



Reference: 190428

APR 02 2013

His Worship Mayor Robert Hutchins
and Councillors
Town of Ladysmith
PO Box 220
Ladysmith BC V9G 1A2

Dear Mayor Hutchins and Council:

Thank you for your letter of March 22, 2013, with the attached Liquid Waste Management Plan ("the Plan") dated January 2013. I am pleased with the level of commitment in the Plan.

The Plan was developed over several years and included opportunities for public review and consultation including contributions from the consultation process focusing on a community vision *Ladysmith Community Vision for a Sustainable West Coast Town* that is linked to the Official Community Plan.

I acknowledge the Town of Ladysmith's success in creating the Plan, which is supported by senior government infrastructure funding for upgrading the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) from primary to secondary discharge standards. The Plan also includes initiatives for beneficial use of biosolids, wastewater reclamation and drafting of bylaws to address source control, wastewater volume reduction and storm water management.

It is my understanding that an Environmental Impact Study (Stage 2) will be carried out after completion of upgrades at the WWTP in order to evaluate the need for advanced treatment and/or extension of the outfall beyond the embayed area of Ladysmith Harbour. A pilot study will also be carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of ultraviolet disinfection of the wastewater discharge in protecting the adjacent shellfish harvesting areas, which are recognized as having significant economic, recreational and First Nations cultural importance.

I would like to recognize the Town of Ladysmith's contribution to the development of a Conditional Management Plan in partnership with federal government agencies and our ministry to provide for enhanced management of shellfish harvesting waters adjacent to the WWTP.

...2

It is encouraging to note that the Plan addresses future development within the Town of Ladysmith's boundaries by promoting wastewater reclamation plants and taking steps to secure a new WWTP site. I appreciate the Town of Ladysmith's foresight in liquid waste planning by considering additional service areas in Saltair, the Diamond Improvement District and First Nations lands.

I concur with the Town of Ladysmith's direction to invite members of the Joint Advisory Committee to sit on the Plan Monitoring Committee. This is the appropriate first step to succeed in Plan implementation. I also request that in moving forward with implementing the Plan, Town of Ladysmith continues to work with Environmental Protection Division staff in the Nanaimo regional office in the areas of biosolids management, master drainage planning, and bylaw and operational certificate development. I agree with the Town of Ladysmith's commitment to complete annual reviews of the Plan up to the year 2017 and to evaluate revisions and updates once every five years thereafter.

The Ministry appreciates the leadership and effort by Town of Ladysmith staff in completing their Plan and recognizes the community's attention to sustainable development that incorporates designs, integrated resource recovery, planning and management for the protection of public health and the environment. Town of Ladysmith is encouraged to pursue its community vision by working with ministry staff to develop and enhance sustainable strategies under the Plan amendment process that will lead to long and short term protection of the community's waterfront and watersheds.

I am satisfied that the directions and commitments in the Plan are supportable and the public and First Nations review and consultation process meet Ministry requirements. Pursuant to Section 24(5) of the *Environmental Management Act*, I hereby approve Town of Ladysmith, Liquid Waste Management Plan, Stage 3 dated January 2013.

Approval of the Plan does not authorize entry upon, crossing over or use for any purpose of private or Crown lands or works, unless and except as authorized by the owner of such lands or works. The responsibility of obtaining such authority shall rest with the local government. This Plan is approved pursuant to the provisions of the *Environmental Management Act*, which asserts it is an offence to discharge waste without proper authorization. It is also the Town of Ladysmith's responsibility to ensure that all activities conducted under this Plan are carried out with regard to the rights of third parties and comply with other applicable legislation that may be in force.

Thank you again for your submission.

Sincerely,



Terry Lake
Minister of Environment

cc: Office of the Regional Director, West Coast, Environmental Protection Division,
Ministry of Environment
Environment Canada