



Westside Landfill Newsletter

September 2008

Welcome to this second update on the operations of the Westside Landfill.

- **Recycling Depot Operation** - The Regional District Waste Reduction Office advises that the changeover in the layout and collection containers earlier this summer went extremely well. With the improved bin system, all household containers (metal and plastic), newspaper and plastic wrap/bags can now be mixed together or co-mingled as it's known in the recycling business. That means there's no more sorting required other than for cardboard and glass. A second compactor is also up and running which means trucks will make half as many trips because the recyclables are now compacted before delivery. We are optimistic this should result in less traffic and noise.
- **Landfill Operation** – We are anticipating a normal operation and hours during the month of September. We are not expecting any wood grinding or metal bailing operations to take place during the month. We plan to continue stockpiling fill material at the back of the landfill in the Northeast corner. Depending on the amount of fill material received, we plan to further increase the height of the existing berm on the landfill property that is adjacent to the cul-de-sac area of Alexandria Way. When this berm is complete, it will provide improved buffering and visual separation from landfill operations for neighbouring properties.

Please note that these are anticipated plans for operations at the landfill and are subject to change.

Your Questions? Answered –

The latest Alexandria Way residents report (August 20th) asks about composting at the landfill. There hasn't been any composting at the site for almost five years. Comments from residents mentioned smells and methane from possible composting. Perhaps the yard and wood waste collection area is being confused with composting. The material in this collection area sits for about two months and is then ground and immediately removed from the site to be composted elsewhere. As the material is not composted at the Westside landfill and no moisture is added to it, there isn't any decomposition or odours.

Resident comments also asked about methane emissions. Methane is a colourless, odourless gas. That said, we have negligible emissions due to the dry climate and extensive daily cover provided to the working area of the landfill. The Regional District Operating and Closure Plan (Section 7.3) outlines extensive testing and monitoring conducted at the landfill site for a variety of compounds. Appendix K, the gas monitoring report confirms negligible levels of methane. We have an extensive underground well system (Appendix D) around the property and these are monitored and tested at least four times a year.

A possible meteorological explanation can be given for periods when residents may notice more odours. During hot summer days, the landfilled materials can heat up. If the air should cool as can be the case in evenings, the lower air pressure tends to keep any odours from dispersing to the atmosphere, pushing it down and out, closer to the terrain, hence periods when some may experience more odours.

Public Consultation on Future Transfer Station - This process for future transfer station facilities and services at the landfill is still underway. The engineering consulting firm CH2MHill is presently investigating costs, benefits, barriers etc. of differing types of possible waste collection and disposal services for the region. The results of that study will be part of the information presented at an upcoming Public Information Session and Hope house. We have not yet scheduled those sessions at which we plan to present draft plans and options for possible services, costs and the layout of the proposed transfer station, however we expect it will be held on the Westside sometime this fall. Information will be advertised when information is finalized. With the present time frame, we anticipate the Regional Board will be asked to consider a final proposal for the site, early in 2009.

Just a reminder for information regarding the closure of the landfill and plans for future transfer station facility services here is the link to the webpage set up on the Regional District website: www.regionaldistrict.com/departments/engineering/engineering_wslandfill_yardwastecom.aspx

Should you have any questions or comments please forward them to Bruce Smith, RDCO Communication Coordinator (contact info below) and we'll do our best to provide answers for you.

Bruce Smith
RDCO Communications Coordinator
Phone: 250-469-6339
Fax: 250-763-0606
Email: bsmith@cord.bc.ca
Website: www.regionaldistrict.com