

Norgate Community Open House **Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater** **Treatment Plant (LGSWWTP)** *Summary*

Issues, Comments, Questions **and Metro Vancouver Responses**

March 7, 2013, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Norgate Elementary School
1295 Sowden Street, North Vancouver, BC



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1. Opening Remarks

Robin Mills, Policy Coordinator, Public Involvement Division, Metro Vancouver welcomed the participants to the Norgate Community Open House and reviewed the purpose of the meeting. Ms. Mills introduced the members of the Lions Gate Public Advisory Committee and the Community Resource Forum who were in attendance.

2. Overview of Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant

Fred Nenninger, Project Manager, Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades, Metro Vancouver, referred to an overhead presentation providing an overview of the Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant (LGSWWTP) project, during which he discussed:

- *Location of the project*
- *Project phases and timeline*
- *Project background*
- *Community context and opportunities*
- *Four key project goals: Secondary Wastewater Treatment, Sustainability, Integrated Resource Recovery and Community Integration*
- *Integrative design process and timeline*
- *Concept development and refinement process*
- *Decision and assessment framework*
- *Community engagement*
- *Community input into integrative design process*
- *Community input received to date.*

3. Issues, Comments, Questions

The following table summarizes MV's responses to questions and concerns provided by attendees, throughout the meeting:

Issue, Comment, Question	MV Response
Sensory and Traffic Impacts	
Will the plant have open tanks?	No, there will not be any open tanks.
What methodologies will be used to characterize and quantify noise and odours and where will they be located? How will it compare to the experience from the current Lions Gate sewage treatment plant? What are you going to do to ensure that there is no odour in the Norgate community, especially around the school and beyond?	The plant will be designed so air is put through scrubbing systems before it is discharged into the atmosphere. The scrubbed air can be monitored with instruments at the fence line or right on the stacks if required. We can show you treatment plants where people live immediately across the street, where there are balconies, and you would never know that the wastewater treatment plant is there.
Is there any odour and noise impact data from the operational treatment plants to which Metro Vancouver is referring?	All the plants we have referred to were built with long-term community involvement. To my knowledge, there have not been any odour complaints.



Issue, Comment, Question	MV Response
How will odour and noise control be weighted in the decision making process? With cost overruns, that would be one of the first things cut unless the weighting is sufficiently high.	The risk is too high to not do odour control. It could not be built without odour control.
Everyone's odour sensitivity is different. How can you guarantee that there won't be odours?	We will share information on the website regarding odour control technologies and how they work.
Is this going to be the best facility that money can buy, that will produce very little, if any, odour or noise and will be a place that people from around the world will come to view?	The four objectives for the project move us to thinking about waste as a resource. The build scenarios will test the business case and the trade-offs associated with that. Does it make economic sense? Do we get those kinds of benefits? How much can we get into this plant? Can we really integrate materials from the solid waste system to get more energy recovery? Can we get off the BC Hydro and Fortis gas grid for energy for this plant? That is what is being tested in this project definition phase.
Can you comment on truck traffic that will be created to transport the waste sludge? This is a tight spot in terms of roads for the trucks to move on and there will be a considerable amount of sludge to move.	Currently, about three truckloads of sludge a day are being moved from the existing plant. Depending on the technology used, the amount of sludge will increase but it won't necessarily double. If we were to truck sludge off the site, it would be in the order of three to six trucks a day. <i>[Correction – Although the above response was given during the meeting, this estimate was incorrect. The actual number of trucks that will be required will be in the order of three to six trucks per week, not per day.]</i>
Similar Facilities as Comparators	
Are there secondary treatment plants like this that we can visit?	There are three secondary or beyond secondary treatment plants in Washington State that are quite modern and fairly new: a small sewage wastewater plant in Village of Blaine; Brightwater, a fairly large plant in Seattle; and a plant in downtown Edmonds.
Are there any similar plants in BC?	In BC, the best example is the plant in Kelowna. The plants in Kelowna, Penticton and Vernon are built in neighbourhoods.
Are the Washington plants of the same size and scope as is being proposed here?	Blaine is much smaller, Seattle is larger and Edmonds is about half to two-thirds the size of the plant being proposed here.
How close are the houses to the plants you are referring to? There are some plants in Washington that are not in close proximity to houses.	The Edmonds plant has apartments right across the street from it. The plants in the Okanagan are in residential neighbourhoods.



Issue, Comment, Question	MV Response
Who designed and built the plants to which you are referring? What is the connection between these plants and the new plant we are discussing?	Typically, these plants are designed and engineered by engineering firms and owned and operated by municipalities. The connection is the issue of concern about odour and noise that has been raised. There is often a perception that sewage treatment plants are stinky and noisy. Modern treatment plants are built completely differently from those that were built in past decades, especially when we are now constrained to sites where we do not have miles of buffer space.
To help us see the proximal relationships between the plants and the communities, could you provide the coordinates so we can view them on Google Earth, as well indicating if the homes in the neighbourhood were built before or after the treatment plant was constructed?	We will provide links to the treatment plant websites and Google Earth locations on the Lions Gate project website.
You have shown a picture previously of a treatment plant that looks just like an office building.	Modern treatment plants are built so that they integrate into the community. They don't have the industrial look of traditional treatment plants. Perhaps you are referring to the plant in Blaine that I've shown pictures of. That building looks like a market integrated into their park with picnic tables all around it. You don't get the sense that the building is a sewage treatment plant.
Do you have any pictures of existing plants?	We do have examples and we will post the pictures on our website.
Location	
Why can't the new plant be located at the existing location?	The existing plant is built on land that is owned by the Squamish Nation and they have indicated they want the land returned for their own purposes. Metro Vancouver is engaging with the Squamish Nation with regard to the existing site and plant.
Will the primary and secondary treatments plants be located in different places?	The existing primary treatment plant site is being decommissioned entirely. The new plant will include both primary and secondary treatment on the new site. After 2020, there will not be a wastewater treatment plant at all on the existing site.
Is the new plant location suitable given climate change and disaster management concerns?	The new site is fairly flat and low lying. Based on provincial guidance and predictions on sea level rise over the coming century, critical equipment must be placed several metres above the existing grade. The plant would be built to withstand disaster events.



Issue, Comment, Question	MV Response
Is the elevation the same as the current site?	The elevation may be a little higher, but not much.
Will there be pumping required or will it just flow by gravity?	The engineers are considering two options to convey the treated effluent back to the outfall: a slight pump lift or a deeper gravity line.
How do you get the primary waste to the plant? Is there a pipe in place now?	There is a pipe to the plant now and the waste is piped there through the sewer system. As the new plant is further east, we will need to move the West Vancouver sewage to the new plant.
Will you be using the existing outfall?	The existing outfall is in the First Narrows and the technical team is testing two concepts with the potential build scenarios. The first concept is to use the existing outfall so we will need to get wastewater from the new treatment plant to the existing outfall. The second concept is to treat the water to a level that would allow discharge to the estuaries that are at the foot of Philip, Pemberton, and McKay Creek.
Cost Impacts	
Is everyone in the region paying for both the Lions Gate and Iona treatment upgrades?	The timeline for the North Shore plant is 2020, while the Iona plant has a timeline of 2030. In the Liquid Waste Management Plan, the Board indicated that it would like to have the Iona plant built sooner but that will depend on the availability of senior government cost sharing.
Will the Squamish Nation share in the cost of the new Lions Gate plant?	Everybody in the region will pay for the new treatment plant to some extent. Costs are shared for secondary treatment plants across all municipalities. The Squamish Nation will share in the cost through whatever arrangements municipalities have, in the same manner as all other jurisdictions.
Will the designs presented at the next meeting have costs associated with them and be reflective of the overall project budget? Will we be looking at things that we cannot afford?	The budget is being set through the project definition phase, which runs until the end of 2013. During this time, we will be analysing the trade-offs between costs and benefits, including revenue. Affordability will be one of the big tests. For example, would you pay for estuary enhancement if it cost a little more to get that level of treatment? Or is that something that isn't worth doing? The business case for that energy recovery might be worthwhile if it gives you a really low operating cost through increased revenue.



Issue, Comment, Question	MV Response
<p>Is there any movement on funding from the federal or provincial government?</p>	<p>There is advocacy work being done by our Board and through many municipalities in Canada, most recently through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. All municipalities in Canada belong to this organization and it advocates primarily in Ottawa with the federal government. We are currently waiting to see if there are any infrastructure programs in the next federal budget.</p>
<p>Integrated Resource Recovery</p>	
<p>What happened to the 2009 proposal by Fortis for biogas recovery from the existing plant?</p>	<p>It did not go ahead because it would have been too short term given the planned decommissioning of the existing plant. There are a number of potential solutions in terms of the biogas generation – including getting it into a biogas pipeline – that are being considered as part of the new plant design.</p>
<p>Public and First Nations Engagement</p>	
<p>Is there a process to engage the Squamish Nation?</p>	<p>Metro Vancouver made a presentation to the Squamish Nation Chief and Council in March 2012, at the initiation of the project. The presentation involved the Chair of Metro Vancouver’s Utilities Committee, Mayor Mussatto. The Utilities Committee, which reports directly to the Board, is overseeing this project. We have asked the Squamish Nation how they would like to be engaged and we have not had a firm answer yet. A Squamish Nation staff member sits on the Intergovernmental Committee, which is a staff committee that includes the three Chief Administrative Officers of the North Shore municipalities. Metro Vancouver senior management and Board members are having ongoing discussions with the Squamish Nation.</p>
<p>Will discussions with Squamish Nation impact the timeline?</p>	<p>We are under a regulatory timeline.</p>
<p>Do you have other meetings planned?</p>	<p>A public meeting is planned for the end of April where we will be looking at some of the initial designs and you can provide your input. There will be future meetings with the Norgate community as well. Notifications will be sent out soon for the public meeting that will be held at the end of April.</p>



4. Adjournment

Robin Mills thanked participants for their questions and advised that there are four members from the Norgate Community Association who sit on the Lions Gate Public Advisory Committee. The public was invited to contact those members regarding their concerns as well as Metro Vancouver staff.

The formal question and answer period of the North Community Open House concluded at approximately 8:10 p.m.