



News Release

1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4
Telephone: (250) 763-4918
Fax: (250) 763-0606
www.regionaldistrict.com

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Westside Landfill Concept Closure Plan

The Regional District has received a concept closure plan for the Westside Sanitary Landfill.

It generally outlines cover, landscaping and monitoring requirements and possible end use options once the site off Asquith Road in West Kelowna is no longer accepting materials to be buried in the landfill later this year. The plan recommends the closed site could be used as a passive community park and a transfer station for select residential waste, consistent with the end uses identified in the original draft plan developed in 1993.

The concept closure plan was developed by CH2MHill for the Regional District and is the first step in developing the final closure plan. It suggests once the landfill reaches final elevation and grades, that it be capped and covered with soil that would be suitable for hydro seeding with native grasses and other natural vegetation in order to blend in as much as possible with the natural surroundings and be used as a passive community park.

In addition to the park area, staff from the Regional District and District of West Kelowna are working on a draft end use plan that would see a portion of the sorting area of the landfill property utilized as a convenience transfer facility, acting as a continued solid waste management hub for residents of West Kelowna, Peachland, Westbank First Nation and the Central Okanagan West Electoral Area. Widespread public support for a transfer facility was demonstrated in the results of both a statistically valid survey and user questionnaire that were conducted last year.

Two possible options could be considered for the transfer facility. There could be a minor expansion of the existing outdoor bin disposal system including the present recycling station while another could see an enhanced enclosed facility constructed at the site with estimated costs ranging from between \$1-million and \$5-million. The exact costs, associated services, operational details and cost recovery are still to be determined based on the outcome of discussions between the Regional District and local government stakeholders.

Once the operational issues and more detailed cost estimates have been completed, it's anticipated a community outreach public information program will take place early this fall. End use options and costs would be presented to the greater community in an Open House format with dates, times and locations to be advertised in advance. Once this pre-closure phase is complete, a final closure plan must be prepared and approved by the Ministry of Environment prior to closing the site to the active disposal of solid waste.

For more information, visit the webpage dedicated to the Westside Landfill Closure. It can be accessed on the Regional District website (www.regionaldistrict.com) selecting the Quick Links option and clicking on Landfill Closure.

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Contact:

Bruce Smith
Communications Coordinator
250-469-6339