylaw and MOE. Found that some food waste, gypsum
paper, some small piles of paper and plastics were screened out prior to application of finished compost on the land. Owner
advised that finished material was Class A based on OMRR classification and have applied to MOE to operate a class A compost
facility on the site. MOE is reviewing their composting application. Minimal odour was noted by the officers during this
inspection. The final compost applied to the land was clean.
>> The production and application of Class A compost is an allowed activity under ALC legislation for application within the
Agricultural Land Reserve without ALC authorization.
>> Section 7 (3) of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation (ALR Use Reg) states the following:
>> Soil testing, biosolids and soil amendments
           (3) The use of agricultural land for producing, storing and applying compost may not be prohibited as described in
section 4 if, in the case of
      (a)compost classified as Class A compost under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation, all of the compost produced,
stored and applied is used on the agricultural land on which it was produced, or
      (b) any other compost, the compost is from agricultural by-products that were produced for a farm use.
>>
>> Currently the ALC is waiting for MOE to determine if the operation at the site meets MOE requirements for a class A compost
facility under OMRR which includes feedstock components, composting process and quality of the final product. We understand
that MOE is reviewing and processing the OMRR application and a final decision is expected. If the operation does not meet
class A compost requirement under OMRR, MOE may require them to cease operation. Similarly the facility would be out of
compliance with section 7(3) of the ALR Use Reg if the facility does not generate class A compost.
>> We also understand that the Conservation Officer Service is aware of the complaints and may look into potential pollution
issues.
>>
>> If you have any follow-up questions, please don't hesitate to contact Avtar Sundher my Director of Operations, head of our
Compliance and Enforcement Division. I have copied Avtar on this email so you have his contact information.
>>
>> I hope this information proves helpful.
>>
>> Best regards
>>
>> Kim
>>
>>
>> Kim Grout | Chief Executive Officer | Agricultural Land Commission T
>> 236.468.3265 | F 604.660.7033 Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca
>>
>> ----Original Message-----
>> From: Taryn Dixon <tdixon@fvrd.ca>
>> Sent: October 6, 2022 7:40 AM
>> To: Pokorny, Peter AF:EX <Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca>; Grout, Kim ALC:EX
>> < Kim.Grout@gov.bc.ca>
>> Subject: ALC Complaint re 810 Iverson Road Columbia Valley
>> [EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known
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sender.

- >> Good Morning,
- >> I am writing again to express concerns about what has been happening at 810 Iverson Road, at the south end of Cultus Lake, since March 26, and the lack of response from both the ALC, Ministry Of Agriculture and MOE. I have emailed Minister Popham and the ALC Board but have received no response. I am well aware that over 20 complaints have been submitted to both the ALC line and RAPP. Yes, an inspection or two has occurred but the unpermitted operation has continued unchecked for over 6 months. Yes a Notice of Operation was submitted 3 days before the dumping began but they are not dumping Compost A. They are just calling it Compost A and it seems to work for them. It is referred to as MIDS by Surrey Convertus and a TerraWest study calls it Compost B.

>>

>> I have seen the large piles of plastic, garbage bags, doggie bags, metal and have a sample of the gyprock that was dumped. The operation began by dumping over 40 container trucks of broken drywall. This has been buried and ignored by the ALC and MOE. I have an email from one of the Min. Of Ag staff indicating the drywall was removed. This is completely false.

>>

>> Well over 2000 container trucks have dumped material coming out of Surrey Biofuels. My information has indicated that was supposed to be going to a proper facility. Mr. Matt Malkins from FV Renewables has worked with land owner Mr. Bruce Vander Wyk and simply began a dumping operation up here.

>>

>> My constituents have tried to do the right thing and sent concern after concern to the appropriate department. They have been shuffled around and basically ignored because no responses are coming back to them. My community has been assaulted with truck traffic, up to 20 a day 6:30am-9:30 pm, the stench is unbearable and people worry about whether or not there are toxins in the air, other farmers are unable to work outside for long periods of time, so their work has been impacted, the Upick Berry farms received non stop complaints about the smell and people struggled to breathe while picking. But the biggest fear residents have is that their drinking water will be contaminated and that Cultus Lake will be further contaminated by this operation. One person's Non Farm Use that has no permits in place, should not be allowed to have such a detrimental impact on a community and certainly should not supersede people's right to breathe fresh air and drink clean water.

>>

>> Fraser Valley Renewables finally posted an information package. It has a report from Terra West calling the one load they have sampled, Compost B. That in itself should be a concern.

>>

- >> The massive piles of garbage have been agitated, screened and for
- >> months sat in huge piles directly over top of our damaged aquifer. It
- >> is aquifer # 20

>>

>> The Code of Practice for Environmental Agricultural Management Part 5, Section 20 discusses aquifers. The aquifer in Columbia Valley is listed as phosphorus damaged. We normally have high precipitation Oct-April, the soil is rocky and porous and there are typically strong divergent winds. This should be a huge consideration for those enforcing.

>>

>> Yesterday the massive piles were spread and this is just as concerning because to my knowledge, no authority has tested what was in the piles and what has been spread. Now we have potential contamination of over 10 acres of land, leaching into the acquirer. I have submitted the name, address and phone number of a witness who has been watching this operation daily. She can tell you where the gyprock was buried and has other observations too. No one has seemed interested in speaking with her because no one has contacted her.

>>

- >> Our Ask is not unreasonable but has gone unheard:
- >> 1. Stop Work immediately
- >> 2. Test what has been spread- If it's contaminated heavy fines, remediation and complete shut down 3. If no Contamination:
- >> no start up until an Environmental Impact Study is completed and analyzed
- >> MOE, ALC or Min. Of Ag to initiate and complete an aquifer study to ensure our drinking water and Cultus Lake will be protected
- >> require Community Input- the people at 810 Iverson do not live in isolation in Columbia Valley and neighbours and residents need an opportunity to express concerns and have their questions answered by those who are making the rules and who are supposed to be enforcing them.

>>

>> Oddly enough, my community has not yet gone to the media because I think they were hoping those in charge would do the right thing and shut this operation down. Their frustration over lack of response and continued dumping is increasing and has the potential to lead to violence. This is not acceptable.

>>

>> I am working with MLA Paddon, Deputy Minister Jardine and his staff to set up a Community Meeting. The meeting will either be 9:00am on Sat. Oct. 22 (first choice) or 3:00 pm on Fri. Oct. 21. I would like to request there also be a representative from Ministry of Agriculture and/or the ALC Board. Your rules are not working for this community and it is important that you hear their voices. I will send a confirmation once I have heard back from MOE as to which time works.

>> >>

>> Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you. I have included a few pictures so you can see what has been dumped and as of yesterday, spread.

>>

>> Taryn [image3.jpeg]

>>

>> [image0.png][image1.jpeg][image2.jpeg]

- >>
- >> Taryn Dixon
- >> FVRD Director, Area H
- >> 604 819 7000
- >> Sent from my iPad

From: Paddon.MLA, Kelli (Kelli.Paddon.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

To: MacLellan, Alyssa AF:EX (Alyssa.MacLellan@gov.bc.ca); Lo, Reamick ENV:EX

(Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: RE: organic dumping in Columbia Valley

Sent: 08/24/2022 20:26:45

Message Body:

**[EXTERNAL]** This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello again both,

We received another email today from another constituent regarding this issue with a bit more detail. Please see below.

"I live at \$.22 Starting back in March we noticed an increase in truck traffic on our roads. We put it down to the fact that there were large berry fields in our area since it is ALR protected. On checking into this we found that these trucks were hauling to 810 Iverson Rd. These were drywall, garbage and vacuum trucks. We have pictures of some of the product. These trucks go by my house and have a noxious smell. We asked the owner and he informed us that he was putting neutral soil on his land other neighbours have asked and he has told them to mind their own business. Our community have sent in complaints to the regional district our director Taryn Dixon has been on it from the start but she can't seem to get any answers either. We have contacted RAPP they can't do anything because it is private property. The ALC will not give any straight answers. There have been two thousand loads of garbage go by my house I can't sit on my deck with my family, hang out my laundry because of the smell. The roads up here cannot support this amount of truck traffic as It is already at capacity and needing repairs. Another more important fact is this is being dumped on open land when the rains started in March that means this product started leaching into our aquifer. This aquifer in Columbia Valley feeds Lindell Beach, Creekside, Aquadell Crossing, Lindell Beach holiday resort and Columbia Valley and the Stillwood Bible camp and also goes into Cultus Lake. We are very concerned about this industrial dump site and our aquifer. We are hoping that maybe you can find out why this is allowed in our community and no one has any answer."

Thank you both for your attention to this!

Best regards.

Jennifer Trithardt-Tufts | Constituency Assistant

Kelli Paddon, MLA | Chilliwack - Kent

J4 6640 Vedder Road | Chilliwack | T: 604 858-5299 7092 Pioneer Avenue | Agassiz | T: 604 796 5270

We acknowledge that the Chilliwack-Kent constituency is part of the Coast Salish community, and that we operate on the traditional territories of the Stó:lō People, Sts'ailes Nation, and the Ts'elxwéyegw, Pil'alt and Tiyt Tribes.

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From: Paddon.MLA, Kelli Sent: August 16, 2022 2:09 PM

To: MacLellan, Alyssa AF:EX <Alyssa.MacLellan@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: organic dumping in Columbia Valley

Hello both,

MLA Paddon asked me to engage with both ministries as we weren't entirely sure who this would fall under. FVRD is asking for support regarding organic waste (Class A compost) dumping in the Columbia Valley area. ALC is going to see the site next week however it could be much worse by then.

FVRD has reported the issue to RAPP.

I have also included an excerpt from a concerned constituent who emailed us about this yesterday.

"Hi, we would like to report illegal, contaminating dumping taking place from Abbotsford to 617 Iverson Rd, Columbia Valley all day long by possibly as many as 25 fully loaded semi trucks/day. We are concerned with our water quality (as we all draw from an aquifer), our road deterioration, our personal safety as these trucks are careless, fast & not staying in their own lanes and especially our air quality which is horrendous at times. It's unacceptable that one owner can destroy all other's rights to enjoy their land, water & community."

Please let me know what other information if any that you might need from us.

Best regards,

Jennifer Trithardt-Tufts | Constituency Assistant

Kelli Paddon, MLA | Chilliwack - Kent J4 6640 Vedder Road | Chilliwack | T: 604 858-5299 7092 Pioneer Avenue | Agassiz | T: 604 796 5270

We acknowledge that the Chilliwack-Kent constituency is part of the Coast Salish community, and that we operate on the traditional territories of the Stó:lō People, Sts'ailes Nation, and the Ts'elxwéyegw, Pil'alt and Tiyt Tribes.

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## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

### **BULLET POINTS TEMPLATE**

CLIFF#: 198557

Client / Writer: Kelli Paddon

Main issues: Potential Illegal Dumping/Composting in the ALR Bullets prepared by: Jake Turek Date prepared: 2022-08-24

Date due:

# **Background**

- A farm at 810 Iverson Road, near Cultus Lake, allegedly has upwards of 25 fully loaded semi-trucks per day delivering compost to the site.
- Neighbours are concerned of the activity due to potential impacts to water and air quality, road deterioration, and personal safety as the neighbours have claimed the trucks have been operated in a reckless manner.
- Commercial compost and land application falls under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) and is enforceable by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV).
- The farm is situated over a vulnerable aquifer recharge area which means that the aquifer is vulnerable to nitrate pollution or contamination.
- The Fraser Valley Regional District has reported this activity to ENV, and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is aware of the situation.

### Discussion

- The farmer is importing compost from the Surrey Biofuel Facility via Fraser Valley Renewables (FVR) to build up the soil for agricultural purposes.
- ENV visited the site on August 10, 2022, to do a site inspection.
- ALC also visited the site on August 23, 2022 and noted a large pile of "overs" i.e., plastics, metals, and oversized materials screened out of the compost.
  - To date, ALC has said it does not appear that the producer is land applying the overs to the fields.

s.13

- ENV requested compost data and determined that the material delivered to the site was Class B Compost as defined by OMRR.
- To be able to land apply Class B material, the producer must submit a Land Application Plan to and have it approved by ENV.

On September 29, ENV issued a Non-Compliance Advisory Letter to FVR which states that FVR
must submit a Land Application Plan to ENV and provide notice of 30 calendar days prior to land
application as required by OMRR.

# **Summary**

- A farmer is importing large volumes of compost and may be applying nutrients beyond what could be considered as agronomically prudent.
- ENV issued a Non-Compliance Advisory Letter to the site which requires the farmer or their representatives to provide ENV with a Land Application Plan and a notification of 30 calendar days prior to further land application.

From: Taryn Dixon (tdixon@fvrd.ca)

To: Minister, AF AF:EX (AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: Impact of "Composting" facility

**Sent:** 09/29/2022 23:14:05

Attachments: image0.png, image0.jpeg, image1.jpeg, image2.png

Message Body:

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

### Hello Minister Popham,

I am writing today to make you aware of concerning situation in Columbia Valley at the south end of Cultus Lake and to hopefully get some assistance.

Over 20 complaints have been submitted to RAPP and to the ALC complaint line and the response has been slow, at best. The concerns of the community are not being heard and I believe that is vital. I have met with Minister Heyman at UBMC and have written to the ALC Board. I receive daily complaints and direct them to MLA Paddon, because this is a provincial issue and Fraser Valley Regional District has no jurisdiction.

At the end of March large container trucks began dumping material at 810 Iverson Road in Columbia Valley, at the far end of Cultus Lake. The property is owned by Mr. Bruce Vander Wyk and the material was coming from New Westminister Gypsum, Surrey Convertus and Fraser Valley Renewables. Mr. Matt Malkin is the contractor. They have submitted a Notice of Operation for a composting facility to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. It is my understanding their application is awaiting for approval. In the meantime, they have been operating since the end of March.

Over 40 truck loads of gyproc have been dumped, spread and buried. A picture is attached. This occurred in April -June. This was reported and beyond an inspection, nothing has happened. Over 1500 container trucks of garbage like material have arrived, and continue to arrive.

The massive piles sit directly on the ALR, over top of a high risk aquifer that is already phosphorus contaminated from previous farming activities that drains into Cultus Lake. I have attached a page from the report and would be happy to connect you with a scientist. I have read The Code of Practice for Agriculture Environmental Management that clearly states Compost should not be sitting for more than 2 weeks directly on top of a vulnerable high risk aquifer. It has been there for 6 months.

I have been on site and have seen the piles of debris. They are full of plastic, dog feces, garbage, glass, metal and numerous other materials. It is turned, agitated, put through a screener and eventually spread. Most of the material is simply ground up and is not separated out. This means some plastic is being added to the soil.

While I am aware that the ALC allows composting on ALR with no regulation beyond a Notice of Operation and a Staff Training Plan I am writing today to talk about the other people who live in the area. This one operation has put my community at risk and they are angry. It is unacceptable that one person can destroy the quality of life for so many others. This summer people have been unable to go outside because they couldn't breathe. They would try to go outside to work on their farms and ended up gagging and choking because of the toxic air. They cannot sleep at night because they can't open their windows. So it's hot and stuffy in their houses but open windows mean they gag and choke. No one can tell us what's in the toxic air because no one is testing it. Other farmers have a right to farm too and they have actual crops they are trying to grow. This operation is impacting the Agri Tourism in the area .

I struggle to understand how one person and his operation can potentially be allowed to damage the aquifer where we all get our drinking water from and that drains into Cultus Lake. Cultus Lake is considered a jewel in the province and does not need any further. Leaching will occur as these piles sit directly on top of the land, It is not acceptable that one person can have an operation with such damaging potential to the air, land and water without any kind of input from the neighbours or oversight from those who are responsible for compliance and enforcement. It also seems there is no requirement for an Environmental Impact Study because his operation is to be under 5000 tonnes.

No one can tell me how they decide when they reach 5000 tonnes. How would anyone know? I know at least 1500 trucks have dumped garage on this land. I don't know how much that will process down to.

Now it seems there is a plan to build an actual Compost Facility to receive all the waste from Abbotsford schools, institutions, hatcheries, chicken farms etc. The plan appears to simply be a cut and paste from another operation because it makes no sense. It indicates if there are spills to call the City of Abbotsford. If there are odour concerns to call the City of Abbotsford. The City of Abbotsford has absolutely nothing to do with Columbia Valley and seeing a report that is inaccurate, does nothing to alleviate any of the concerns we have. We know, no one will respond to our concerns especially if they are related to odour. This is not farming. I grew up in Chilliwack and am well aware that sometimes farmers spread manure and it stinks. But it's short lived and only happens a few times a year. This is 24/7 365 days a year with no recourse for those living near it to have input. I am also not sure why a person needs a large full facility to compost for his own personal use. This appears to be the start of something well beyond composting for his own land and yet, that is not mentioned . I am not understanding why FV Renewables is giving the owner this product while other facilities sell it. The report from TerraWest indicates the compost he is producing is Compost B. That

Page 14 of 65 AGR-2023-32375

involves application plans each time it is spread. I am not aware that those exist.

Allowing this operation to continue unchecked is not acceptable. I realize he's indicating he's doing all this composting to enhance his soil to grow vegetables. That remains to be seen. However, other farmers are trying to grow crops too and they struggle to be outside. How does one person have a right to cause this? Other farmers are trying to mar a living too.

I am asking your ministry to take a serious look at what is going on in Columbia Valley and quite possibly in other areas across the province. I know organics are no longer allowed in the land fill but it seems we are not ready to process it properly and we can't just have it all dumped on farmland because there are fewer rules and restrictions. We have initiated multiple complaints and they just go back and forth from MOE to ALC to MOE to Fraser Health. I am aware that MOE and ALC have been on site. They may have been happy with what they have seen, I don't know because they don't report to me. The community needs must be considered. I cannot understand why this type of operation can suddenly arrive in a community, destroy the fresh air and potentially damage the aquifer, Cultus Lake and the land, without meeting with the neighbours to hear their concerns. I also can't understand why MOE and ALC would not be worried about this type of operation.

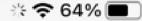
We have asked that MOE issue a Stop Work Order and test the soil that has already been spread. Test the areas where the gyproc and plastic are buried. I have provided them with the name and contact info of a witness who can tell exactly where everything is buried. I don't think that asking for soil testing of what has been spread on the ground is unreasonable but I am not aware that it has happened.

I am also asking the ALC to take a look at the composting regulations and at those operating or planning to operate. Some of them have a negative history. While I realize compost is a good product, producing it comes at a price and destroying the quality of life of those living near it, should not be an outcome. I should not have to hear stories of an elderly woman crying because it is so bad outside she can't breathe and had to come in the house. Nor should those living here have to keep their children indoors. This is out of balance and I believe if it is going to be allowed there needs to be proper over site, proper testing of the material and community input and consultation and a guarantee that our aquifer will not be contaminated. We all have the right to live in a place with clean air, fresh water and uncontaminated land. All composting facilities, regardless of size should be required to complete an Environmental Impact Study.

I am including a few pictures so you can see some of what has been dumped. I have many more should you need them. Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you. Taryn

Taryn Dixon
FVRD Director, Area H
604 819 7000
Sent from my iPad
[image0.png]
[image0.jpeg][image1.jpeg][image2.png]

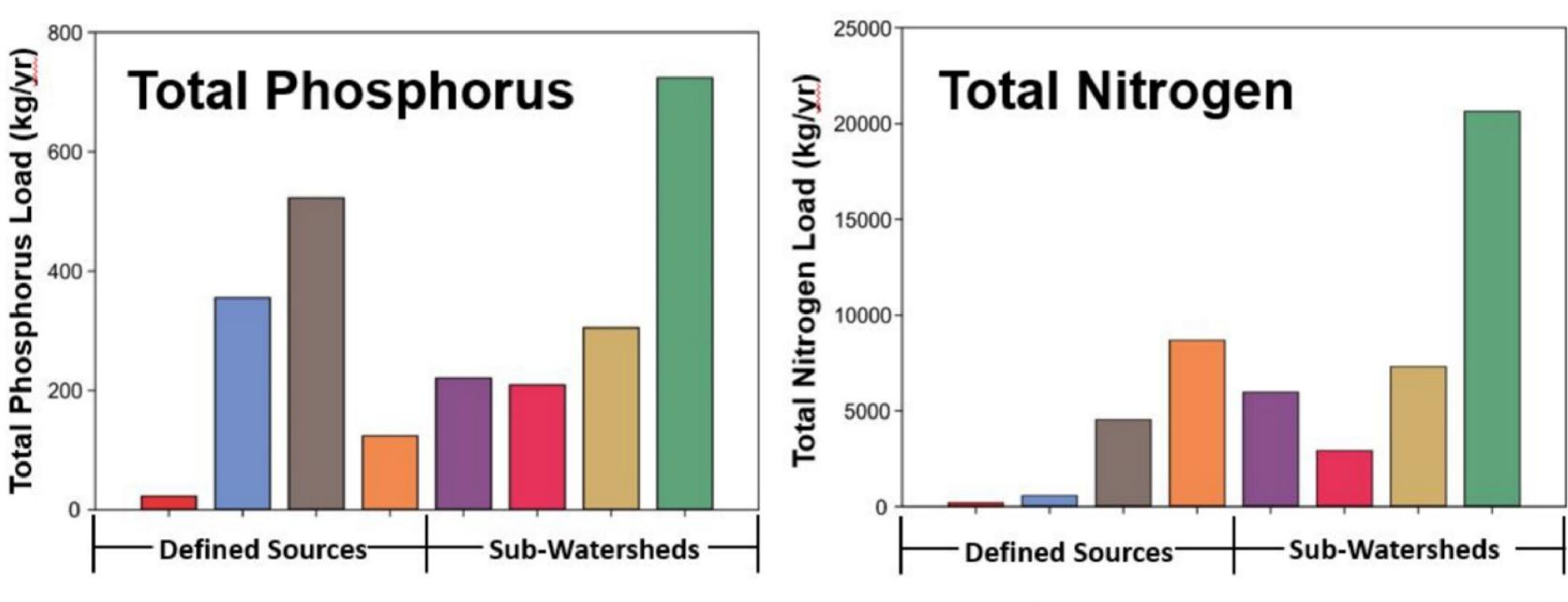
Done



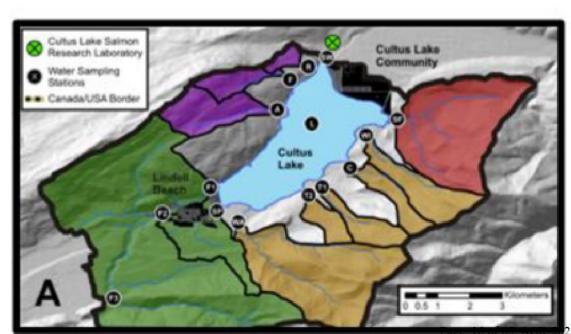




# Phosphorus & Nitrogen Loading









From: Turek, Jake AF:EX (Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca)

To: Raymond, Mark AF:EX (Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca)

Cc: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX (Gregory.Rekken@gov.bc.ca); Poon, David AF:EX (David.Poon@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: Call with FVRD Director Taryn Dixon

**Sent:** 10/18/2022 18:59:23

Message Body:

Hi Mark,

Following our conversation this morning, I spoke with Taryn Dixon for an hour regarding the email sent to Minister Popham. The main points of the conversation were

- Jake provided update on ALC and ENV decisions and informed Taryn of the Advisory that ENV issued
- Taryn reiterated the majority of the email she sent to MLP
- Taryn informed Jake that a meeting between the Columbia Valley Repair Association, ENV, and ALC will be held this Saturday (Oct 22) with the following key people attending to discuss compost/land application concerns
  - · ALC Avtar Sundher, Director of Operations
  - ENV Cassandra Caunce, Director, Environmental Protection Division, Authorizations South
  - · ENV Doug Forsdick, Executive Lead, Compliance & Enforcement
  - · MLA Kelli Paddon, , MLA Chilliwack-Kent
- Due to the meeting on Saturday, Taryn does not see a need for a response from MLP

Based on the fact that Taryn will be at a meeting with the ALC and ENV on Saturday, I do not believe we need to facilitate a call between the three of them.

Can we please get the eApp changed from Minister response to direct response by phone?

Cheers,

Jake Turek, P.Eng.
Waste Management Engineer
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

(778) 666 - 0564 jake.turek@gov.bc.ca From: Amanda Molloy (amolloy@fvrd.ca)

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Cc: Minister, AF AF:EX (AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca); Paddon.MLA, Kelli LASS:EX

(Kelli.Paddon.MLA@leg.bc.ca); OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX (Premier@gov.bc.ca); ALC

Burnaby ALC:EX (ALCBurnaby@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca)

Subject: Letter from Fraser Valley Regional District re Request for Environmental Testing at 810 Iverson

Road, Electoral Area H **Sent:** 10/06/2022 21:30:42

Attachments: 2022 10 06 Letter to Minister Heyman regarding Iverson Road Compost Facility.pdf

Message Body:

**[EXTERNAL]** This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good afternoon,

Please see attached a letter from Fraser Valley Regional District Chair Jason Lum requesting an investigation and environmental testing be done at a property located within FVRD Electoral Area H.

Thank you,

Amanda Molloy Administrative Manager

Fraser Valley Regional District 45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1N6 604-702-5080 | fvrd.ca



October 6, 2022

Hon. George Heyman Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt. Room 112, Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Heyman,

On behalf of the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Board of Directors, I am writing to express concern about recent activities taking place at 810 Iverson Road in Electoral Area H. The Board understands that you recently met with Electoral Area H Director Taryn Dixon at the UBCM Convention. Subsequent meetings with Ministry staff on this issue have been quite unsatisfactory.

As you know, this property is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and has been accepting thousands of tonnes of material for processing on site. First reported as Class A compost to condition agricultural soil, over the past few months residents have observed large quantities of gyprock and plastic being dumped and buried on site. We understand that calls made to the suppliers of the waste material have confirmed that what is being deposited is not Class A compost, but waste that has not yet been fully processed, an activity that is now occurring at Iverson Road. We understand that the property owner now intends to establish a large-scale permanent composting facility at this location and take waste from Abbotsford and Surrey.

Columbia Valley is a rural area. Residents are accustomed to routine farming practices. However, the introduction of a composting facility into this community, a non-farm use, should not be allowed without appropriate soil testing and public consultation. The aquifer serving this community is high risk. The community believes the Columbia Valley aquifer meets all the requirements under the Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management, including high precipitation, a vulnerable recharge area and phosphorus impacts.

Previous visits by Ministry of Environment staff confirmed that the property owner was operating without a permit and needed to obtain one under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). Our requests are simple:

- 1. Issue a Stop Work order at 810 Iverson Road and require the property owner to suspend operation until all environmental testing has been completed. Questionable environmental practices should not be allowed to continue until an OMRR permit is in place.
- 2. Attend a public information meeting with members of the community to answer questions, report the results of environmental testing and outline the future plans for this site and how the Ministry

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of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture are going to work together to ensure compliance. The health and safety of Columbia Valley residents should not be superseded.

Minister Heyman, the issues which have arisen at 810 Iverson Road are not ones that the regional district has any authority or ability to resolve. Residents in Electoral Area H have lost all trust in provincial government processes, having been shuffled repeatedly between the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to the Ministry of Agriculture to the Agricultural Land Commission. These residents deserve appropriate consultation and communication from the Province on these significant concerns in their community.

Sincerely,

Jason Lum, Chair

cc. Premier John Horgan, Province of British Columbia
Hon. Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Province of British Columbia
MLA Kelli Paddon, Chilliwack-Kent, Province of British Columbia
Chair Jennifer Dyson, Agricultural Land Commission

5:19

◆ Facebook



Done

AA











From: Taryn Dixon (tdixon@fvrd.ca)

To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Cc: Minister, AF AF:EX (AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca); Paddon.MLA, Kelli LASS:EX

(Kelli.Paddon.MLA@leg.bc.ca); OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX (Premier@gov.bc.ca);

ALCBurnaby@victoria1.bc.ca **Subject:** Columbia Valley Aquifer

Sent: 10/17/2022 16:37:55

**Attachments:** Columbia Valley Aquifer2.pdf

Message Body:

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello Minister Heyman,

Thank you so much for meeting with me at UBCM with regard to contamination to land, air and water from a composting operation at 810 Iverson. The operation at 810 Iverson Road in Columbia Valley has been processing and land applying Compost B without any protections in place and without following any of the requirements set out in EMA OMRR. My community has been severely impacted and is angry that this has been allowed to go on for over 6 months. A community meeting is set for Saturday October 22nd and representatives from MOE Compliance and Enforcement, and the ALC will be in attendance.

We do not understand why our small area has suddenly become a dumping ground for the unwanted material from Surrey and Abbotsford. This is a relatively small community that generally is calm and peaceful. This is no longer the case. Our quality of life has been severely impacted and there is anxiety and worry about how much damage to our airspeed and especially to our aquifer, this operation may cause.

Attached you will find a detailed letter outlining a request to designate Aquifer #20 high risk in order to protect our drinking water and Cultus Lake.

Thank you for your time. Taryn

Taryn Dixon FVRD Director- Electoral Area H 604 819 7000



### OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR

October 14, 2022

Dear Minister Heyman,

This letter is sent with the support of Soowahlie First Nation, Fraser Valley Regional District Board, The City of Chilliwack, Cultus Lake Park Board, Columbia Valley Rate Payers' Association, Lindell Beach Residents' Association, Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Society (CLASS) and the Strata Councils at The Cottages, Creekside Mills, Spring Creek and Leisure Valley, all impacted by one operation in Area H. It is intended to address several risks which have been illuminated by escalated and recent composting activity at 810 Iverson Road. These are:

- The potential of biological and geochemical threats to the Aquifer running beneath Columbia Valley (Aquifer 20 in the BC Provincial Aquifer Register), as well as impacts to Cultus Lake. While there are unresolved concerns about what is being brought on to the property, although it has been determined to be Compost B, and under what kind of commercial activity, there are a variety of regulatory and environmental risk issues that have not been well addressed but should be.
- 2. Impacts to the Airshed as a result of winds, and the topography and small size of the basin in which this activity is being conducted.
- 3. The impacts to mental wellness that are occurring in the communities from the effects of reduced air quality, fear regarding potential aquifer contamination, industrial traffic noise, ability to exist freely out of doors, and others that have yet to be articulated.

In presenting these concerns we are applying for (1) the consideration of the Columbia Valley as a High-Risk Area (see below) as well as (2) an inter-jurisdictional planning process to fully evaluate biological and socioeconomic risks in this area and plan for the future.

While applying organic material to farmland is a common practice, holding excessive volumes in standing mass is not, but this has been occurring at 810 Iverson since the early months of 2022. The current Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management under the BC Environmental Management Act (hereafter referred to as 'The Code') states a number of features under which prohibition of this kind of activity should occur by a regulator, and which apply to the Columbia Valley and surrounding area. Notably, Part 5 reads:

**20** (1) In this Part:

"high-precipitation area" means an area that has, on average, precipitation of 600 mm or more in total during the period that begins on October 1 and that ends on April 30 of the next year.

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"high-risk area" means any of the following:

- (a)a high precipitation area;
- (b)a vulnerable aquifer recharge area;
- (c)a phosphorus-affected area;
- (d)an area identified by a director as having permanent or usual geographic, topographic, weather-related or other features that present a high risk for adverse impacts on the environment or human health;

"high-risk condition" means any of the following:

- (a)strong, divergent windy conditions;
- (b)storm events, or periods of short-term intense or high rainfall;
- (c)seasonal high-water tables or flooding;
- (d)the degree to which a field used for an agricultural operation slopes toward a watercourse, if sufficient to cause contaminated runoff:
- (e) a condition identified by a director as having temporary, intermittent or irregular topographic, weatherrelated or other features that present a high risk for adverse impact on the environment or human health.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a director may identify an area as a high-risk area or a condition as a high-risk condition
  - (a)on the director's own initiative, or
  - (b)on application, made in the form and manner required by the director, by a person.

#### Please consider that:

Columbia Valley has angulated, coarse soils which are exceptionally well drained, meaning that applications of materials at soil surface can and will drain expeditiously to the aguifer and to Cultus Lake.

The Lower Mainland of BC is a high precipitation area, exceeding 600mm rain in winter months, which contributes to the nutrient movement issues.

Research has shown evidence of excessive phosphorous load in Cultus Lake, and this has been attributed to nutrient management practices that include those in Columbia Valley. It has also suggested that continued phosphorous deposition in this watershed threatens the long-term status of the Lake.

Strong, Divergent winds are a constant feature of this area, exacerbated by the narrow topography of Columbia Valley, forming a wind shed from the Mount Baker area. Aerial and soil-based by-products of composting activity here are concentrated and then spread rapidly to the air breathed in the watershed and to its watercourses.

Soils, precipitation, and nutrient status of the Aguifer and of Cultus Lake, as well as winds, and local topography of the Valley all indicate that the area should have a High-Risk Area designation under The Code of Practice, which in turn contains several High-Risk Conditions. The Code goes on to specify several restrictions about the application of material to open land under these conditions, but the status of

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regulatory action to oversee compliance to these features is unclear. We have recently learned that it is Compost B that is being produced and applied. EMA Organic Matter Recycling Regulations state:

(3) Class B compost must not be land applied in a watershed used as a permitted water supply under the Drinking Water Protection Regulation, B.C. Reg. 200/2003.

The aquifer in Columbia Valley is our drinking water source and must be protected.

Therefore, this letter is a formal Application, under Part 5 of the Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management under the BC Environmental Management Act, for the Province to designate the Columbia Valley and Cultus Lake area and its associated aquifer and aquatic resources as a *High-Risk Area* with associated *High-Risk Conditions*.

Please consider that the Aquifer in question (Aquifer 20) has been mapped and classified by the Province as *moderate risk* to contamination from surface activities, but that the assessment document itself indicates the classification is a desk exercise and subject to significant error and consequent revision. It is also not clear that this classification, considered risk from repeated and intense activity of the kind occurring and being proposed at 810 Iverson Road. The classification also occurred before recent evidence of phosphorous levels and sources in Cultus Lake.

Therefore, we are additionally asking for a formal evaluation of the risk of contamination to the Aquifer that would allow experts with relevant professional status to be convened to participate together with the Community in exploring risks and solutions for this kind of activity in this area. This should allow opinions from a variety of agencies and jurisdictions to participate, including but not limited to the Province. The focus of this process should be the biological and geochemical processes which have been raised, but we are asking that it be set in the context of human wellness. For example, are there other community planning processes that have used multijurisdictional approaches to resolve issues of exposure to noxious and unlivable fumes, and can they be used as a model in this case (as an example of only one of the issues at hand)? The long-range outcome we are seeking is not only to address the current activity at 810 Iverson, but to set fair boundaries on practices that can occur here in the future, given this activity could allegedly be undertaken on any of the several hundred agricultural parcels in Columbia Valley.

We note that the owner of 810 Iverson has fielded substantial plans with the BC Ministry of Environment, signaling intent to undertake these activities in perpetuity, including the construction of a 24,340 sq ft composting building with leachate dispersion. The need for this on 40 acres is questionable for any farming practice, and we are asking that further permitting of composting and building activity on this site be suspended until the Aquifer and Airshed processes listed above can be undertaken.

Sincerely,

Taryn Dixon Taryn Dixon

Director, FVRD Electoral Area H

cc. Premier John Horgan, Province of British Columbia

Hon. Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Province of British Columbia

MLA Kelli Paddon, Chilliwack-Kent, Province of British Columbia

Chair Jennifer Dyson, Agricultural Land Commission

45950 Cheam Avenue | Chilliwack | V2P

Phone: 604-702-5000 | Toll Free: 1-800-528-0061 | Fax: 604-

From: Popham.MLA, Lana LASS:EX (Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

**To:** Minister, AF AF:EX (AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca) **Subject:** FW: 810 Iverson Road: non-compliance

**Sent:** 10/05/2022 17:00:29

Attachments: zoom in - quality stuff for the soil.JPG, THIS IS NOT CLASS A .jpg

Message Body:

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

s.22

From

Sent: October 5, 2022 9:59 AM

To: Paddon.MLA, Kelli <Kelli.Paddon.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Taryn Dixon <tdixon@fvrd.ca>; Heyman.MLA, George

<George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Popham.MLA, Lana <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: 810 Iverson Road: non-compliance

October 5, 2022

Dear Ministers, MLA and Director,

For months I and many fellow residents of my community have been contacting our various ministries and local governments to formally complain about the activities on the property at 810 Iverson Road, owned by Mr. Bruce Vanderwyk.

The agencies tasked with protecting our air, water and land have done nothing.

I have delivered photographs and videos of drywall being dumped by the truckload, hundreds and hundreds of loads of garbage strewn "compost" which by your own definition is "compost B" piled on bare land. This dumping goes on to this day, with no attempt made to cover the piles (please note the date, and refer to OMRR for rules regarding that).

The stench is unbelievable and the threat to our unconfined aguifer is unacceptable.

The neighbours have been told repeatedly to reference OMRR any time anyone has bothered to respond at all. I can assure you we have done so and since this "farm" does NOT have a permit to operate a Class B compost facility, and by your definition does not have Class A compost, what immediate steps will you be taking to rectify this unfolding and much reported environmental disaster?

I would also like you to address the issue of importing waste from the communities of Surrey and Abbotsford to our tiny remote community, within the Fraser Valley Regional District. My understanding is that communities have a mandate to deal with their own waste- surely Surrey and Abbotsford have farms that wish to "enhance their soil" with the garbage now being placed on ours?

This entire farce has made a mockery of the "green initiatives" and any suggestion of government oversight. How do you intend to rectify this?

Should any one of you wish to actually experience your policies, I invite you to join me for a tour. While all hours are awful, evening, nights and early mornings are the worst.

I await your reply. Sincerely,

s.22

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

DUPLICATE

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

### **BULLET POINTS TEMPLATE**

CLIFF#: 198557 Bullets prepared by: Jake Turek
Client / Writer: Kelli Paddon Date prepared: 2022-08-24

Main issues: Potential Illegal Dumping/Composting Date due:

in the ALR

## **Background**

- A farm at 810 Iverson Road, near Cultus Lake, allegedly has upwards of 25 fully loaded semi-trucks per day delivering compost to the site.
- Neighbours are concerned of the activity due to potential impacts to water and air quality, road deterioration, and personal safety as the neighbours have claimed the trucks have been operated in a reckless manner.
- Commercial compost and land application falls under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) and is enforceable by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV).
- The farm is situated over a vulnerable aquifer recharge area which means that the aquifer is vulnerable to nitrate pollution or contamination.
- The Fraser Valley Regional District has reported this activity to ENV, and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is aware of the situation.

## Discussion

- The farmer is importing compost from the Surrey Biofuel Facility via Fraser Valley Renewables (FVR) to build up the soil for agricultural purposes.
- ENV visited the site on August 10, 2022 to do a site inspection.
- ALC also visited the site on August 23, 2022 and noted a large pile of "overs" i.e., plastics, metals, and oversized materials screened out of the compost.
  - To date, ALC has said it does not appear that the producer is land applying the overs to the fields.

s.13

- ENV requested compost data and determined that the material delivered to the site was Class B Compost as defined by OMRR.
- To be able to land apply Class B material, the producer must submit a Land Application Plan to and have it approved by ENV.
- On September 29, ENV issued a Non-Compliance Advisory Letter to FVR which states that FVR must submit a Land Application Plan to ENV and provide notice of 30 calendar days prior to land application as required by OMRR.

- As ENV only issued an advisory, ALC staff conveyed that they will not issue a stop work order.
- While the farm is in the ALR, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) has no regulatory authority and cannot enforce ENV's or ALC's regulations.
- If the operation is out of compliance with ENV's regulation, then it is up to ENV to respond; likewise, with the ALC and their ALR Use Regulation.

# Summary

- A farmer is importing large volumes of compost and may be applying nutrients beyond what could be considered as agronomically prudent.
- ENV issued a Non-Compliance Advisory Letter to the site which requires the farmer or their representatives to provide ENV with a Land Application Plan and a notification of 30 calendar days prior to further land application.
- As a result of ENV's findings, ALC will not issue a stop work order.
- AF has no regulatory role to carry out in this scenario as it is up to ENV and ALC to enforce their respective regulations.

Thanks Greg. Their complaint was very generic.
I'll send the eApp your way first thing in the morning.
From: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX Sent: February 8, 2023 4:52 PM To: Turek, Jake AF:EX Subject: RE: For Review: Reply Direct
I think that looks good Jake. I didn't see I <sup>s.22</sup> letter/email to confirm if your response covers their concerns, but from what I know of the situation you covered it succinctly.
Thanks for doing this.
Greg
From: Turek, Jake AF:EX <jake.turek@gov.bc.ca> Sent: February 8, 2023 3:46 PM To: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX <gregory.rekken@gov.bc.ca> Subject: For Review: Reply Direct</gregory.rekken@gov.bc.ca></jake.turek@gov.bc.ca>
Hi Greg,
This is the response I am going to provide for the eApp. Please let me know if you have any issues with it or have any edits. I have discussed the stop work order with ALC that I mentioned below.
Good Afternoon s.22

From: Turek, Jake AF:EX (Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca)
To: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX (Gregory.Rekken@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: Re: For Review: Reply Direct
Sent: 02/09/2023 01:25:05

Message Body:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) and am happy to do so.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is aware of the activities being carried out by Fraser Valley Renewables in the Columbia Valley/Cultus Lake region. The composting and land application that has occurred falls under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV). As such, the Ministry has no regulatory authority to enforce the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation or regulations under the Environmental Management Act.

Since the Summer of 2022, ENV and the ALC been working in unison to ensure that the activities in question are carried out in a manner that meets provincial requirements. In addition to compliance audits and direction given by ENV, the ALC issued a stop work order to Fraser Valley Renewables in October of 2022. In order for the stop work order to be lifted, the issues must be remedied before any further work can continue.

If you have further comments or questions, please reach out to ENV or the ALC at the below:

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Report All Poachers and Polluters

Phone: 1-877-952-7277

Online Form

Agricultural Land Commission

Phone: 604-660-7000

Email:

ALRLandUseConcern@gov.bc.ca

Kind regards,

Jake Turek, P.Eng.
Waste Management Engineer
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

(778) 666 - 0564 jake.turek@gov.bc.ca

To: Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX (Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca) Cc: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX (Gregory.Rekken@gov.bc.ca); Poon, David AF:EX (David.Poon@gov.bc.ca) Subject: RE: For action:: Hi Dave Question pls on ENV media request Sent: 10/13/2022 20:18:20 Message Body:
Hi Dave,
I do have some edits regarding the specific language they are using which made me feel that someone could misconstrue Class B compost as deplorable material. I've just copied and pasted the bullets to bring them up with my edits in red. Please let me know if you have any questions.
•□□□□□□ The ministry received complaints about a composting operation located at 810 Iverson Road in Lindell Beach run by Fraser Valley Renewables (FVR) and has followed up to ensure the company is compliant with all provincial regulations.
•□□□□□□ FVR is applying compost on farmland and informed ministry staff that they believe the compost to be an unfinished Class A compost.
<ul> <li>Class A is what the consumer would purchase for their garden. Its contents are also regulated and must meet certain requirements.</li> <li>If the compost fails to meet one of the requirements of Class A (ex. Carbon to nitrogen ratio, pathogen reduction, metals content, etc.), it is deemed as Class B compost which requires it to be managed according to the higher potential risk.</li> </ul>
• • • • A quality assessment of the compost by a qualified professional was conducted who concluded the material onsite was Class B compost, which requires a Land Application Plan (LAP) for the site and must be submitted to the ministry prior to the application.
•□□□□□□ As the company did not have a land application plan for this site, the ministry issued an inspection report (IR196560) on September 29, which resulted in an advisory for non-compliance with the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> and Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (see attached). The inspection report is publicly available at: <a href="https://nrced.gov.bc.ca/">https://nrced.gov.bc.ca/</a>
•□□□□□□ FVR has begun preparing the LAP with a qualified professional to move forward with land applying Class B compost. Delivery of new Class B compost and land application of Class B compost on site has stopped until the LAP is complete.
•□□□□□□ The company also previously explored using gypsum paper to balance acidity levels in manure practices on the farm. These efforts were discontinued.
•□□□□□□ The ministry remains in contact with Fraser Valley Renewables and our partner agencies to ensure compliance. Ministry staff continue to be actively engaged on this issue and will be attending a community meeting at the Columbia Valley Hall on October.

From: Turek, Jake AF:EX (Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca)

From: Poon, David AF:EX <David.Poon@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 13, 2022 12:54 PM

To: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX < Gregory. Rekken@gov.bc.ca>; Turek, Jake AF:EX

<Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: For action:: Hi Dave Question pls on ENV media request

For action: Can you respond to Dave Townsend?

What timing... I just read the bullets you wrote for the MLA from AF's perspective on this topic. I don't spot any concerns with ENV's response below, but I'd like one of you to respond to Dave Townsend (GCPE).

From: Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX < <u>Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca</u>>

Sent: October 12, 2022 3:23 PM

To: Poon, David AF:EX < David.Poon@gov.bc.ca >

Cc: Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX < Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca >; Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX

<Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Hi Dave Question pls on ENV media request

Hi Dave.

We don't believe there are any concerns with this proposed response from ENV but wanted to run it by you. Thanks.

## Reporter

Tyler Olsen, Fraser Valley Current contact@fvcurrent.com
604-701-9909

**Deadline** Wednesday, October 12, 2022 – 5pm

### Request

Can you provide information on the issue this letter pertains to? Specifically wondering about any inspections the ministry has done and whose file this is, since it seems unclear to all involved. If inspections have been done, can you provide any inspection reports / photos on file?

https://pub-fvrd.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=22003

# Recommendation Road in Lindell Beach run by Fraser Valley Renewables (FVR) and has followed up to ensure the company is compliant with all provincial regulations. compost to be an unfinished Class A compost. Class A is what the consumer would purchase for their garden. Its contents are also regulated and must meet certain requirements. Class B has higher pathogen and metal concentrations, which requires it to be managed according to the higher potential risk. concluded the material onsite was Class B compost, which requires a Land Application Plan (LAP) for the site and must be submitted to the ministry prior to the application. inspection report (IR196560) on September 29, which resulted in an advisory for non-compliance with the Environmental Management Act and Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (see attached). The inspection report is publicly available at: https://nrced.gov.bc.ca/ • Color FVR has begun preparing the LAP with a qualified professional to move forward with land applying Class B compost. Delivery of new Class B compost and land application of Class B compost on site has stopped until the LAP is complete. manure practices on the farm. These efforts were discontinued.

to ensure compliance. Ministry staff continue to be actively engaged on this issue and will be

attending a community meeting at the Columbia Valley Hall on October.

From: Angus, Taryn ENV:EX (Taryn.Angus@gov.bc.ca)

**To:** Turek, Jake AF:EX (Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca) **Subject:** FW: Environmental Concern at 810 Iverson

Sent: 08/31/2022 18:46:18

Message Body:

Here you are

Taryn Angus | Environmental Inspection Officer

Compliance and Environmental Enforcement | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Ste. 200 – 10470 152nd St | Surrey, BC | V3R 0Y3 | Tel: 604.313.7481

To report pollution call the RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters) line at 1-877-952-7277 or #7277 on the TELUS Mobility Network or report the incident online

Visit the Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database for all compliance and enforcement outcomes.

More information about Compliance and Environmental Enforcement can be found here.

----Original Message----

From: Nelless, Brady ENV:EX <Brady.Nelless@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: August 30, 2022 8:31 AM To: Taryn Dixon <tdixon@fvrd.ca>

Cc: Caunce, Cassandra ENV:EX < Cassandra. Caunce@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Environmental Concern at 810 Iverson

Good morning Area Director T. Dixon,

Thank you for your email. This is an active file that we are engaged in and working closely with our partners in the Agricultural Land Commission on.

The compost received at this site comes from the City of Surrey Biofuel. We have requested more information to determine the compost Class. If the material is Class A, no authorization/registration is needed from our ministry to apply compost on site. If it doesn't meet Class A, then they may need have further requirements under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) such as a land application plan. The site has submitted a registration under OMRR, I will let the authorizations team provide any updates on that process through Cassandra Caunce, Director Authorizations South.

I understand that New West Gypsum was hired to deliver compost to this site. They did not bring in gypsum but some gyproc paper was brought to the site previously for animal bedding. This has since been removed from the site.

Ministry staff will remain engaged on this file in assessing compliance with Environmental Management Act and it's regulations including OMRR. Once our assessment of compliance is completed and if non-compliances are determined the actions taken with the inspection report will be publicly available at: https://nrced.gov.bc.ca

Any concerns regarding drinking water should be directed to the Fraser Valley Health Authority.

Complaints and concerns regarding this site should be directed to the RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters) line at 1-877-952-7277. This ensures they are documented on file and directed to correct officer/agency working on this file

Sincerely, Brady

Brady Nelless | Executive Director

Compliance and Environmental Enforcement | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Suite 325-1011 4th Avenue | Prince George, BC | V2L 3H9| Tel: 250.645-9314 \_\_\_\_\_

To report pollution call the RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters) line at 1-877-952-7277 or #7277 on the TELUS Mobility Network or report the incident online Visit the Natural Resource Compliance and Enforcement Database for all compliance and enforcement outcomes.

More information about Compliance and Environmental Enforcement can be found here.

----Original Message----

From: Taryn Dixon <tdixon@fvrd.ca> Sent: August 29, 2022 10:36 AM

To: Nelless, Brady ENV:EX <Brady.Nelless@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Environmental Concern at 810 Iverson

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

I am the elected official for Fraser Valley Regional District Area H and we have an environmental concern that needs immediate attention from MoE. An unauthorized dumping operation began in early April and still continues today. I reported to RAPP and ALC on July 1st and I know there have been many many complaints since. Taryn Angus has been dealing with this but very little has happened and she is now on holidays. ALC is also aware and has been up and are still trying to decide what to do.

I have been told that now a permit has been applied for, however, the unauthorized activity continues.

Our pristine valley is now subject to constant foul air and we have no idea what type of particulates we are breathing. People can't go outside and use the language, "It's choking and makes me gag". I do not live near this operation but can smell it outside on a regular basis. It is like trying to breathe in a garbage can. It is harmful and unacceptable. Other farmers are struggling to sell their crops because people don't want to come up and be subjected to the foul air or the farmers can't go outside to work.

The first thing I read on the Ministry page is .... Is responsible for the effective protection, management and conservation of BC;s water, land, air and living resources.

Our air and water are not being protected. There is no monitoring or oversight of this operation but the neighbours have a very detailed record with pictures. The operators are calling it "Compost A" however a finished product is not being delivered to this property. Hundreds of trucks of gyproc and ground up garbage are being delivered. The material is put through a screeners, ground up, mixed together and spread. A large pile containing plastic, metal and cement has also been buried. There been hundreds of trucks of broken gyproc. It's now buried too.

We believe it is curbside pickup that is very expensive to properly dispose of and is being dumped here. Our source says the material is coming from Convertus and is supposed to be going to a licensed facility in Abbotsford but instead is coming to our valley. I have emailed Convertus.

Residents are concerned about their drinking water. There are no controls in place to protect our water. Columbia Valley Aquifer is the source of drinking water for CV residents who obtain their drinking water from ground water wells. 810 Iverson is located over top of the unconfined aquifer as shown on page 35 of the study below. The study also indicates the damage that has already occurred to our aquifer and how quickly contaminates move through the soil to the aquifer below.

https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan\_protect\_sustain/groundwater/library/cvreport.pdf

I have been told the operators have been asked to bring in soil samples. I would suggest that they will bring in samples from somewhere else that are very clean.

We have no ability to manage this operation should a fire break out, especially during this period of extreme fire hazard. There are no fire hydrants in CV and this area is not near a water source. A Compost fire, similar to a bog fire would be a huge environmental concern and has the potential to be devastating to the area.

I am requesting that MoE get involved with this operation immediately. That MoE come up and take many soil samples and do their own testing. I am happy to meet with anyone from MoE to show the photo record I have and the actual sample of broken gyproc that came from the site. I am asking that MoE protect the air and water of the residents of CV and that one man not be allowed to continue to have a such a negative impact on the entire community.

We have been speaking with the sub contractor Matt Malkin and pressuring him. I am told today that the operation will slow down and possibly cease, for now. He has also told one resident he is applying for a Class B Composting Facility up here. There is absolutely no interest from the community in having such a thing anywhere near us.

Even if the dumping stops, that still leaves the possibility of the contaminated material left behind that will leach into our aquifer. We don't know because no one has tested anything. I am sure you are aware that this aquifer has suffered terribly because of past years of pig farming and the ongoing use of pesticides. Studies show that the nitrates and phosphates coming out of CV into Frosst Creek and then Cultus Lake are high. There is eutrophication happening at Cultus Lake and another group is working to ensure the lake stays healthy. I believe this would also be of concern to MoE. I can provide you with further information if you wish.

I am requesting that MoE get involved with this operation immediately. That MoE come up and take many soil samples and do their own testing. I am happy to meet with anyone from MoE to show the photo record I have and the actual sample of broken gyproc that came from the sight. I am asking that MoE protect the air and water of the residents of CV and that one man not be allowed to continue to have a devastating impact on the entire community.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. Taryn

[image0.png]

[image0.jpeg]

Taryn Dixon FVRD Director, Area H 604 819 7000 Sent from my iPad From: Howett, Katie ENV:EX (Katie.Howett@gov.bc.ca)

**To:** Turek, Jake AF:EX (Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca) **Subject:** 810 Iverson Road Inspection Report

Sent: 10/11/2022 16:05:19

Attachments: 2022-09-29 IR196560 Advisory.pdf, image001.png, image003.jpg, image005.jpg,

image006.jpg **Message Body:** 

Hi Jake.

As discussed, attached is the 810 Iverson Road inspection report I completed on September 29, 2022. The inspection report was conducted against the Environmental Management Act and Organic Matter Recycling Regulation based on the information provided to me from Fraser Valley Renewables, which resulted in an advisory for non-compliance. The inspection is also available on the Natural Resources Compliance && Enforcement Database.

Let me know if you have any questions.

## Katie Howett | Environmental Protection Officer

Compliance and Environmental Enforcement | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Ste. 200 - 10470 - 152nd Street. | Surrey, BC | V3R 1Q7 | Tel: 236-468-2225

\_\_\_\_\_

To report pollution call the RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters) line at 1-877-952-7277 or #7277 on the TELUS Mobility Network or report the incident online

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More information about Compliance and Environmental Enforcement can be found here.



Report Date:September 29, 2022 File:196560

Report Number:196560

Fraser Valley Renewables Ltd. 5133 Bates Road Abbotsford BC V4X 1W3

Dear Fraser Valley Renewables Ltd.,

Re: Non-compliance Advisory Letter, Environmental Management Act 196560, 810 Iverson Road, Lindell Beach BC V2R 4X5, No Entry

This Advisory, the alleged violations and the circumstances to which it refers will form part of the compliance history of Fraser Valley Renewables Ltd., and will be taken into account in the event of future non-compliance.

Please note that this authorization is considered to be out of compliance until such a time as it can be confirmed to meet the authorization requirements.

#### Inspection Details:

On September 22, 2022, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Ministry) Environmental Protection Officer Katie Howett (Officer Howett) conducted an office inspection of Fraser Valley Renewables Ltd. (FVR) land application on farm property (Site) located at 810 Iverson Road, Lindell Beach, BC to verify compliance with the Environmental Management Act (EMA) and the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR), which governs the construction and operation of compost facilities and the production, distribution, storage, sale and use of biosolids and compost. This inspection was initiated in response to complaints received regarding the concern of land application of managed organic matter at the Site. The Site does not have a current authorization to land apply managed organic matter with the Ministry. Information for the inspection has been provided by Simon Thorogood (Business Development Manager, Fraser Valley Renewables Ltd.).

The inspection includes a review of the following document:

• Review of Feedstock, September 9, 2022, prepared by Terrawest (Feedstock Report).

Requirement Description:	Environmental Management Act, Environmental Management Act
	6 (3): Subject to subsection (5), a person must not introduce or cause or allow to be introduced into the environment, waste produced by a prescribed activity or operation.

Details/Findings:	On August 8, 2022, the Ministry began receiving complaints regarding the concern of refuse or other material being delivered to Site and either being land applied or landfilled.
	On August 25, 2022, the Ministry requested that FVR provide a report prepared by a Qualified Professional specifying the quality of the material being brought on and applied at the Site.
	On September 16, 2022, the Ministry received the Feedstock Report, prepared by Terrawest acting as the Qualified Professional for FVR. The Feedstock Report summarizes classification of material, including the use and application, and states that "based on the information provided and a review of the data, the compost material, once screened, appears to meet the quality criteria for Class B Compost."
	On September 21, 2022, the Ministry informed Mr. Thorogood, via email, that the land application of Class B compost, defined as managed organic matter in OMRR, requires a Land Application Plan (LAP). Mr. Thorogood informed Officer Howett that FVR were of the knowledge that the compost at the Site was that of an unfinished Class A Compost quality which required further curing and foreign matter removal. Mr. Thorogood confirmed that no LAP for the Site was in place, however FVR has retained the services of a Qualified Professional to complete the LAP for submission and has ceased the land application of managed organic matter until a LAP is completed.
	Through the information received from FVR, Officer Howett determined that FVR is land applying managed organic matter to land without the required land application plan was required in OMRR. The management of land applying managed organic matter is considered "soil enhancement using wastes" and is a Schedule 2 activity under the Waste Discharge Regulation. The Waste Discharge Regulation defines "soil enhancement using wastes" as meaning "activities and operations applying organic or inorganic wastes to land as a soil conditioner or ground cover."
	FVR did not have an authorization to land apply managed organic matter from activities related to compost operation to the Site, and FVR did not dispose of managed organic matter in accordance with EMA Section 6(5) as there are non-compliances with OMRR. Therefore, FVR is out of compliance with Section 6(3) of EMA for causing or allowing waste produced by a prescribed activity or operation to be introduced into the environment.
Compliance:	Out
Actions to be taken:	Ensure the land application of managed organic matter (Class B compost) is operated in compliance with EMA and OMRR.
Requirement Description:	Environmental Management Act, Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (18/2002) (EMA)
	15 (1)(a): Class B compost must only be applied to land in accordance with (a) a land application plan for Class B compost,

Details/Findings:	Mr. Thorogood informed Officer Howett that FVR does not have a LAP for the land application of managed organic matter (Class B compost) at the Site. As FVR does not have a LAP for the Site, FVR is out of compliance with this section of OMRR.
Compliance:	Out
Actions to be taken:	Ensure a LAP is established for the Site prior to the application of managed organic matter to the Site.
Requirement Description:	Environmental Management Act, Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (18/2002) (EMA)  22 (1)(a): A discharger must, using the standardized form provided in Schedule 13, give notification of any proposed land application of managed organic matter in volumes greater than 5 cubic metres, as follows: (a) to a director at least 30 calendar days before the land application of managed organic matter;
Details/Findings:	Mr. Thorogood informed Officer Howett that the land application of managed organic matter in volumes greater than 5 cubic metres had already occurred prior to the inspection. Officer Howett confirmed on the Ministry's internal electronic filing system that FVR did not provide the land application notification that included the information required by Schedule 13 before the land application of managed organic matter. Therefore, FVR is out of compliance with this section of OMRR.
Compliance:	Out
Actions to be taken:	Ensure the LAP of managed organic matter is submitted to the Ministry at least 30 calendar days before the land application of managed organic matter.

Compliance History:

This is the first electronic compliance record for this authorization since January 1, 2012.

The Ministry of Environment Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure (C&E Policy) prescribes common requirements and procedures for all Ministry staff to ensure consistent and risk-based assessment and response to non-compliance. Using the Non-Compliance Decision Matrix, the compliance determination for this inspection has been assessed as Level 1, Category A, Advisory.

More information about Environmental Compliance, the Non-Compliance Decision Matrix, and reporting and data submission requirements can be found at the links below:

General compliance information:

www.gov.bc.ca/environmentalcompliance

Non-Compliance Decision Matrix information:

www.gov.bc.ca/environment/how-compliance-is-assessed

Reporting and data submission requirements (to be sent to EnvAuthorizationsReporting@gov.bc.ca):

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/waste-discharge-authorization/comply

Please be advised that this inspection report may be published on the provincial government website within 7 days.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,	
Katie Howett Environmental Protection Officer	
cc:	

cc:	
Attachments:	Deliver via:  Email: X Fax: Mail: Mail: Hand Delivery:

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Compliance and Environmental Enforcement Branch Mailing Address: 2nd Fl 10470-152nd St Surrey BC V3R 0Y3 Telephone: 604 582 5200
Facsimile: 604 930 7119
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env

#### DISCLAIMER:

Please note that sections of the permit, regulation or code of practice referenced in this inspection record are for guidance and are not the official version. Please refer to the original permit, regulation or code of practice.

To see the most up to date version of the regulations and codes of practices please visit <a href="http://www.bclaws.ca">http://www.bclaws.ca</a>

If you require a copy of the original permit, please contact the inspector noted on this inspection record.

It is also important to note that this inspection record does not necessarily reflect each requirement or condition of the authorization therefore compliance is noted only for the requirements or conditions listed in the inspection record.

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From: Blanchard, Paula ALC:EX (Paula.Blanchard@gov.bc.ca)

To: Turek, Jake AF:EX (Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** 810 Iverson **Sent:** 02/08/2023 22:05:32

Attachments: 2023 01 17 ALC Letter to Vander Wyk and FVR.pdf, image001.jpg

Message Body:

Paula Blanchard

Compliance & Enforcement Officer|Agricultural Land Commission

201-4940 Canada Way Burnaby, BC V5G 4K6

Phone 236-468-3264|Paula.Blanchard@gov.bc.ca



Agricultural Land Commission

201 – 4940 Canada Way Burnaby, British Columbia V5G 4K6

Tel: 604 660-7000 Fax: 604 660-7033 www.alc.gov.bc.ca

January 17, 2023

ALC C&E File: 193072

SENT via EMAIL: S.22

simon@fvrenewables.ca

Bruce Vander Wyk 6470 Tyson Road Chilliwack, BC V2R 1S8

Fraser Valley Renewables 2200 West Railway Street Abbotsford, BC, V2S 2E2

**Attention: Simon Thorogood** 

Dear Mr. Vander Wyk and Mr. Thorogood,

Re: Proposed Action Plan for the Disposal of Accumulated Waste at 810 Iverson Road, Lindell Beach (Property)

The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is in receipt of the January 12, 2023 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOE) letter which was in response to the January 4, 2023 proposed Response Action Plan (Plan) submitted by Fraser Valley Renewables (FVR) to manage the imported waste stored at 810 Iverson Road, Lindell Beach.

We understand the proposed Plan involves the processing of the waste onsite to remove foreign material and to improve the carbon:nitrogen (C:N) ratio to ensure that the waste meets Class A compost requirements, as defined in the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR), before application to improve the agricultural capability of the Property. Note the Property is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Based on MOE's December 5, 2022 letter, the imported material is defined as a waste in accordance to the *Environmental Management Act*. Processing of this waste, as proposed in the Plan, is a Non-farm Use activity and is not allowed as per section 20(1) of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA). Therefore the waste must be removed from the site **by April 17, 2023**.

Alternatively, the owner of the Property may submit a Non-farm Use application to seek Commission consideration to process the waste onsite in accordance with section 25 of the ALCA. Note applications are first forwarded to the local government (i.e. Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD)) for board approval prior to final approval by the ALC. I suggest you visit the ALC website (www.alc.gov.bc.ca) for further information in regard to the application process.

If you decide to apply, please advise of the Application ID. If you do not apply or if the application is refused by either the FVRD or the ALC, the waste must be removed from the site.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (236) 468-3231or Paula Blanchard at (236) 468-3264.

Sincerely

Avtar S. Sundher Director of Operations

cc: Cassandra Caunce, Director South Authorizations, MOE (via email <a href="mailto:cassandra.caunce@gov.bc.ca">cassandra.caunce@gov.bc.ca</a>)

Brady Nelless, Executive Director C&E, MOE (via email <a href="mailto:brady.nelles@gov.bc.ca">brady.nelles@gov.bc.ca</a>)
Paula Blanchard, C&E Officer, ALC (via email <a href="mailto:paula.blanchard@gov.bc.ca">paula.blanchard@gov.bc.ca</a>)
Taryn Dixon, Director Area H, FVRD (via email <a href="mailto:tdixon@fvrd.ca">tdixon@fvrd.ca</a>)



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From: Cavallin, Sandra L AF:EX (Sandra.Cavallin@gov.bc.ca)

To: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX (Gregory.Rekken@gov.bc.ca); Nimmo, Jeffrey AF:EX

(Jeffrey.Nimmo@gov.bc.ca)

Cc: Turek, Jake AF:EX (Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** RE: Question related to an eapp re the illegal dumping in the Columbia Valley

Sent: 02/02/2023 19:40:42

Message Body:

Hi Greg,

Thank you for this information. I will see if I can get a copy of the eapp to get a sense of the issue.

Thank

Sandra

From: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX < Gregory. Rekken@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** February 2, 2023 11:38 AM

To: Cavallin, Sandra L AF:EX <Sandra.Cavallin@gov.bc.ca>; Nimmo, Jeffrey AF:EX

<Jeffrey.Nimmo@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Turek, Jake AF:EX <Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Question related to an eapp re the illegal dumping in the Columbia Valley

Hi Sandra

Thanks for clarifying this is near Cultus lake. I do believe it is regarding the exact same issue. ALC is well aware of the issue, ENV has visited the site.

This is under eApproval: #: 198557

Title: KM/Bullets for MLA-Organic waste dumping in the Columbia Valley area

Jake Turek (cc'd) was working on this one.

Thanks

Greg

From: Cavallin, Sandra L AF:EX < Sandra. Cavallin@gov.bc.ca >

**Sent:** February 2, 2023 11:05 AM

To: Nimmo, Jeffrey AF:EX < Jeffrey.Nimmo@gov.bc.ca>; Rekken, Gregory AF:EX

< Gregory. Rekken@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Question related to an eapp re the illegal dumping in the Columbia Valley

Hi Jeff,

Based on various articles that I have read I believe it is Columbia Valley near Cultus Lake - if this is not your area please let me know who I should reach out to (and apologies for having reached out the wrong person).

Many thanks

Sandra

From: Nimmo, Jeffrey AF:EX < Jeffrey. Nimmo@gov.bc.ca >

Sent: February 2, 2023 10:58 AM

To: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX < Gregory.Rekken@gov.bc.ca >; Cavallin, Sandra L AF:EX

<Sandra.Cavallin@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Question related to an eapp re the illegal dumping in the Columbia Valley

Hi all,

Sorry I should have checked – I assumed this was Columbia Valley near Cultus Lake... Or is this Columbia Valley in my region (Radium / Invermere etc...).

Thanks!

Jeff

From: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX < Gregory.Rekken@gov.bc.ca >

Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 11:38 AM

To: Nimmo, Jeffrey AF:EX < Jeffrey.Nimmo@gov.bc.ca >; Cavallin, Sandra L AF:EX

<Sandra.Cavallin@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Question related to an eapp re the illegal dumping in the Columbia Valley

Hi Sandra

If I recall correctly, we have been addressing similar complaints from a different area, but I think it was also associated with Fraser Valley renewables. How we respond will depend on the nature of the issue and potential impacts. Can you provide more detail? My team can advise on waste management implications and potential soil impacts.

As Jeff mentioned, ENV would be responsible for compliance.

Thanks

Greg Rekken M.Sc. P.Ag | Team Lead, Mitigation and Soil Health

Extension and Support Services Branch | B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Office: 778-943-0196

cell: 250-309-2574

Email: gregory.rekken@gov.bc.ca

From: Nimmo, Jeffrey AF:EX < Jeffrey.Nimmo@gov.bc.ca >

Sent: February 2, 2023 9:04 AM

**To:** Cavallin, Sandra L AF:EX < Sandra.Cavallin@gov.bc.ca > Cc: Rekken, Gregory AF:EX < Gregory.Rekken@gov.bc.ca >

Subject: RE: Question related to an eapp re the illegal dumping in the Columbia Valley

Hi Sandra,

I've cc'd Greg Rekken, who's team looks after the topic of waste management.

Not sure of the exact situation, but ENV has the main role in issuing authorizations or looking after compliance for this.

Jeff

Jeff Nimmo, MSc., PAg.

Regional Agrologist, Kootenays

B.C. Ministry of Agriculture & Food

Jeffrey.nimmo@gov.bc.ca

office: 778-666-0568

cell: 250-254-0465

From: Cavallin, Sandra L AF:EX < Sandra. Cavallin@gov.bc.ca >

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 2:46 PM

To: Nimmo, Jeffrey AF:EX < Jeffrey.Nimmo@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Question related to an eapp re the illegal dumping in the Columbia Valley

Hι	Jett.
	υ <del>σ</del> π,

We have received an eapp where the writer essentially seems to be expressing concern about Fraser Valley Renewables and illegal dumping of waste in the Columbia Valley.

Wanted to ask if you happen to have any information on how AF would respond to this type of concern. The writer has written to the ALC so I will be reaching out the them as well.

Thank you

Sandra

From: Turek, Jake AF:EX (Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca)

To:s.22

Subject: RE: Illegal Waste Dump

Sent: 02/09/2023 17:23:35

Message Body:

Good Afternoon 6.22

I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) and am happy to do so.

The Ministry is aware of the activities being carried out by Fraser Valley Renewables in the Columbia Valley/Cultus Lake region. The composting and land application that has occurred falls under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV). As such, the Ministry has no regulatory authority to enforce the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation or regulations under the Environmental Management Act.

Since the Summer of 2022, ENV and the ALC been working in unison to ensure that the activities in question are carried out in a manner that meets provincial requirements. In addition to compliance audits and direction given by ENV to the receiving site, the ALC issued a stop work order to Fraser Valley Renewables in October of 2022. In order for the stop work order to be lifted, the issues must be remedied before any further work can continue.

If you have further comments or questions, please reach out to ENV or the ALC at the below:

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Report All Poachers and Polluters

Phone: 1-877-952-7277

Online Form

Agricultural Land Commission

Phone: 604-660-7000

Email: ALRLandUseConcern@gov.bc.ca

Kind regards,

# Waste Management Engineer

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

(778) 666 - 0564 jake.turek@gov.bc.ca

From: S.22

Sent: January 13, 2023 7:36 PM

To: Minister, AF AF:EX <AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Sundher, Avtar S ALC:EX

<a href="mailto:</a> <a href="

Kelli LASS:EX <Kelli.Paddon.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Minister, WLRS WLRS:EX

<WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca>;\$.22
OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

<Premier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Illegal Waste Dump

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

We ask our BC government to uphold the existing laws in relationship to legitimate farming and environmental practices in Columbia Valley.

We ask that Fraser Valley Renewables NOT be allowed to be involved in proposals or decisions or definitions of what constitutes legitimate composting on farmland.

We also ask the BC government to protect the law abiding citizens and visitors who come to Columbia Valley and Cultus Lake for the purpose of experiencing nature and clean air and pure water.

Sincerely

s.22

From: Turek, Jake AF:EX (Jake.Turek@gov.bc.ca) To: Sutherland, Kim AF:EX (Kim.Sutherland@gov.bc.ca); Minaker, Willow AF:EX (Willow.Minaker@gov.bc.ca) Subject: RE: and ALR question Sent: 08/16/2022 22:32:20 Message Body:
Hi Kim,
I'm not aware of any dairy farms in that area. Perhaps it's a "backyard" operation?
Is the farmer bringing off-farm waste that wouldn't be considered an agricultural byproduct (i.e., manure, bedding, feed, etc.)? If the farmer is not bringing off-farm waste, then as long as they are following AEM Code requirements, it would be considered a protected farm activity. If they're composting their own farm by-products then OMRR does not apply.
If they're bringing in food waste, then OMRR will apply. They will not need a permit unless they produce at least 5,000 dry tonnes of material.
Regarding the ALR Use Reg, they must be producing Class A Compost. If they're not producing Class A Compost – which is going to be difficult for a small operation not designed for it – then they're out of compliance with the ALR Use Reg.
Cheers,
Jake
From: Sutherland, Kim AF:EX <kim.sutherland@gov.bc.ca> Sent: August 16, 2022 2:52 PM To: Minaker, Willow AF:EX <willow.minaker@gov.bc.ca>; Turek, Jake AF:EX <jake.turek@gov.bc.ca> Subject: and ALR question</jake.turek@gov.bc.ca></willow.minaker@gov.bc.ca></kim.sutherland@gov.bc.ca>
Hello Willow, Jake,
I don't know if someone on the Strengthening farming team would know the answer to this, or if you have experience with this type of situation, Jake.

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There has been a concern raised by the Electoral Area H director to a scientist from DFO who is doing work on Cultus Lake about a compost operation on the ALR in Columbia Valley.

(She has not contacted me directly and may not know she can contact me directly.)

In any case, the concern is that there is a compost operation going on in Columbia Valley, on the dairy farm there. I am not familiar with the dairy farm or the compost operation.

So as I understand it, a Local Government cannot prohibit a compost operation even if it falls under a permitted non-farm use on the ALR; if it contributes 50% of the material to be composted and all the compost is applied on it's own land? In the case that all the compost is applied to the farmland on which the compost operation is on, they can operate without a non-farm use permit and Ministry of Environment permits?

If the compost facility operates without a permit, I am not sure what leverage there will be to ensure that it is done on an impermeable barrier and with leachate control as the Columbia Valley aquifer is a sensitive surficial aquifer and Cultus lake has received nitrate and phosphorus from agricultural operations from the air and suspect from the groundwater discharge. <u>Is there any leverage</u>?

I just want to be better informed as this situation unfolds. I understand the ALC is looking into it.

"The use of agricultural land for producing, storing and applying compost classified as Class A compost under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation is permitted, but may be prohibited as described in section 20, if at least 50% but less than 100% of the compost produced, stored and applied is used on the agricultural land on which it was produced."

Kim Sutherland, MSc., P.Ag.

Regional Agrologist, Fraser Valley Region

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

778-666-0549

(604) 854-0755 (cell)

Kim.sutherland@gov.bc.ca

www.gov.bc.ca/agriservicebc

From: Decker, Jonathan T AF:EX (Jonathan.Decker@gov.bc.ca)
To: Sutherland, Kim AF:EX (Kim.Sutherland@gov.bc.ca)
Subject: RE: need location of an operation in Columbia Valley

Sent: 08/16/2022 22:28:28

Message Body:

I can't see anything conclusive in imagery either.

From: Sutherland, Kim AF:EX <Kim.Sutherland@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** August 16, 2022 3:12 PM

**To:** Decker, Jonathan T AF:EX <Jonathan.Decker@gov.bc.ca> **Subject:** RE: need location of an operation in Columbia Valley

Thanks Jonathan,

A clearer picture than I got off Google Maps. Apparently there is a compost operation going on there. Can't see it from the aerial photo.

Kim

From: Decker, Jonathan T AF:EX < Jonathan. Decker@gov.bc.ca >

Sent: August 16, 2022 3:08 PM

**To:** Sutherland, Kim AF:EX < <u>Kim.Sutherland@gov.bc.ca</u>> **Subject:** RE: need location of an operation in Columbia Valley

I think it might be 780 Iverson Rd

https://www.google.com/maps/place/780+lverson+Rd,+Lindell+Beach,+BC+V2R+4X5/@49.0160048,-

 $\underline{122.0845817,1046m/data} = \underline{|3m1|1e3|4m5|3m4|1s0x54844ed1a92db2fd:0xf24f34027e566070|8m2} \\ \underline{|3d49.0160013|4d-122.082393}$ 

From: Sutherland, Kim AF:EX < Kim.Sutherland@gov.bc.ca >

Sent: August 16, 2022 2:02 PM

To: Decker, Jonathan T AF:EX < <u>Jonathan.Decker@gov.bc.ca</u>>
Subject: need location of an operation in Columbia Valley

Hello Jonathan,

I am needing the location of a dairy in Columbia Valley, Electoral Area H in the FVRD. I think there is only one place where there is a dairy. I have a concern about an operation to do with the dairy. There are no maps of land use available on line for Electoral Area H.

Can you give me the address please?

Kim Sutherland, MSc., P.Ag.

Regional Agrologist, Fraser Valley Region

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

778-666-0549

(604) 854-0755 (cell)

Kim.sutherland@gov.bc.ca

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