

DATE: May 24, 2018

FILE: 5360-05

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Valley Regional District
(Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board)

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Asbestos Containing Materials Program Update

Purpose

To update the board on the status of the Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) program at the Campbell River Waste Management Center (CRWMC) and recent changes to the allowable accepted tonnage.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

This report is for information purposes only.

Executive Summary

In June, 2015 the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service received notice from WorkSafe BC that the facility was no longer able to collect pre-1990 gypsum (drywall) material without ensuring the material was tested for ACM. Customers were allowed to bring material date stamped post-1990 or have their material tested for ACM and submit their paperwork for advanced approval. Unfortunately, this left residents in possession of ACM with few options for disposal in the CSWM service area.

Due to a lack of suitable options for residents, the CSWM service reviewed what was required and then implemented an ACM program at the CRWMC. The program officially launched in October 2017 and has since collected approximately 400 tonnes of material. The program has received positive feedback from the public.

In January 2018 staff applied for an increase to the allowable tonnage and were granted permission to collect up to 1,200 tonnes of ACM annually. The increase in the allowable tonnage will provide the capacity to accept the ACM for larger industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) projects that are anticipated in the CSWM service area.

As the CRWMC is progressively closed the CSWM staff will bring information forward to address the need to landfill ACM in the CSWM service area. CSWM staff will keep the board updated as needed.

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Background/Current Situation

Up until 2012 the CSWM service collected pre and post 1990 drywall waste at both regional landfill facilities. Upon further consultation with WorkSafe BC it was advised that any pre-1990 drywall arriving at our regional landfill facilities could potentially contain ACM.

The CSWM service modified the drywall collection program to include a requirement for customers to have any material older than 1990 or material that was not clearly date stamped, tested for asbestos, prior to acceptance. This left customers with ACM material without a disposal option in the service area. ACM had to be transported to the Hartland landfill in Victoria for disposal.

At its September 17, 2015 CSWM Board meeting the Board passed the following resolution:

THAT staff prepare a report that provides information on accepting hazardous construction debris (such as pre-1990 gypsum and other materials containing asbestos) in order that the CSWM board can provide this public service and divert this material from the landfill, including determining the appropriate fees for this service.

At its September 15, 2016 Comox Valley Regional District CSWM Board meeting the following recommendation was approved:

THAT the Comox Strathcona waste management board move towards accepting asbestos at the Campbell River waste management centre as presented in the staff report dated June 10, 2016.

The CSWM service submitted a Hazardous Waste Regulation registration to the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change in November 2016 seeking approval to accept ACM at the CRWMC. The request was approved and the CSWM service was permitted to collect 240 tonnes of ACM annually. On the direction of the Board, staff prepared an asbestos disposal application form, developed an education program that included extensive WorkSafeBC materials, including a fact sheet, handout for instructions on how to properly double bag material as well as policies for bringing commercial or residential ACM to the landfill. The service sourced and purchased affordable asbestos bags to be made available to the public at a cost of \$2.25 each including tax.

The program began October 1, 2017 and within the first two months, the service had collected the maximum allowable amount of ACM material. This was anticipated due to the amount of material contractors and homeowners were stockpiling in anticipation of the program's launch. A majority of the material collected was from the ICI sector and includes materials received from provincial, federal organizations and crown corporations. We have seen the tonnages decrease significantly since its launch in October of 2017 (stockpiling issue). Staff anticipate that as ACM awareness within the CSWM service area increases, ACM material will also increase and the disposal option will need to be available locally for the long term.

In January 2018 staff applied for an increase to the allowable tonnage and were granted permission to collect up to 1,200 tonnes of ACM annually. The increase in the allowable tonnage will provide the capacity to accept the ACM for larger ICI projects that are anticipated in the CSWM service area.

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the tonnages of ACM collected by month.

| Table 1: Tonnage per month of ACM collected at CRWM | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Month | Tonnage of ACM collected |
| October 2017 | 127.12 |
| November 2017 | 132.47 |
| December 2017 | 20.23 |
| January 2018 | 37.42 |
| February 2018 | 15.6 |
| March 2018 | 72.33 |
| April 2018 | 29.76 |
| TOTAL | 434.93 tonnes |

Financial Factors

The CSWM service purchases bags from a wholesale retailer located in Richmond BC. The cost of the bags is covered through the resale to the public, any surplus of funds from this program will be put aside in case there are any increases on the bags in the future.

Recent review of available airspace indicates the CRWMC will reach capacity within four to five years. At that time, the CSWM service will need to review its policy and accept the ACM at another facility or refer customers to the private sector, should those options exist.

Citizen/Public Relations

At its March 10, 2016 CSWM Board meeting, a local resident appeared as a delegate to highlight concerns with the lack of options available for ACM disposal in the service area. At that time, the only available option for disposal was the Hartland Landfill in Victoria. Any residents wishing to dispose of ACM at the Hartland Landfill were subject to an out of area charge of \$500/tonne in addition to the transportation costs. The public is very pleased with the program, the reporting, the turnaround time for approving applications as well as the cost of disposal. The CSWM service has only received positive feedback about this program.