



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-181

From: SW Public and Technical Stakeholder Committee

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: SW Public and Technical Stakeholder Committee Recommendation from March 27, 2025

The following recommendation from the Solid Waste Public and Technical Stakeholder Committee meeting held on March 27, 2025 is presented to the Solid Waste Committee for consideration:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the “Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment – Consultation Plan” dated March 13, 2025, to include the addition of a section for the contemplation of future facilities.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The draft minutes of the Solid Waste Public and Technical Stakeholder Committee meeting held on March 27, 2025 are provided on the Consent Calendar of this Solid Waste Committee meeting agenda.

On November 7, 2024 the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board primarily investigate the land adjacent to the existing Chetwynd Landfill (Area B), for the suitability of an expanded landfill location and in the event that the landfill expansion be undesirable, the secondary site (Area A) located 4 km north along Don Phillips Way, past the existing landfill be further investigated.

On March 20, 2025 the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board approve initiating the process of amending the Peace River Regional District’s Regional Solid Waste Management Plan to include a section that allows for future facilities to be contemplated; further, that staff notify the public of its intention to amend the Solid Wates Management Plan and begin consultation on the proposed amendment through the Public and Technical Stakeholder Committee.

In 2023, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) began the process of siting a new landfill, and secured Tetra Tech Canada Inc to assist the PRRD through the process. Work completed to date includes:

- 2023 – Completion of Desktop Study, investigating 11 potential sits which was narrowed to 4 sites for further investigation these were identified as Areas A,B,C, and L.

- 2024 – Areas A and B underwent Lidar Investigations and an Environmental Assessment. Additionally, a License of Occupation (LOC) application through the Province for tree clearing and initial geotechnical investigation was initiated for Area B.

To continue the project, the PRRD must amend the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) to include a new section for consideration of “Future Facilities”. Currently sub-strategy 12C allows for the relocation of landfills to an alternative site as one of the potential options if a change to an active landfill is proven necessary. However, the RSWMP did not include any specifics on the location of the new sites or facilities that would be contemplated. The proposed RSWMP amendment wording is as follows:

3.4 Future Facilities

Municipal solid waste may be directed to any new landfill or transfer station contemplated by this plan. The specific sites being contemplated by the PRRD are shown in Schedule G.

Should one of the contemplated sites be deemed feasible, the following process will be used for development of the chosen site:

- *Follow the PRRDs procurement process for the engineering and construction of a new facility;*
- *Ensure that any and all required Federal, Provincial and Local Government requirements are met and obtain all necessary authorizations including but not limited to an Operational Certificate under the Environmental Management Act (EMA) from the Ministry of Environment and Parks (MEP);*
- *Public and First Nation consultation and engagement will occur; and*
- *Any additional requirements that may be included as conditions in the Minister’s approval of the amendment to this plan.*

Schedule G is attached to this report for reference and provides a map for the locations being considered for a future facility in the Chetwynd area. To date they have been referred to as Area A and Area B, through the amendment and as the project moves forward, they will be referred to as:

- Hwy 29 North Site (formerly Area A)
- Chetwynd Landfill Expansion Site (formerly Area B)

The amendment is considered as a major amendment requiring Minister approval. As part of the amendment process Tetra Tech has developed a consultation plan which is intended to inform, consult and engage in the above proposed text, and currently is not to consult on the specific sites themselves. Communications on the potential sites has already been initiated and will continue through the duration of the entire process. The proposed Consultation Plan has been attached to this report for review and comment, a high-level timeline for the amendment process is presented below:

March 27, 2025	PTSC Meeting	Amendment Initiation and Recommendation Consultation Plan
April 11, 2025	SWC Meeting	Recommendation Consultation Plan from PTSC
May 1, 2025	Board Meeting	Recommendation Consultation Plan from SWC
May 3, 2025	June 30, 2025	Consultation Period
July 18, 2025	PTSC Meeting	Consultation Summary, Resolution to Approve or Reject Amendment.
July 31, 2025	SWC Meeting	Consultation Summary, and amendment recommendation from PTSC
August 14, 2025	Board Meeting	Consultation Summary, and amendment recommendation from SWC
September 2025		Submission of the Amendment for Ministry Approval

If approved, this amendment will allow the PRRD to take the next steps through additional public consultation, permitting and construction, should one of the sites be deemed feasible for the construction of a landfill or transfer station.

The risks of not recommending the proposed amendment would be the following:

- PRRD would be limited to solid waste management at the current existing facilities and would not be able to consider new sites for landfills or transfer stations.
- PRRD would not be able to fully implement sub-strategy 12C as the potential option for relocation of landfills is not currently possible under the RSWMP without allowing for future facilities.
- Specific to Chetwynd, the only alternative option would be to close the landfill and place a transfer station on the same site.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Asset and Infrastructure Management

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

In 2023, the contract for engineering services to assist the PRRD through the process of siting a new landfill was awarded to Tetra Tech Canada Inc at a cost of up to \$1,100,000 over a five-year period.

In November of 2023, the PRRD \$1,133,000 through the Province's Growing Communities Fund for the project. These funds will be utilized for the engineering services required through the project.

Between June, 2023 to January, 2025, \$156,128 has been spent on the project leaving \$943,872 remaining in the allocated contract value.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Ongoing consultation and engagement (concurrent to the RSWMP amendment process and post amendment approval) on the specific contemplated sites will occur at a more localized level to those in the Chetwynd area that may be impacted by the development of one of the proposed areas. Once a site has been chosen, the RSWMP will need to be amended again to include the new approved facility. This amendment is planned to be incorporated into the 5-year review of the existing RSWMP set to take place in 2027.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment – Consultation Plan
2. Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Proposed Amendment – Schedule G

External Link:

1. [Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment Consultation Plan, ENV-SWPTSC-004](#) – See item 8.1 on the Solid Waste Public and Technical Stakeholder Committee Agenda dated March 27, 2025