

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Town of Birtle
PROPOSAL NAME: Town of Birtle Removal of Biosolids from Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Waste/Scrap
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4474.00

OVERVIEW:

On September 10, 1999, the Department received a Proposal from the Town of Birtle for the removal of biosolids from its wastewater treatment lagoon located on the southeast quarter of Section 1-17-27 WPM. The biosolids will be removed from the lagoon, transported in enclosed tanks to farm land and injected into the soil. The land on which the biosolids will be applied by injection are 32 hectares of the northeast quarter of Section 1-17-27 WPM owned by the Town of Birtle.

The Department, on September 20, 1999, placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), the Centennial Public Library, and the Town of Birtle Office. As well, copies of the Proposal were provided to the Interdepartmental Planning Board and TAC members. The Department placed a public notification of the Proposal in the Birtle Eye-Witness on Saturday, September 25, 1999. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until October 13, 1999.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

To date no comments were received from the Public.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Highways

- *No comment.*

Natural Resources

- *No concerns.*

Historic Resources

- *No concerns.*

Rural Development

- *No concerns.*

Health

- *How far is the nearest well from the proposed irrigation fields? Is there any risk of contamination in the event of flooding or surface runoff?*
- *Ensure that groundwater is not at risk by monitoring of coliforms and heavy metals.*
- *How far is the nearest residence from the proposed irrigation fields?*
- *Ensure (1) prevention of pollutants or contaminated wastewaters from entering sewage disposal and municipal ditch systems; (2) odor control and monitoring; and (3) gasoline and diesel regulations if applicable.*
- *The license should specify that irrigation cannot occur onto vegetable or fruit crops.*

Disposition:

- There are no groundwater wells within 100 metres of the proposed receiving land (p. 4 of proposal). Subsurface injection of biosolids minimizes potential for surface runoff of the biosolids.
- Heavy metal concentrations in the applied biosolids and the total in the soil will be addressed in the monitoring program of the Licence.
- From the Letter of Agreement between the Town of Birtle and David Nettle, it is agreed that sludge application will not be closer than 300 metres to a dwelling not belonging to the owner of the land on which sludge is to be applied.
- (1) From the Letter of Agreement, it is agreed that sludge application will not occur on land within 15 metres of a ditch draining less than one section, 30 metres from drains serving a larger watershed; (2) injection of biosolids from air-tight tankers into the sub-surface should prevent excessive odour problems; (3) gasoline must be stored and handled appropriately.
- From the Letter of Agreement, it is agreed that only cereal, oilseed, forage, field pea or lentil will be grown for three seasons following the sludge application. It is agreed that no fruit or vegetable will be grown and that no livestock will graze on the land for three growing seasons after the sludge application.
- These concerns will be addressed in the Licence.

Environment-Operations Division

- *No comment.*

Environment-Water Quality Management

- *No comment.*

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

- *No comment.*

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing is not required.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Proponent should be issued a Licence to remove biosolids from its wastewater lagoon for sub-surface injection on the specified lands subject to the specifications, limits, terms and conditions of the Licence.

PREPARED BY:

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