



Conservation and Climate

Environmental Stewardship Division

Environmental Approvals Branch

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File No.: 1020.30

Licence No.: 1907

September 24, 2020

Karly Friesen
Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division
City of Portage la Prairie
97 Saskatchewan Avenue East
Portage la Prairie MB R1N 0L8

Dear Karly Friesen:

Re: Application for Alternative Digestion – City of Portage la Prairie Water Pollution Control Facility – Biosolids Storage Tanks

I am responding to your August 20, 2020 Notice of Alteration (NoA) consisting of a request for approval for an alternative digestion method for the stabilization of biosolids materials that originate from the City of Portage la Prairie Water Pollution Control Facility (Facility) and are currently held in Biosolids Storage Tank (BST) 1 and BST 2 at the Facility. This request is similar to recent previous requests with the exception that the anaerobic digester was taken out of service as of July 15, 2020. As a result, any digestion of sludge since that time must have occurred in BST 1 and BST 2. Environment Act Licence No. 1907 (Licence) relates to the sludge solids disposal activities associated with the Facility.

The August 20, 2020 letter indicates that solids have accumulated in BST 1 and BST 2. The letter request and attachment indicate that recent laboratory analysis demonstrates that interim bacterial destruction has occurred and that the fecal coliform count of the biosolids is below what the US EPA states as the maximum allowable for Class B biosolids. A previously submitted memorandum from AECOM dated May 8, 2017 concluded that, compared with US EPA Regulations Part 503, testing of biosolids from BST 1 had indicated that similar material was suitable for land application subject to compliance with the provisions of the Licence related to heavy metals and sub-surface soil injection.

Through recent laboratory analysis, the City of Portage la Prairie has determined that the fecal coliform count of the biosolids currently contained in the BST 1 and BST 2 is below the US EPA maximum allowable count for Class B biosolids. The NoA requests authorization to land apply biosolids from BST 1 and BST 2 via injection until November 30, 2020.

Upon review of the NoA and the Licence, I have decided that the environmental impacts of the proposed alteration are insignificant. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 14(2) of The Environment Act, I hereby approve the request to allow the biosolids from BST 1 and BST 2 to be land applied subject to the following limits, terms and conditions:

1. All associated activities are completed in accordance with the requirements of Environment Act Licence No. 1907;
2. The City of Portage la Prairie shall submit updates of monitoring activities and data associated with the removal of biosolids from BST 1 and BST 2 for hauling and land application by sub-surface injection to the assigned Environment Officers once every week as the related monitoring and land application activities commence or as may be requested by the assigned Environment Officers;
3. The City of Portage la Prairie shall not apply, or allow to be applied, biosolids from BST 1 and BST 2 to land where the fecal coliform count of the biosolids exceeds 2,000,000 CFU per dry gram;
4. The City of Portage la Prairie shall notify the assigned Environment Officers upon completion of the installation of new equipment that is to assist with mixing within the anaerobic digester as described in the August 20, 2020 NoA; and
5. This approval shall terminate on the 10th day of November, 2020, unless otherwise approved by the Director.

Unless otherwise indicated, the assigned Environment Officers for activities associated with the removal of biosolids from the biosolids storage tanks for land application shall be Jay Rackham, Environment Officer, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch, Jay.Rackam@gov.mb.ca and Robert Boswick, Environmental Engineer, Environmental Approvals Branch Robert.Boswick@gov.mb.ca.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the foregoing, please contact Robert Boswick, Environmental Engineer, at 204-918-5853.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Shannon Kohler, Director
Environment Act

cc: Yvonne Hawryliuk, Tyler Kneeshaw, Jay Rackham – Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
Siobhan Burland Ross, Robert Boswick – Environmental Approvals
Public Registries