

Association for Protection of Rural Metchosin
#2-4401 William Head Road, RR#1, Victoria, BC, V9C 3Y6

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations,
West Coast Natural Resource Region,
103-2100 Labieux Road,
Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6E9

August 16, 2017

Attention David Robinson, Senior Authorisations Specialist- Water

Dear Mr Robinson,

Re: Landfill in Veitch Creek wetlands, Metchosin
Street address [REDACTED], Victoria, BC

The Association for Protection of Rural Metchosin is dedicated to the preservation of the rural character and environment of the municipality. We have recently noted the landfill proceeding off Kangaroo Road onto the above property and, due to our concern for the wetlands, a representative visited the adjacent property, [REDACTED] Kangaroo Road, to view the fill from within the swamp.

The Veitch wetlands are important in Metchosin as they are the largest wetland remaining in the municipality and because they have a capacity to hold flood water when Veitch Creek floods, as it often does.

It is clear from this visit that a considerable volume of fill has already been placed in the wetlands. A visit to Lisa Urlacher, CAO District of Metchosin, was then arranged, and she gave our representative a copy of your letter to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] dated July 14, 2017. The observed intrusion into the wetlands is in direct contravention of the advice you gave him that “the introduction of sediment or foreign matter in the wetland could be considered an offence under Section 106” of the WSA.

The APRM is particularly concerned that if any fill is to occur, no material or sediment should enter the wetlands, and is totally supportive of the advice you gave to [REDACTED].

The Metchosin CAO has now advised that FLNRO has made a site visit and issued a compliance order to the land owner. The APRM fully supports this decision.

We are further concerned that Lisa Urlacher advised us that [REDACTED] has given her notice that he is to seek a further permit for 5000m³ of fill. In our opinion this landfill is already, or will become, a commercial landfill operation masquerading as an agricultural improvement project and this will only be reinforced if the second permit is granted.

We therefore request that you continue to ensure the wetlands are protected by upholding the requirements of the WSA. In addition we ask that any fill already placed in a wetland be removed and any continuing landfill be confined to dry land as you have suggested to [REDACTED].

The soil deposit permit issued for the site had no requirement to revegetate the slopes of the fill. To avoid sediment being eroded into the wetland it is strongly suggested that FLNRO require the owner to seed the slopes facing the wetland as part of the remedial work.

Yours truly,

Jennifer Burgis, President APRM (j_burgis@telus.net)

Cc District of Metchosin
Mitzi Dean MLA Esquimalt-Metchosin