

**DATE:** July 5, 2017

**FILE:** 5340-07

**TO:** Chair and Members  
Comox Valley Sewage Commission

**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

**RE:** Comox Valley Regional District Sewerage Emergency Spill Response Plan

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### **Purpose**

To present the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) sewerage emergency spill response plan.

### **Policy Analysis**

The Comox Valley Regional District operates a sewerage service primarily for the City of Courtenay and Town of Comox, established by Bylaw No. 2541, being the “Comox Valley Sewerage Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2451, 2003”.

### **Executive Summary**

The Comox Valley Sewerage Service conveys wastewater from the Courtenay pump station and the Jane Place pump station to the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Center (CVWPCC). The purpose of the spill response plan is to provide the CVRD with the necessary tools to respond to a failure in the wastewater forcemain, whether it is a minor leak or a significant break.

The spill response plan, completed by Associated Engineering and attached as Appendix A, reviews spill scenarios, required regulatory compliance and notifications and provides spill response steps and repair methodology for multiple failure scenarios. The plan also identifies the required repair and replacement materials that should be stored at the CVWPCC to minimize response time to spills.

The primary purpose of the plan is to reduce response time to any type of failure in the wastewater forcemain. CVRD staff have begun implementation of the plan, which includes:

- Operator and contractor training as described within Appendix A of the spill response plan.
- Procurement of the required repair and replacement tools.
- Meetings with the City of Courtenay and Town of Comox staff to review response plan.

As part of the Comox Valley Sewage Commission’s commitment to increase protection of the coastline in November 2016, it was noted that an emergency spill response plan was being developed. A news release will be issued informing the public that the emergency spill response plan is complete. The plan is intended to be a live document and will be reviewed at least once annually to incorporate any changes and ensure all information is up to date.

**Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

For information purposes only.

Respectfully:

***R. Dyson***

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Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Background/Current Situation**

The Comox Valley Sewerage Service conveys wastewater from the Courtenay pump station (CPS) and the Jane Place pump station to the CVWPCC via an 8.7km long forcemain. The forcemain was constructed in the early 1980's and runs on land and within the intertidal zone. The forcemain consists of two different pipe materials; pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe from the CPS to Jane Place pump station and bar wrapped pipe from the Jane Place pump station to the CVWPCC.

Due to the age of the forcemain piping (>30 years) and the severe operational conditions (raw wastewater inside, and in some areas exposure to a marine environment on the outside), there is concern that the forcemain could fail due to corrosion of the steel cylinder and/or the steel bars for both types of pipe that make up the forcemain. Failure could occur as a minor leak, a significant break or something in between.

The purpose of the spill response plan is to provide the CVRD with the necessary tools to respond to a failure in the wastewater forcemain. In addition to the spill response plan, the CVRD is currently completing a condition assessment of the pipe to better understand the condition of the forcemain.

In 2016, the CVRD retained Associated Engineering to complete the spill response plan, attached as Appendix A. The spill response plan reviews spill scenarios, including the type of failure, the spill location, regulatory compliance and notifications, spill response steps and repair methodology. The plan also identifies required repair and replacement materials that should be on hand at the CVWPCC to reduce response time. Procurement of these materials is already underway.

The primary purpose of the plan is to reduce response time to any type of failure in the wastewater forcemain. CVRD staff have begun implementation of the plan, implementation includes:

- Operator and contractor training as described within Appendix A of the spill response plan.
- Procurement of the required repair and replacement tools.
- Meeting with the City of Courtenay and Town of Comox staff to review response plan.

The plan provides step-by-step instructions to follow in the event of a spill and is intended to be a live document that will be reviewed at least once annually to incorporate any changes and ensure all information is up to date.

**Options**

This report is presented for information only.

**Financial Factors**

At the May 2017 meeting, the Comox Valley Sewage Commission approved a contract award for repair and replacement materials in the amount of \$170,225. The award was for all repair materials, excluding pipe spools, to ensure compatibility with the existing system. A competitive process will

occur for the procurement of the pipe spools. Operational funds will be used to purchase the materials, utilizing some of the funds that were not used as part of the forcemain condition assessment.

### **Legal Factors**

None.

### **Regional Growth Strategy Implications**

The Regional Growth Strategy contains specific goals and objectives for supporting protection and enhancement of public health and safety along with protecting natural areas and ecosystems. The purpose of the spill response plan is to reduce response time to any leak or failure of the forcemain, ensuring the effects of a failure on the natural environment and public health are minimized as much as possible.

### **Intergovernmental Factors**

The Comox Valley Sewerage Service is governed by the Comox Valley Sewage Commission whose membership includes representation from the Town of Comox, the City of Courtenay and the Department of National Defence.

A separate meeting with the Town of Comox and City of Courtenay is planned to review and discuss the municipality's roles in the event of a spill.

### **Interdepartmental Involvement**

The Engineering Services Branch is leading this work with help from Legislative Services.

### **Citizen/Public Relations**

As part of the Comox Valley Sewage Commission's commitment to increase protection of the coastline in November 2016, it was noted that an emergency spill response plan was being developed. A news release will be issued informing the public that the emergency spill response plan is complete.

Prepared by:

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Concurrence:

***K. La Rose***

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Concurrence:

***M. Rutten***

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Marc Rutten, P.Eng  
General Manager of  
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Attachments: Appendix A – “Spill Response Plan, May 2017”